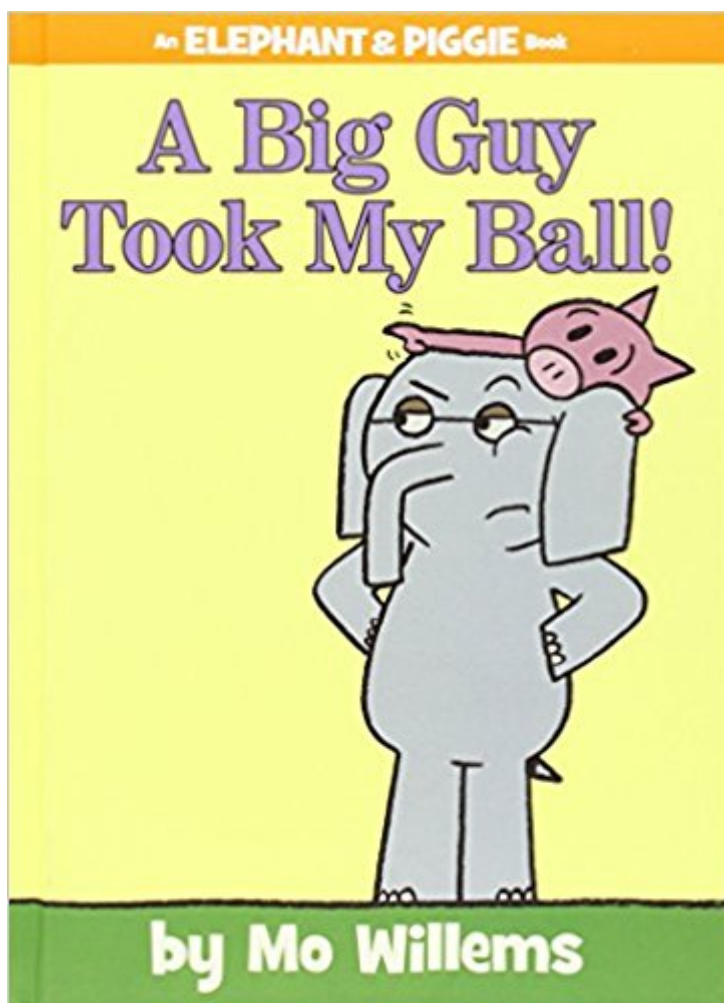


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# A Big Guy Took My Ball! (An Elephant And Piggie Book)



## Synopsis

Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can. Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to. Gerald and Piggie are best friends. In *A Big Guy Took My Ball!* Piggie is devastated when a big guy takes her ball! Gerald is big, too...but is he big enough to help his best friend?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 80L (What's this?)

Series: An Elephant and Piggie Book

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: Disney-Hyperion; 1st edition (May 21, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1423174917

ISBN-13: 978-1423174912

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.5 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 219 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #19,150 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Elephants](#) #61 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pigs](#) #106 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 1-Once again Willems observes truths about human behavior through the eyes of Gerald, an elephant, and Piggie. The premise this time is that Piggie's recently acquired ball has been snatched by some unknown creature, one so big that Piggie begs Gerald to intervene. But Gerald's perceived power and genuine desire to help his smaller friend cannot provide him with sufficient courage once he sees that he'll have to confront an enormous whale. Outward appearance is rarely a true indicator of inner feelings, though, and the same reality is reflected in the whale, who turns out to be a gentle giant who is remarkably polite. Size should never be a factor in determining friendship, and Willems's two pals are happy to have a new playmate. The story engages readers with delightfully familiar cartoon illustrations and invites them to follow it independently by reading the speech bubbles. This title is a wonderful addition to the series; it's particularly useful for discussions of inside and outside traits, as well as the tricky topic of threesomes.-Gloria Koster,

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It's possible that Willems's flagship Elephant & Piggie series might go on forever, and it's also possible that everyone would be okay with that. In this pleasing go-round, Piggie is aflutter after a traumatic incident. After Piggie found a "big ball," a "big guy came" (cue teary-eyed stammering) "and" "and" "and" "HE TOOK MY BALL!" This doesn't sit right with Gerald, who is soon shaking his gray fist in indignance. He stomps off to confront the thief, only to find that, well, "He is very BIG." (Picture the word BIG taking up half the page.) It is a blue whale that towers over our dynamic duo "pretty terrifying stuff until the whale gives readers a lesson on size: it's all relative. If we're quibbling, there's some standing in place going on here as Gerald hems and haws over not getting back the big ball (or "little ball" as it's known to the whale). But, as always, Willems's staging of his characters and text across the white background is a master class in economy. Further classes forthcoming? Count on it. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Is it time yet to add a second Elephant & Piggie shelf in your library? Preschool-Grade 2. --Daniel Kraus

My children, ages 4 and 10, and I both adore Mo Willems! We have about 5-6 of the Elephant and Piggie books and recently added this one to our collection. It's a very cute story about our friend Piggy, who finds and plays with a ball until a "big guy" took it from her. She immediately tells her friend, Gerald, who is outraged and goes off to find the ball-thief. Gerald is shocked by the SIZE of the thief and avoids confronting him. Later, the BF guy comes up to them and expresses how nobody plays with him because he is so big. The two friends take pity on him and decide to play with him. Sweet story that teaches how friends come in many sizes. It does a great job demonstrating compassion, friendship, and tolerance in a very comical way. The illustrations are simple but beyond charming. This author/illustrator does a great job in capturing realistic emotions and scenarios experienced in childhood. My children can relate well, and often refer back to these stories when sharing about their day.

As soon as we saw this available a few months ago, I knew we had to order it! We fell in love with Elephant and Piggie just over a year ago, and have since fattened our bookshelves quite a bit, with a special section reserved for Piggie & Gerald. Piggie is happily wandering along, being her cute

Piggie self, and she finds a ball and starts to play with it. Then a "big guy" came along and took the ball from Piggie, who ran to Gerald. Gerald, in all his best friend valor, was infuriated with this big guy, who was making all the other "big guys" look bad! He decided to handle it himself, stand up for his friend, and get that ball back! If you want to know the rest, you'll need to order the book. ;)The writing style is so imaginative, yet simple enough that the books make for excellent early reading practice. My 4-year old picked up this book, obviously for the first time ever, and he read the whole thing aloud to us! Actually this book gave us the perfect opportunity to start talking about punctuation and tone, and I showed my son how the squiggly lines are question marks, and they help us to know when the sentence is actually a question. Also, the various sizes of text, as well as using bold and italicized font, help the reader learn how and where to emphasize the dialogue!Once again, we are so happy with Mr. Willems' writing! Everything about the story, text, illustrations, and (shhhh) learning lessons come together to create a great book! I'm so happy we ordered this one, and at such an affordable price too!


Elephant and piggies books are the first ones my son would sit down and read. The stories are simple but entertaining. Great for early readers.

I got this book for my almost 3 year old grandchild. She loves the book, especially if the reader does the voices. It solidified her understanding of comparing big, small, and medium while it helped teach her how not to judge others by first impressions and prejudice. It also helped us discuss how to include others and about bullying.

Good book

My son loves these books! They are so fun - easy to read pages with fun pictures. The stories are really fun to read together!

What I love about Elephant and Piggie is the simple and funny stories that make kids and parents laugh out loud. If you've never read an Elephant and Piggie book, this one is as good as any to start with. While this isn't our favorite Elephant and Piggie book ("I Broke My Trunk" probably takes that prize), this a good little story that has a simple moral. Our 3 year-old and our 5 year-old both love his book and the story is written in a way that early readers will be able to attempt reading these on their own (though both my kids

have this story pretty much memorized). I recommend this for any family with small children, especially if reading time is an important daily activity. Rating: 4 Stars  We adore Mo Willems

My five year-old was really resistant to learning to read until she discovered Piggie and Gerald books. They are perfect for her! They are funny, the illustrations are wonderful, and they have a lot of repetition of sight words, so they are great for beginning readers! "A Big Guy Took My Ball" was not initially one of her favorite Piggie and Gerald books, but after she read it a couple of times, she started talking about how funny it was that everyone made assumptions based on their size (like "big guys have all the fun") and how wrong they were and how everyone kind of thought the same thing and was alike in the end. What a great lesson to get from a fun beginning book!

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