

Children's Literature Reviews

Item 59 of 130

Rabbit goes to Kansas

story by *Deborah L. Duvall* ; paintings by *Murv Jacob*.
Albuquerque : University of New Mexico Press, 2007.
1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Annotations:

Ji-Stu the rabbit and Wildcat travel far to the north in search of beautiful red and blue feathers, and when they arrive at the right spot, the birds there invite them to join their ball game.

Horn Book Guide:

Spring 2008 Picture Books Rating 5, Marginal, seriously flawed, but with some redeeming quality.

Reviews:

Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)

This book is part of a series (not named) telling the adventures of Ji-Stu the Rabbit including *How Rabbit Lost His Tail*, *Rabbit and the Bears*, *Rabbit Goes Duck Hunting*, *Rabbit and the Wolves*, *The Opossum's Tale*, and *Rabbit Plants the Forest*, all Cherokee stories. Rabbit (known as Ji-Stu) wants more of the bright red and blue feathers of a bird that lives far to the north on a hill covered with sunflowers, under an ancient cottonwood tree, on Mount Oread, so off he goes with Wildcat. When they reach their destination, the Jays teach Ji-Stu how to use the bouncy ball that they shoot through a hoop tied to the cottonwood tree. When the game is concluded, they feast on gooseberry tea and sunflower seeds, but Wildcat needs more in his belly, so he goes off to the west to find sustenance. Ji-Stu plays the ball game and feasts with the birds every day until one day Wildcat returns. He takes Ji-Stu west to a new land of rolling hills and flint rock, buffalo, and prairie dogs where Wildcat decides to stay, but he promises to visit the Jays once a year to play their ball game. (Thus the basketball tournament is born?) Ji-Stu returns home to Oklahoma to share the story of the game with the bouncing ball. The illustrations are bright and detailed with animals in varied jewelry and costumes, which the birds do not need because they are suitably adorned with red and blue feathers. Notes by the illustrator give the reader a hint that this is not a traditional tale, although it is laced with Kansas symbols: cottonwood, sunflowers, meadowlark, honeybee, wildcat, and jayhawk. The author calls it "a new mythology" for Kansas. 2007, University of New Mexico Press, \$16.95. Ages 5 to 12.

Horn Book (The Horn Book Guide, Spring 2008)

While Duvall and Jacob have previously retold traditional Cherokee stories about trickster Rabbit with some success, here they attempt to create a "new myth," and the result is a confusing muddle. Is the book intended to explain why wildcats live in Kansas or discuss the invention of basketball? Kansans will appreciate the folksy illustrations featuring Jayhawk blue and red. Category: Picture Books. 2007, New Mexico, 32pp, 16.95. Ages 4 to 9. Rating: 5: Marginal, seriously flawed, but with some redeeming quality.

Subjects:

[Adventure and adventurers Fiction.](#)

[Ball games Fiction.](#)

[Rabbits Fiction.](#)

[Wildcats Fiction.](#)

[Birds Fiction.](#)



[Kansas Fiction.](#)

Link to a Web Feature or Search for Other Works by:

[Duvall, Deborah L., 1952-](#)

[Jacob, Murv.](#)

Search for other reviews by:

[Gwynne Spencer](#)

[Horn Book](#)

Language	Call Number	LCCN	Dewey Decimal	ISBN/ISSN
English (eng)	PZ7.D9548 Rab 2007	2007005067	[Fic]	9780826341815 (cloth : alk. paper) 0826341810 (cloth : alk. paper)

View the [MARC Record](#) for this item.

[Next Item](#)

[Previous Item](#)

[Search Results](#)

[New Search](#)

[Browse Search](#)

[Browse the Shelf \(LC Class\)](#)

[CLCD B&N Book Store](#)