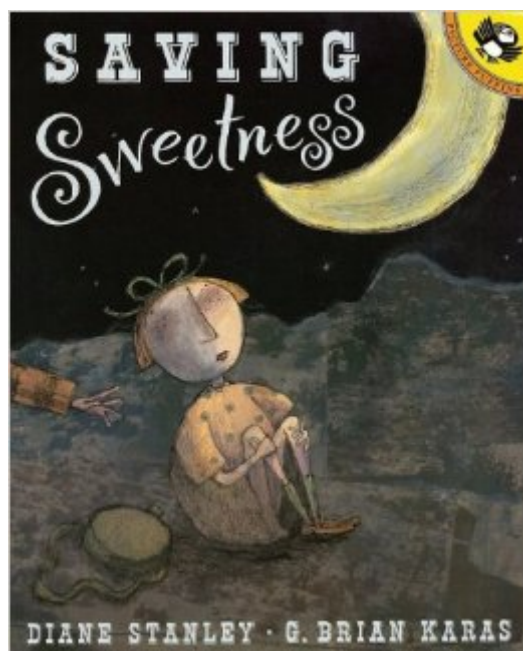


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# Saving Sweetness



## Synopsis

In this "rip-roaring tale" ("School Library Journal") the sheriff of a dusty western town rescues Sweetness, an unusually resourceful orphan, from nasty old Mrs. Sump and her terrible orphanage. Full-color illustrations.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD660L (What's this?)

Series: Picture Puffin Books

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (November 12, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698117670

ISBN-13: 978-0698117679

Product Dimensions: 8 x 1 x 10 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #327,148 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Westerns](#) #345 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes](#) #8184 in [Books > Children's Books > Humor](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

This is the best of the California Young Reader nominees in it's catagory this year. I thought it was a real hoot, and I am adding it to our school library. It is funny and has a good message about adoption. I really think the children are going to have fun with this one.

From the moment you begin this book, you will want to read it aloud and get caught up in the rhythm of the language..."Mrs. Sump doesn't much like seein' the orphans restin' or havin' any fun, so she puts 'em to scrubbin' the floor with toothbrushes. Even the ittiest, bittiest orphan, little Sweetness. So one day, Sweetness hit the road." Children appreciate the humor in the sheriff's attempts to rescue Sweetness from the perils in the desert. The illustrations are an interesting blend of mediums. This book is just plain, good ole fun.

Saving Sweetness is a very entertaining read-aloud. Children love the characters and are delighted with the humor. Some children's comments have been: "I like the way that Mrs. Sump starts to say something about the orphans and then changes her mind and says it in a nicer way." "I think it's funny that the sheriff thinks he is saving Sweetness." The illustrations are an extremely integral part of the story. In fact, the pictures add a dimension by presenting an additional point of view.

This was the final book my granddaughter wanted for Christmas, and she was the happiest little girl you've ever seen! She's a bookworm like her Grandma Gini! It arrived about 2-3 days after Christmas, but she didn't care! She had the ones she had wanted so badly! This makes it easy to buy for one that is so easy to buy for! They came in good shape too, and about as prompt as you could get considering it was Christmas! Thanks for all your 'successful getting it here as soon as possible!'

Parents and children (6-8 year olds) alike might enjoy this story of a bumbling sheriff trying to rescue a runaway orphan who is tired of cleaning the orphanage with a toothbrush. Sweetness rescues the sheriff several times and gives him plenty of hints about where she needs to be, but he just doesn't get it until the end. Which is how it should be, of course. The use of real desert vistas along with drawings make the book more interesting for adults, but I think it may be lost on the younger group unless pointed out. It does make a good opening for discussion, however. The language is difficult at times and as a warning to adults, if you don't talk Texan, read it through once or twice so you don't stumble and interrupt the story for the kids. Some phrases will have to be explained such as "she fell on me like Grandma on a chicken snake", "loaded for bear", and "feelin' like somethin' that was chewed up and spit out." but the phrases are great for exploring figures of speech.

When the sheriff of a dusty western town "rescues" Sweetness, an unusually resourceful orphan, from nasty old Mrs. Sump and her terrible orphanage, neither the sheriff nor Sweetness know what they are getting into. Sweetness is quite the unlikely hero, but she succeeds in rescuing the sheriff time and time again, even while the sheriff believes that he is the one doing the rescuing. A great story for children to hear or read, as they will enjoy the fact that Sweetness is the real hero. The language and illustrations of the story will mesmerize kids. Adults will have a lot of fun reading the book with an accent.

This book is the most fun to read out loud! What a treat for both parent and child ... teacher and students. I read it to my 8-year old girl and we both laughed out loud throughout the story. The subtle messages make for some great discussion as well. Themes such as : "Sometimes adults can use help from children", "Children have more power over situations than we sometimes give them credit for", "What goes around comes around", "Do unto others as you would have done unto you", etc. It is also a good book for discussing adoption/foster care. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

I am a teacher and adoptive mother, and this is one of my favorite children's books. Sweetness is a brave, resourceful, and spunky little girl. The illustrations are adorable. I like how it uses humor to turn the tables on the idea that people adopt children to "save" them. In reality, they do as much for us as we do for them simply by bringing more love into our lives. Best of all, the text is very fun to read out loud.

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