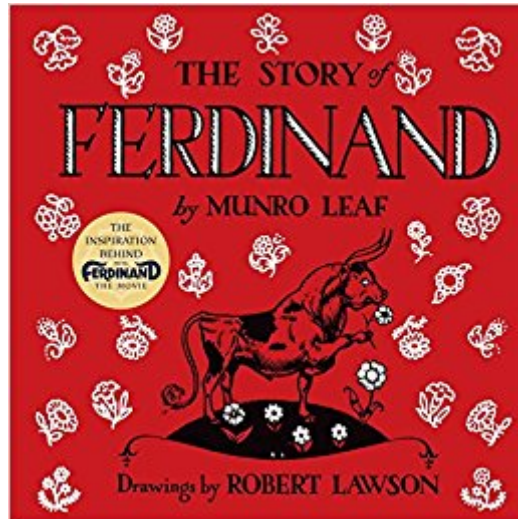




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# The Story Of Ferdinand



## Synopsis

Soon to be a major motion picture! Ferdinand is the world's most peaceful--and--beloved little bull. While all of the other bulls snort, leap, and butt their heads, Ferdinand is content to just sit and smell the flowers under his favorite cork tree. Leaf's simple storytelling paired with Lawson's pen-and-ink drawings make *The Story of Ferdinand* a true classic. Commemorate the 75th anniversary of the book's original publication with this beautiful and affordable 8x8 paperback edition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Grosset & Dunlap; 1 edition (March 31, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 044845694X

ISBN-13: 978-0448456942

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 1,308 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #235 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Farm Animals #7 in Books > Children's Books > Classics #79 in Books > Reference  
Age Range: 3 - 5 years  
Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## Customer Reviews

What else can be said about the fabulous Ferdinand? Published more than 50 years ago (and one of the bestselling children's books of all time), this simple story of peace and contentment has withstood the test of many generations. Ferdinand is a little bull who much prefers sitting quietly under a cork tree-- just smelling the flowers--to jumping around, snorting, and butting heads with other bulls. This cow is no coward--he simply has his pacifist priorities clear. As Ferdinand grows big and strong, his temperament remains mellow, until the day he meets with the wrong end of a bee. In a show of bovine irony, the one day Ferdinand is most definitely not sitting quietly under the cork tree (due to a frightful sting), is the selfsame day that five men come to choose the "biggest, fastest, roughest bull" for the bullfights in Madrid. Ferdinand's day in the arena gives readers not only an education in the historical tradition of bullfighting, but also a lesson in nonviolent tranquility. Robert Lawson's black-and-white drawings are evocative and detailed, with especially sweet renditions of

Ferdinand, the serene bull hero. The Story of Ferdinand closes with one of the happiest endings in the history of happy endings--readers of all ages will drift off to a peaceful sleep, dreaming of sweet-smelling flowers and contented cows. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

In Spain lives a big and strong bull whose name is Ferdinand. Unlike the other bulls, Ferdinand does not like to fight. He would rather sit in the shade of his favorite cork tree and smell the flowers. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

The current release of this book -- published by Grosset & Dunlap -- is significantly abridged from the original. The current edition is about 20% smaller and has fewer than half the number of pages (32 versus 68). The original, high-quality Viking editions placed text and illustrations in a layout that let the story breathe -- the amount of text on each page and the space within the drawings set the pace of the story. Well, Grosset & Dunlap "fixed" that: they hacked away at the illustrations (when they didn't omit them altogether) and then packed the text into whatever empty space they could find inside the illustrations themselves. The result has the same relationship with the original as an orange peel has to an orange -- the color and shape remain, but all the juice has been squeezed out. If you care at all about quality, find your kid a copy of the Viking edition instead. Borrow it from a library if you must. But stay far away from this edition unless-and-until the publisher fires the imbecile who decided to release this ersatz "classic" and brings back the original as it was meant to be read and enjoyed.

During the seven years I spent babysitting our grandsons, one of my biggest joys was sharing reading time with them. My daughter-in-law became a full-time-mom a year and a half ago so my opportunities to do it are now limited to visits and the occasional sleepover, but it doesn't mean we can't still contribute to the growing children's library in their own home! Having purchased a nice children's book case for them last Christmas, it's our intention to fill it with time-honored classics. I found "The Story of Ferdinand" among 's list of "100 Children's Books to Read in a Lifetime", and am ashamed to say I had never heard of this book that's been around for 80 years now and was the #1 book in America - topping *Gone with the Wind*! - the year it was first published (1936). From what I've read, bullfighting is steeped in Hispanic identity in many parts of the world, considered more of a cultural event - a highly ritualized art form rather than a bloodsport. I must say that for me personally, though it's important to respect each culture's heritage, I would never have purchased a book about bullfighting - especially for our grandsons! But that is NOT what this book is about... as I

read it, it is much more about resisting conforming to what's seen as the "norm" if it goes against who you are, regardless of what others say or do to provoke you or attempt to force you into submission. I'd read enough about the book to know that the majority of it centered around the peaceful nature of Ferdinand (only three pages reference what I consider the gruesome progression of torture a bull experiences in the ring - the Banderilleros with long sharp pins, the Picadores with long spears, and the Matador with his sword), with that innate peacefulness being what spares him. This is certainly not a book most children these days will be used to, with its completely black and white illustrations, but - for the right age - a child who's ready to focus more on a story line versus needing lots of bright colors to hold his/her attention, the illustrations do a beautiful job of reflecting the gentleness of Ferdinand, who much prefers to "sit just quietly and smell the flowers" while the other bulls run and jump around, butting heads, and his wise mother who - though occasionally worried about him and what he may face by not conforming to the norm - understood that he was happy. When some men come to pick "the biggest, fastest, roughest bull" to fight in Madrid, Ferdinand accidentally sits on a bee, which of course stings him, and his resulting puffing, snorting, butting and pawing catches the eye of the men, who bring him to Madrid. But after entering the ring, Ferdinand simply runs to the middle of the ring and sits down, quite content to just enjoy the smell of the flowers in all of the female attendees' hair - most certainly not the type of bull they wanted for a fight, so they take Ferdinand back home... where "He is very happy." My take from the book is that it's true message is the power of peace.

An old classic favorite! I am a retired teacher and a retired librarian. Read this book many times to my classes. Good teaching book . . . just very good sentiments!

Grandchildren love this story and have listened to it many many times. Product exactly as described. Fast shipping

This is the story of a little bull named Ferdinand who did not cavort and butt heads and bellow like the other little bulls but sat under his favorite cork tree. When the men came to select bulls for the honor of appearing in the great ring, he would have been passed over, had he not accidentally sat on a bee, after which he bellowed and charged and ran as no bull had before. And so off he went in a cart to Seville----and what happened next has engaged children for over 70 years."Ferdinand the Bull" is thus old but in no way dated. It is a forever story for at least three reasons:--the story reads aloud beautifully--the illustrations are vivid with personality and expression and detail including the

marvelous individuation of the picadors marching into the ring--the tale itself has drama, excitement, and makes even more excitable little ones think about smelling the flowersA perfect gift for any child---actually for every child---and this edition is a splendid value, an almost exact reproduction even to the colors of the original. Worth every penny!

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