

Children's Literature Reviews

Item 11 of 130

The best time of day

written by Eileen Spinelli ; illustrated by Bryan Langdo.

[Contributor biographical information](#)

[Publisher description](#)

Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt, c2005.

1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.



Annotations:

Gullivers Books.

Farmer Fred, various members of his family, his animals, and his neighbors each have a favorite time of day.

Ages 3 to 7.

Best Books:

[Best Children's Books of the Year, 2005](#) ; Bank Street College of Education; United States

[Children's Catalog, Nineteenth Edition, 2006](#) ; H.W. Wilson; United States

State and Provincial Reading Lists:

[Children's Crown Gallery Award, 2007-2008](#) ; Nominee; Grades K-2; United States

Horn Book Guide:

Spring 2006 Preschool Rating 3, Recommended, satisfactory in style, content, and/or illustration.

Reading Measurement Programs:

Accelerated Reader

Interest Level Lower Grade

Book Level 3

Accelerated Reader Points **0.5**

Lexile, MetaMetrics, Inc.

Adult Directed

Lexile Measure 760

Reviews:

Shelle Rosenfeld (Booklist, Oct. 15, 2005 (Vol. 102, No. 4))

In the country and on the farm, everyone has a favorite time of day. For the rooster, it's sunrise, when "He wakes up the farmer, the animals, too, / with his rowdy-dow 'Cocka-doodle-dee-do!'" For the farmer's son, Joe, it's recess: "The bell rings--he's ready to go." As the day progresses, humans and animals alike enjoy favorite times and activities. Each spread's bouncing, rhyming text introduces diverse folks and everyday activities that kids will recognize as bright, detailed watercolor illustrations portray characters and an idyllic rural setting with cartoonlike simplicity and playful perspectives. This happy read conveys joy in simple, everyday pleasures, and speaks to the notion that we all have our own special interests and times. Category: Books for the Young--Fiction. 2005,

Harcourt/Gulliver, \$16. *PreS-Gr. 2.*

Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)

Eileen Spinelli, whose poetry is not just for kids, has newly redefined “the best time of day” in her newest book which I urge all of you to buy and then after you have loved it a lot, donate it to your local school library. In it, she introduces readers to the thought, “The best time of the day is...” which set me to thinking and writing about the best times of my day. It would be a good exercise for anyone to make a list so you will be ready when you need a quick reminder of how blessed your life really is. One of my entries says, “The best time of day is when you wake up and realize you are not dead and you better get up and get something written.” Thanks, Eileen, for a terrific book to get everyone writing. 2005, Harcourt, \$16.00. Ages 3 to 7.

Kirkus (Kirkus Reviews, September 15, 2005 (Vol. 73, No. 18))

Each segment of the day is special to someone in this rural outing from Spinelli. Starting with the rooster, who loves sunrise, and progressing through the day, rhyming couplets describe what each member of the farm community thinks of as the "best time of day." Simple routines are celebrated throughout: Lunch in the shade, recess, the arrival of the mail truck, a walk, guitar practice. "The best time of day for Granny McCall / is five p.m. Why? That's when Gus comes to call." While many of the couplets' lines are split in the middle of sentences, it somehow does not detract from the rhythm. Langdo's earth-toned watercolors are just right for the country and farm setting. Subdued details and large subjects make this perfect for the younger set. Teachers will wish for a greater number of specific time references, but this still has potential for classroom use. Great as a springboard for group sharing. 2005, Gulliver/Harcourt, 32p, \$16.00. Category: Picture book. Ages 3 to 8. © 2005 Kirkus Reviews/VNU eMedia, Inc. All rights reserved.

Horn Book (The Horn Book Guide, Spring 2006)

Everyone on the farm likes a different time of day, beginning with the rooster, who prefers dawn: "He wakes up the farmer, the animals, too, / with his rowdy-dow 'Cocka-doodle-dee-doo!'" The farmhand likes his six a.m. shower, the farmer's wife favors breakfast time, and so on through the day. Soft, attractive watercolors illustrate this sprightly rhyme, a good choice for reading aloud. Category: Preschool. 2005, Harcourt/Gulliver, 32pp, 16.00. *Ages 2 to 5.* Rating: 3: Recommended, satisfactory in style, content, and/or illustration.

Michael White (The Kutztown University Book Review, Spring 2006)

A farm family and its animals and neighbors detail what their favorite time of day is and what happens at that time. This is an excellent addition to a collection. It is a great read aloud book and is a highly adaptable book into a writing unit on the student's favorite time of day. This book has attractive, supportive, and engaging watercolor illustrations. There is also the added benefit of being written by a local author. Spinelli and her author husband Jerry live in West Chester, PA. Category: Fiction, Rhyme. 2005, Gulliver Books/Harcourt, \$16.00. Ages 5 to 9.

Laura Baker (The Lorgnette - Heart of Texas Reviews, (Vol. 18, No. 2))

It's morning on the farm, and everybody has his/her own favorite time of the day. For the rooster, it's when he crows at the crack of dawn to wake everyone up. For the farmer's wife, it's when the family all sits down for breakfast together. The kids enjoy recess at school or playing the guitar at home. Grandma likes sitting on the porch in the evenings with her neighbor. Bright colors in a slightly whimsical style fill the full-page illustrations in this book. The people and even the animals have expressions that reinforce the emotions of the moment. The text is in a gentle rhyme evoking contentment and relaxation. Children will like the depiction of farm living and of a typical day in the life of this extended family. They will realize that every moment is someone's favorite time and that the best time of day is anytime one is with friends and family. Fiction. Grades K-2. 2005, Gulliver Books, Unpaged., \$16.00. Ages 5 to 8.

Subjects:

[Country life Fiction.](#)

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