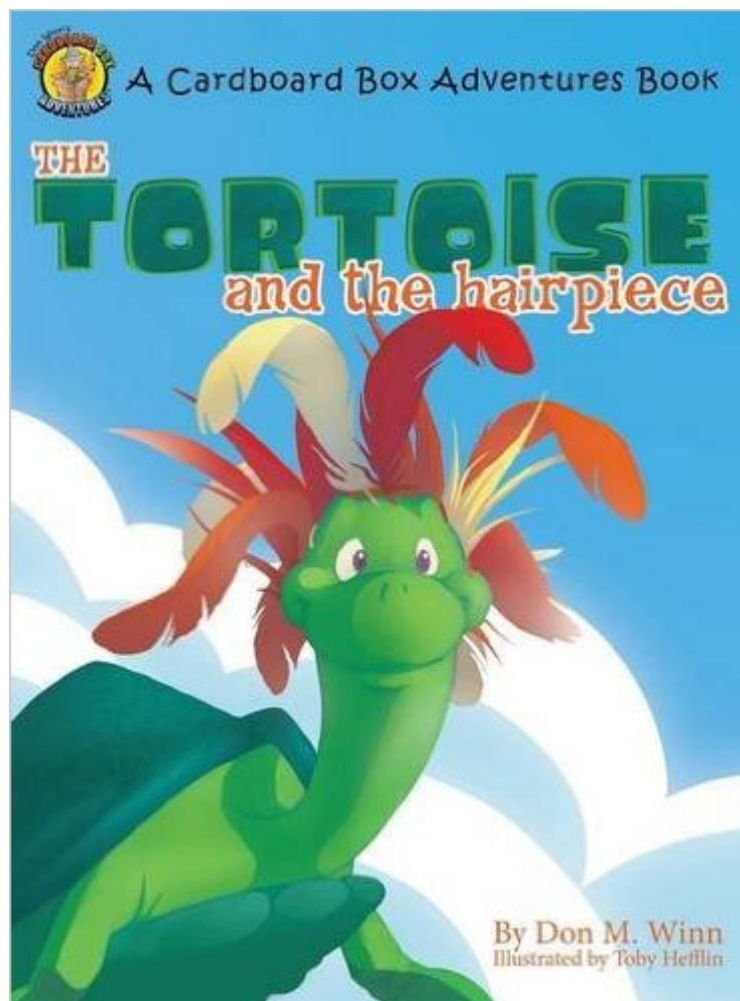


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# The Tortoise And The Hairpiece: A Kids Book About How To Make A Friend And Build Self Esteem And Confidence



## Synopsis

The Tortoise and the Hairpiece is the story of a lonely young tortoise named Jake who is embarrassed by his bald head. Even though other animals invite him to play, he keeps to himself, positive that nobody will really want to be his friend because he looks different. When he tries to look like everyone else, it doesn't quite work the way he planned. After getting some help from a local misguided buzzard and a wise owl, he learns that everyone is best at being themselves and that he doesn't need to try to be someone else or look like someone else just to make friends. True friends care about Jake for who he is inside and that's what makes him special.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 24 pages

Publisher: Cardboard Box Adventures (September 16, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1937615006

ISBN-13: 978-1937615000

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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## Customer Reviews

Author Don Winn is at it again with another hilarious picture book packed with important life lessons. Any child, or adult, who has ever struggled with comparing him or herself to others will relate to Jake the tortious, who hides away due to his lack of hair. When a new friend makes Jake a hairpiece out of feathers, Jake finally has the confidence to Ã¢Â•Âœcome out of his shellÃ¢Â•Âœ and make new friends. It is only then that he realizes that he never needed to change himself to make friends in the first place. This is the perfect book to introduce your child to the concept of authenticity and truly embracing individuality. Kids will laugh at the idea of a turtle in a hairpiece and not even notice that they are learning valuable lessons that will last them a lifetime.

Mr Winn's poetic tale of Jake the tortoise and his meaningful encounter with himself and his

insecurities provides a marvelous lesson for all young children to contemplate - in the (intended) warm and loving venue of parent-reading-to-child. It is written in empathetic and engaging lyrical cadence which is delightfully inviting to read, even for an adult...particularly an adult with children present. Of course, for the target audience, (young children - who have much to learn about life and themselves) such a tale cannot be told without the highly important accompaniment of engaging illustrations which lend completely to the whole experience. Toby Hefflin's visual contribution to this fine work is remarkably well done. For parents, *The Tortoise and the Hairpiece* will prove to be a cherished means by which they may instill in their children a fine lesson in the important life-art of acquiring and maintaining self esteem.

Such a cute book. I loved the concept of *The Tortoise and The Hairpiece*! A sweet little tortoise who doesn't feel special, pretty or fancy because he is bald (as are most turtles). But his desire to "change" his appearance leads him to look even sillier with a "faux" feather wig. This simple story clearly teaches children that each person is special regardless of their physical appearance. My girls have a sweet dusting of freckles over the bridge of their nose. It is adorable but makes them a tad self-conscious as no one else in the family has freckles. Similar to the Tortoise they have to learn that they are perfect just the way they are. A delightful and easy to understand message that everyone is unique is clearly explained in this sweet tale. Wonderful questions at the back of the book help parents or caregivers to dig a bit deeper into what the child(ren) have learned.

Thanks again to author Don M. Winn for providing a sweet, colorful, and sometimes funny story about a tortoise who longs for hair like everyone else has. Following the buzzard's suggestion to make a hairpiece out of feathers (like the magnificent and dignified bald eagle), Jake the Tortoise encounters even greater suffering when the other animals laugh and stare at him. As he weeps, the owl advises him to be himself--"How you look doesn't change who you are." The lesson of the book is well-illustrated when Jake accepts himself for who he is and casts off the hairpiece. And of course, Winn doesn't pass up an opportunity for humor when he tells us, that a snake in the river may be wearing the hairpiece. It's interesting that the author has chosen a buzzard, a bird associated with ravenous behavior, to tell Jake to get a hairpiece and the wise owl to suggest that Jake should be himself. This story grapples with one of the ongoing struggles humans face even into adulthood: to be strong enough to accept our uniqueness instead of trying to be like everyone else. And Winn's question at the end, "In what ways do you feel different?" provides the children a chance to think about this important topic early enough to begin gathering the tools for dealing with

it in their lives.

"The Tortoise and the hairpiece" is a kid's version of what to try when you think you don't fit in. Jake the tortoise feels unhappy because he is different; he has no hair like other animals. So he makes himself a fancy hairpiece of bright feathers and finds to his dismay that his friends are amused at his transformation. Fortunately, Jake discovers that true friends not only don't care if he is different, because "how you look doesn't change who you are." So he abandons his hairpiece of feathers and learns to feel good about accepting himself just the way he is. Written in verse with bright, highlighted text and humorous illustrations whose shades and hues match the emotions of the characters, "The Tortoise and the hairpiece" is just the ticket for young children who are just exploring their own identities and discovering differences.

I bought this for my niece's two boys - 2 1/2 years and 4 years. I liked the pictures and the message but I was not sure what young boys would think. It is the favorite of the younger boy. He just loves the hairpiece. I recommend this book as being entertaining for both the adults and the children. This book has a good message and ends with hints for the reader on how to stimulate ideas and original thinking on the child's part.

I loved this book, and found it entertaining and easy to read to my 4 year old grandson. We all really loved the rhymes, and the pictures, too. Also, a great lesson for kids in learning how to accept and love your differences. I'd recommend it to anyone, and am looking forward to more from the author!

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