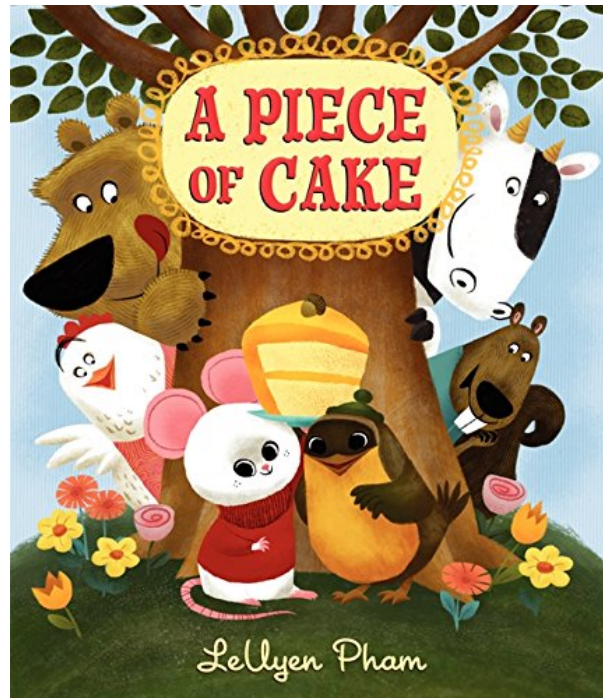
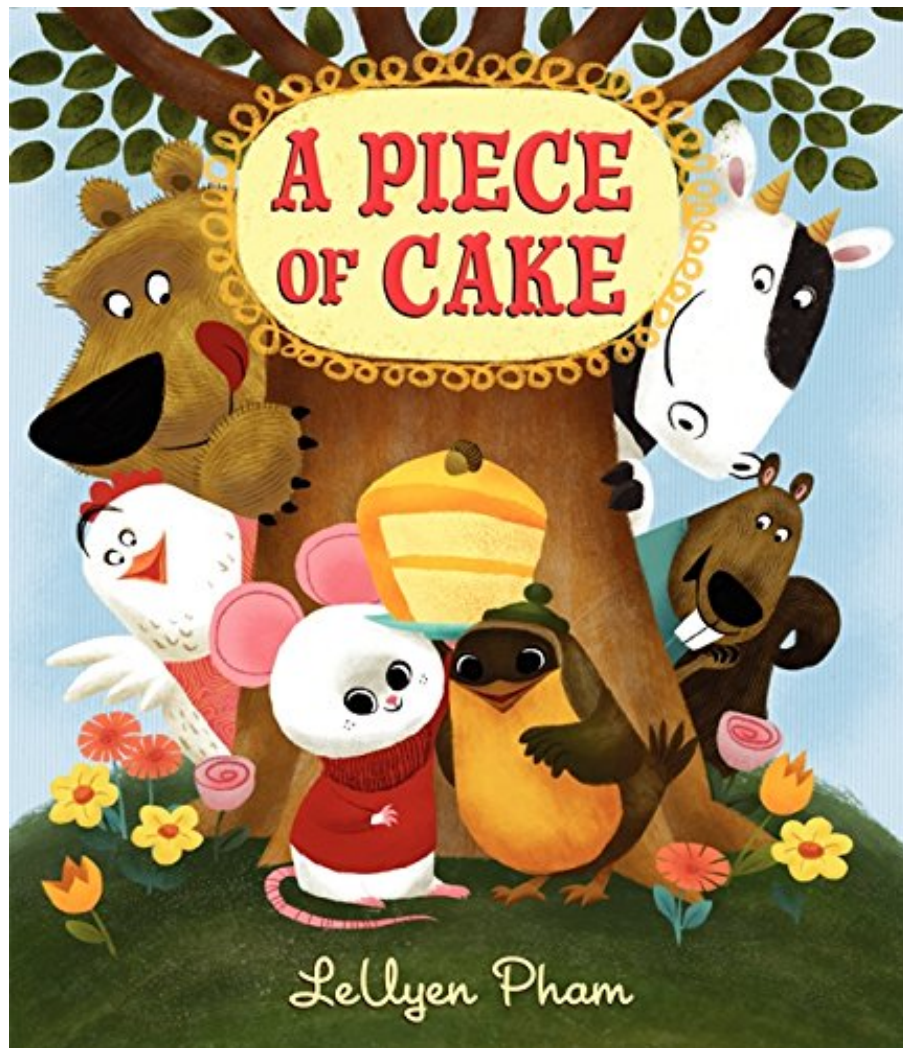


A PIECE OF CAKE BY LEUYEN PHAM



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From School Library Journal

PreS-Gr 2—A delightful story about friendship and cooperation. Who would think a very kind mouse would have such a difficult journey delivering a cake to his bird friend for his birthday? Along the way, he meets a squirrel, a chicken, a cow, and a bear, and all want to trade something for pieces of this special treat. The mouse ends up with a cork, a wire, a net, and a flyswatter—but no cake. Little Bird, however, knows that the items will be useful to someone, and more trades are made, leaving all of the animals satisfied and with enough ingredients to make another cake. This book has broad appeal and is great for preschool storytime and for beginning readers. The whimsical cartoon illustrations in bright colors feature appealing animals set against plenty of white space, making them stand out at a distance.—Susan McClellan, Coraopolis Memorial Library, PA

Review

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A PIECE OF CAKE BY LEUYEN PHAM PDF

Reminiscent of the best of Peter Brown with the charming retro feel of classic Golden Books, *A Piece of Cake* is a delightful story about generosity, creativity, and improvisation from bestselling illustrator LeUyen Pham.

Mouse has baked a special treat for Little Bird's birthday! But delivering it to his friend isn't easy—not when everyone he meets along the way offers to trade something for a piece of cake. . . . In *A Piece of Cake*, LeUyen Pham puts a unique spin on a classic tale. Kids will love the unexpected and hilarious turn the story takes. Its strong picture support; story elements, including setting, character, and plot development; and identification of a problem and solution make this a strong Common Core title.

Supports the Common Core State Standards

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- 40 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A Wonderful Story That Conveys Valuable Lessons ...

By delicateflower152

LeUyen Pham's "A Piece of Cake" is a treat for your little ones – and for the individual reading aloud to that audience. Not only is this charming story beautifully illustrated, it also has some good messages about generosity, respecting the feelings of others, and about using ingenuity to solve problems.

Mouse, a thoughtful but naïve friend, bakes a birthday cake to take to his friend Little Bird. Along the way, he trades away portions of the cake for “indispensible” items, but that he feels Little Bird may not need. Of course, by the time he reaches Little Bird the cake is gone. Rather than being unhappy with the loss of his cake, Little Bird comforts kind-hearted Mouse and the two make their way back to Mouse's home. Along the way, they encounter the various animals with whom Mouse traded; each one has a problem that Mouse cleverly solves using items Mouse has acquired. In the end, everyone benefits from the kindness of Mouse and the ingenuity of Little Bird.

“A Piece of Cake” is illustrated with charming, colorful child-like, but not childish, illustrations. The pictures have depth and perspective that is no longer commonplace; the illustrations do not have a digital feel. Individuals who are old enough to remember the classic Golden Books may see the resemblance to those books' illustrations. LeUyen Pham has created pictures that are fun to see and enhance “A Piece of Cake”.

Children will like this book because of its birthday cake focus. However, it conveys some excellent messages and points of discussion to which little ones may relate. One aspect of “A Piece of Cake” that I particularly like is the respect the characters show for one another's feelings. I liked the ingenuity Little Bird used in solving the problem and the generosity he showed to the animals that “deceived” the kind-hearted Mouse. Little Bird's example of working through a problem rather than becoming angry when you are disappointed is a good one.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A Big Golden Book

By Jason Kirkfield

Author-illustrator LeUyen Pham has a soft spot for the good old days. She has created a picture book which is a throwback to the Little Golden Books of the mid-20th century. The byline script on the front cover and gold-bordered title are nice nods.

Pham's digitally-colored characters have an animated feel about them. No surprise, she worked in animation at DreamWorks. Mouse's expression recalls Hermey (aka Herbie) from Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, here aptly in its Golden Book form.

A Piece of Cake is appealing even if it is at its roots derivative. There is much enjoyment to be had by the creative retelling of classic stories. Fractured fairy tales are some of the bestsellers in children's books nowadays. Here, the progression of animal encounters through an ingredient-laced storyline obviously recalls The Little Red Hen, that classic folk tale and incidentally one of the original twelve Little Golden Books.

This new story manages to retain its own character, however, by deviating in order to create learning opportunities for young readers: How to think outside the box. How to avoid being taken advantage of. Unlike her inspiration, which functions solely as a tough love fable, LeUyen Pham's new book is instructive yet inclusive. Chicken, Squirrel, Bear, and Cow may or may not have been trying to screw Mouse out of the cake--depending on how you interpret the story--but they all get along in the end, thanks to smart thinking and teamwork. The knowing smile shared by Mouse and Little Bird after their first coup (repeated on the back cover) is wonderful.

Most refreshing of all may be the unexpected ways in which (the very clever indeed) Little Bird manages to trade back the unwanted inventory for cake ingredients. In each such spread, the expected item is presented visually to the trading partner (and to the reader), yet the item actually exchanged is different. The baby book Millie Moo offered such bait-and-switch surprises, though not within a linear storyline.

We have continued to find new details on re-readings. Like when Mouse and Little Bird are retrieving ingredients, Mouse collects flowers from each location to make a bouquet for Little Bird at the story's conclusion. Ultimately, this is a refreshing and well-illustrated book which demonstrates that two friends can make the most of any situation.

Small digital printing glitch on the page with Chicken's dropped cake. Blank endpapers are a shade of turquoise which does not complement the sky blue covers.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Delightful story and illustrations

By Âme Perdue

The story is about a mouse who makes a special cake for Little Bird's birthday. On his way to deliver the cake, the mouse encounters many other animals who are interested in trading different items for a piece of that special cake. The mouse is a kind mouse who agrees to all the trades but then is left with no cake for Little Bird. The story then goes in reverse as Little Bird and the mouse go to all the ones who traded items for a piece of cake. This time, the mouse trades the items he received along the way to get more ingredients from each animal to make another cake.

The language used is simple and easy to understand yet tells a story that is different and delightful for young children. The illustrations are colorful and support the story line very well.

Good values for young children to learn are demonstrated in the story. The kindness of the mouse is shown in each trade he makes along with his strong friendship with Little Bird for making the cake and trying to deliver it to him. Little Bird and the mouse also employ creative solutions to gain more ingredients to make another cake and have a birthday party with all the animals.

The story reminds me of a win-win situation since all the characters benefit from the trades based on the mouse's kindness to all the animals on his way to Little Bird's home and back. The book is also a win-win for the delightful story and wonderful illustrations.

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