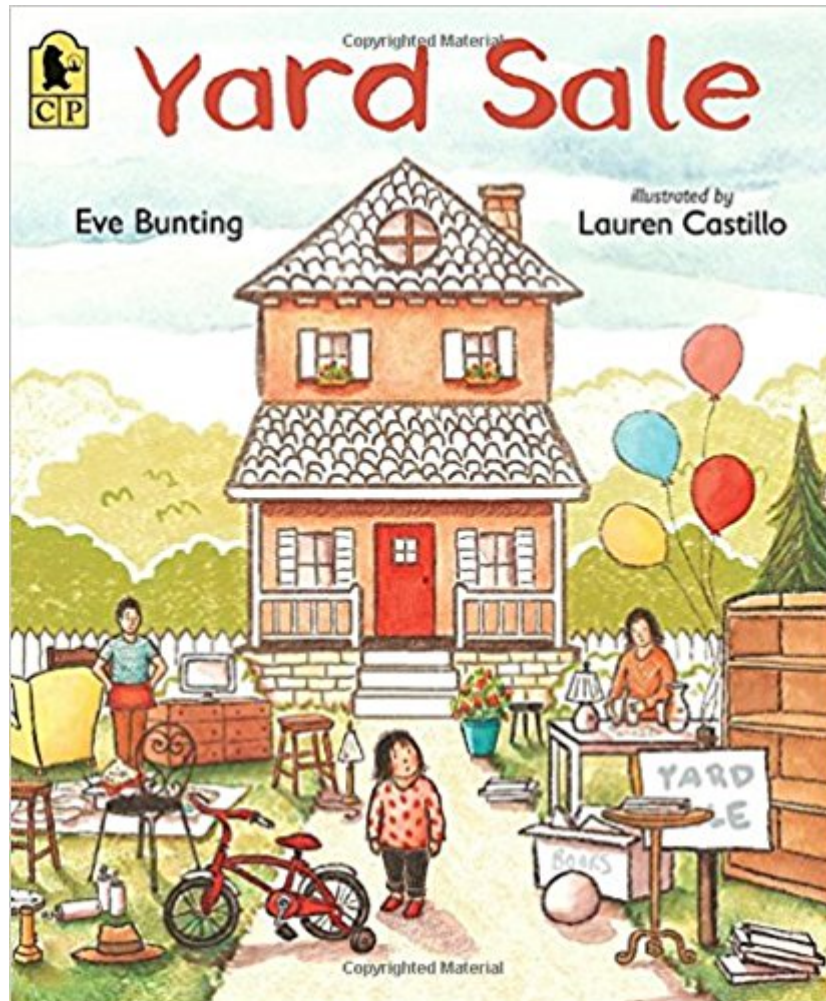




The book was found

Yard Sale



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Synopsis

When a family has to leave their house and move to a small apartment, it's hard to let go of things—but having one another is what counts. Almost everything Callie's family owns is spread out in their front yard—their furniture, their potted flowers, even Callie's bike. They can't stay in this house, so they're moving to an apartment in the city. The new place is "small but nice," Mom says, and most of their things won't fit, so today they are having a yard sale. But it's kind of hard to watch people buy your stuff, even if you understand why it has to happen. With sensitivity and grace, Eve Bunting and Lauren Castillo portray an event at once familiar and difficult, making clear that a home isn't about what you have, but whom you hold close.

Book Information

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Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

While the topic is an extremely tough one, Bunting tackles it with her usual grace and poise. The clear and concise writing is a wonderful choice for the subject matter. ... A vital purchase for collections everywhere. —School Library Journal (starred review) Callie's first-person observations reveal her distress, while poignant watercolor-and-ink illustrations reinforce her emotions through deft use of white space, color washes and strong outlines that capture postures and facial expressions. Images of forlorn Callie surrounded by a yard full of possessions, sad Callie hugging Sara, distraught Callie grabbing her bike and Callie's parents comforting her visually tug the heart. A

simple, moving tale of a family in transition.â Kirkus Reviews (starred review) Castilloâs (Nana in the City) gentle scenes soften the familyâs sadness.... Bunting captures the way loss can take a familyâs possessions while leaving their love for each other intact.â Publishers Weekly...a quietly domestic, visually accessible style that offers a feeling of stability, which helps cushion the sadder implications of the story. Itâs useful to have a story where moving may be no adventure for anybody in the family, but where things will still be okay.â Bulletin of the Center for Children's BooksThe storyâs focus on having to move due to reduced circumstances is a welcome addition to books about contemporary problems.â BooklistCastilloâs warm and restrained ink and watercolor illustrations capture the emotions without overwhelming the reader. A lovely and honest story about a hard topic.â Kirkus ReviewsA straightforward, heartfelt story.â Horn BookA quietly wrenching yet ultimately comforting story of a family adjusting to straitened circumstances.â The Wall Street Journal

Eve Bunting is the author of many beloved books for children, including *Smoky Night*, illustrated by David Diaz, which won a Caldecott Medal. She lives in Pasadena, California. Lauren Castillo has illustrated many books for children, including *Happy Like Soccer* by Maribeth Boelts. She lives in Maryland.

Prior to reading this book to my class of third grade students, I wondered if the story would be too sad or "heavy" for them. Laura's mother has died and is dealing with her feelings for her step-mother. She has a "memory string" given to her by her mother with buttons that represent family memories. When the memory string breaks, she loses one of her most valued buttons, a button from her father's Army uniform that her mother had added when he returned from the Gulf War. My students loved the story and the wonderful illustrations. The story prompted many students to share their text-to-self connections relating to adjusting to a step-parent or dealing with the loss of a family member. We also did a writing activity involving their own memories and I had to give them very little prompting. The story had already stirred so many ideas and emotions in them, that they were easily able to write about several memories of their own families. I fell in love with Eve Bunting's writing after reading this book!

During a training, a teacher modeled using this book; I was in tears by the end of it. I highly recommend this book to everyone, not just teachers. I think we can all relate to this book's theme and message!

Great for teaching writing techniques

The Memory String is a wonderful touchstone text that lends itself to writing activities. As a member of the Louisville Writing Project, the book was first introduced to me and used in this manner by Synthia Shelby. Students create their own memory strings in a writing activity after being read the book. This can be done with all grade levels. As a literacy leader at Meredith-Dunn School in Louisville, I developed a lesson that I took to several classrooms in the school. Once students (and teachers) create their own memory strings, suddenly, they have all sorts of seeds of ideas for writing in various genres. It shows students that memories are not always happy and exemplifies the resiliency of the human spirit. My students were able to connect with the character, and with each others' memories, initiating more dialogue to help with their writing processes. Eve Bunting has written so many texts that can be used to facilitate writing as well as help children to make connections and to consider social issues and how they impact them their world and future. Susan Brokenshire-Prater

I enjoyed this book a lot. I think that it speaks to how difficult it is for all of us to accept new situations and how difficult it is to lose someone that we love. One of this girl's prize possessions is her memory string and as the story unfolds around it, we get to see her learn to accept the new turns her life has taken. I found it fascinating to go and research button charm strings of the past after reading this book and then help my daughters to create memory strings of their own. The illustrations are beautiful as well.

Eve Bunting is one of my favorite children's authors. Once again the text is beautifully written and can be used to teach a variety of standards.

This is a sweet story about a little girl who loses her mother and her father is remarried. She has a memory string with buttons from different family members. Each button is a special memory about that person. The story tells about the relationship between the stepmom and the little girl. I plan to use this book in my 3rd grade classroom. It's good for a lesson on schema or questioning.

just what I wanted

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