

Children's Literature Reviews

Item 6 of 130

Tea party today : poems to sip and savor

by Eileen Spinelli ; illustrated by Karen Dugan.

Honesdale, Pa. : Wordsong/Boyd's Mills Press, 1999.

31 p. : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

Horn Book Guide:

Fall 1999 Nonfiction-Literature Rating 4, Recommended, with minor flaws.

Reading Measurement Programs:

Accelerated Reader

Interest Level Lower Grade

Book Level 3.9

Accelerated Reader Points **0.5**

Reviews:

GraceAnne A. DeCandido (Booklist, April 1, 1999 (Vol. 95, No. 15))

This suite of poems uses tea and teatime for a number of cozy and engaging reflections: "tea for one" in a window seat; peppermint tea by the fireside on a stormy night; tea with teddy bears or by the seashore. Each verse has an accompanying full-or double-page illustration, and below each is a "Teatime tip," such as having a "Noah's tea," where friends bring stuffed animals, or that "sometimes the best thing to give a grouch at teatime is a hug." The illustrations are extremely charming. There are comfortable interiors with a cast of ethnically diverse children; there are dreamy seascapes and fairy tale flowers; and everywhere there's an array of teapots and teacups in candy colors. The images are apt and polished: "The kettle is cozied / by lemony sun . . . Brown sugar beach is soft and sweet / This day is good enough to eat." Deeply cheerful. Category: For the Young. 1999, Boyd's Mills, \$15.95. *Ages 6-8.*

Marilyn Courtot (Children's Literature)

The fun of hosting a tea party for real or imaginary friends is part of this collection of pomes. From shopping, to invitation preparation, getting oneself dressed to the tea party itself are celebrated in verse. For those who may not be so ambitious or inclined to entertain, "Tea for One" or "Cozy" may just hit the spot--for "There's a lot to be said/For a tea tray in bed." Spinelli offers her teatime tips at the bottom of each page. Dugan's illustrations are soft and warm and will bring a smile just like sipping a delicious cup of tea. 1999, Wordsong, \$15.95. *Ages 3 to 8.*

Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)

As delightful as a cup of strawberry tea, this collection of tea-and-snack poems includes "teatime tips" on each page. The multicultural, nonsexist illustrations emphasize that teatime is for young and old, boys and girls, people all over the world. A nice book to share with your teatime attendees. 1996, Boyd's Mills Press, \$15.95. *Ages 9 up.*

Horn Book (The Horn Book Guide, Fall 1999)

From shopping for different honeys and teas to the variety of settings for tea parties, these twenty poems celebrate the joy of sharing tea with friends or just oneself. Following each poem is a teatime tip to add interest and originality to tea parties. Both the poems and watercolors are competent but lack energy. Category: Nonfiction-Literature. 1999, Boyd's, 32pp, \$15.95. *Ages 5 to 9.* Rating: 4: Recommended, with minor flaws.

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