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The Iron Giant



Synopsis

An iron giant saves the world in this contemporary classic. A mysterious creature stalks the land, eating barbed wire and devouring tractors and plows. The farmers are mystified and terrified. And then they glimpse him in the night: the Iron Giant, taller than a house, with glowing headlight eyes and an insatiable taste for metal. The hungry giant must be stopped at any cost. Only a young boy named Hogarth is brave enough to lead the Iron Giant to a safe home. And only Hogarth knows where to turn when a space-bat as big as Australia, hungry for every living thing on Earth, darkens the sky. First published in 1968, Ted Hughes's classic tale is a powerful tribute to peace on earth and in all the universe. Of it Madeleine L'Engle wrote, "How grateful we should be for Ted Hughes's brilliant *The Iron Giant*. It speaks to all ages, and we need its message even more now." Philip Pullman called it "so gripping that when you begin to read it aloud, everyone stops to listen, young children and old people alike." Whether you think of it as a science fiction fantasy or a modern fairy tale or a tall-tale parable for today, you will never forget it.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

A huge, mysterious iron man stands at the top of a cliff, surveying the ocean. His eyes glow white, red, infrared. Then, he lifts one enormous foot and steps out into nothingness. Crraaasssssh! His head, arms, legs, ears, hands all break off as he tumbles onto the rocks below. The end of the

story? No, it's only the beginning of this modern parable of peace in the universe. The Iron Giant has an insatiable appetite for barbed wire, tractors, and rusty chains. While farmers and townspeople run around trying to stop him, destroy him, capture him, only one boy understands what must be done. Meanwhile, an even bigger threat hovers over the land, in the shape of an evil-looking space-bat-angel-dragon. How will the people of the world survive the impending doom? Ted Hughes, poet laureate of England, first wrote this compelling tall tale in 1968. Clearly, the need for its message of peace has not diminished in the decades since. Simple, repetitive sentences carry the mesmerizing spirit of traditional fairy tales. And Andrew Davidson's black-and-white illustrations, with their menacing air and timeless appeal, drive the point home in vivid style. (Ages 8 and older) --Emilie Coulter --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A tall-tale hero in a parable for today.Ã ¤ Ã ¤ The author's intensely felt theme and his invention of dramatic details make this brief piece of fiction high-spirited and entertaining."--The Horn Book"A clever, inventive fantasy of timely appeal to children."--Booklist"Written with such great gusto, with such vivid precision, that children will sit spellbound in their ringside seats."--Publishers Weekly"A great book to start up a family reading tradition.Ã ¤ Ã ¤ Irresistible."--Boston Phoenix"Reckoned one of the greatest of modern fairy tales."--The ObserverÃ ¤ Ã ¤ (England)"A thrilling and unforgettable tale, magnificently told."--Trade News (England)"Hughes has never written more compellingly...with linguistic tact and imaginative power to achieve something of possible enduring consequence."--The Times (England)"Riveting."--The Tablet (England)"Brilliant."--The Listener (England)

My grandson has been obsessed with Iron Giant since he first saw the movie at 2. For a full year, this is all anyone watched if he was in the room. He is nearly 7 now and while he doesn't watch it as often, I'd say this is still one of his favorites. We read the book often at bedtime. I was so glad to have found a copy for his 6th birthday gift.

First, understand this book is NOTHING like movie. It is basically a story told by a hippie after a very bad acid trip. There are space dragons and trips to the sun. The people bury the giant to kill him. It was just awful and was complete waste of money. I wouldn't be so tough on the book if they didn't try to sell it (make it look/feel) like it had something to do with the movie.

I liked the movie better! The story is ok... not as engaging as The Iron Giant movie and the story line

in the movie is much deeper in its meaning in my opinion. Aside from the cover of this book, the story inside it and the movie have very little in common...I rarely like the movie better than the book, but this is one of those instances.

This is a good story and it teaches an important life lesson that the world can be a peaceful place and not one of war and violence and I'm looking forward to reading the iron woman and I think it's nice that when ted hughes wrote the iron woman that he introduced a female iron giant and her her reason to save the world was different from when the male iron giant saved the world from the space bat angel dragon she was trying to save a marsh where she live from becoming a toxic waste dump due to men dumping to careless men dumping toxic waste from a nearby factory and the iron woman provides a clear environmental message against pollution

a children's short story from 1968,this was an era of plain old technology.my grand kids,after reading it,was confused compared to today technology.i had fun explaining the life style of that by gone era.they liked the movie better.but it's a good story with a war moral.some of the actions might upset children 6 and under.

The Iron Giant is my all time favorite. I learned so much from the Giant and Hogarth, I wouldn't quite be who I am if I had never encountered this story.

The Iron Giant has long been one of my favorite movies. Though much different, this book is very entertaining! I really enjoyed it!

A mysterious, fearsome giant, made of iron, walks out of nowhere to the top of a cliff. No one knows where he had come from or how he was made. When he steps off the cliff, he crashes and breaks into a hundred pieces, but over time all the pieces fit themselves back together again. Soon afterwards a farmer's son named Hogarth is fishing in a stream and at evening sees a giant black figure, bigger than a house. No one, except his own father, believes Hogarth at first, but when reports begin to come in about missing tractors, plows, and other farm machinery made of steel and iron, everyone decides that something needs to be done. A big hole is dug near where the Iron Giant had gone back into the sea and is covered with branches, straw, and soil, with an old truck on the nearby hill as bait to trap the monster. At first, he does not come, but eventually he does fall in and is covered with a mound of dirt. However, the following spring, he digs out of the trap and starts

eating all the barbed wire for miles around, as well as hinges which he tears off gates, tin cans which he finds in ditches, tractors, cars, and trucks. The farmers talk about calling in the army. But Hogarth has a plan. What is it? And when a giant space lizard the size of Australia comes to Earth from Orion and threatens to destroy the planet by eating all living things, is there anything that Hogarth and the Iron Giant can do to save mankind? We saw the 1999 Warner Brothers animated feature film *The Iron Giant*, and our boys really liked it, but I didn't know until a few years ago that the movie was based on a book, originally published in England as *The Iron Man*, although the two are very different in many respects. The book is quite spare, consisting of only five chapters, so it is an easy read for middle grade students. There is one mention of the stars being billions and trillions and zillions of years old, but it is also said that the people wept and prayed to God to save them from the space lizard. No bad language occurs. Author Ted Hughes was poet laureate of England from 1984 until his death in 1998. The book is said to be "a powerful tribute to peace on earth--and in all the universe," so some might see in it a little anti-war propaganda, but the fact is that no reasonable person really wants war and that everyone hopes and strives for peace. There is a sequel, *The Iron Woman*, describing retribution based on environmental themes related to pollution.

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