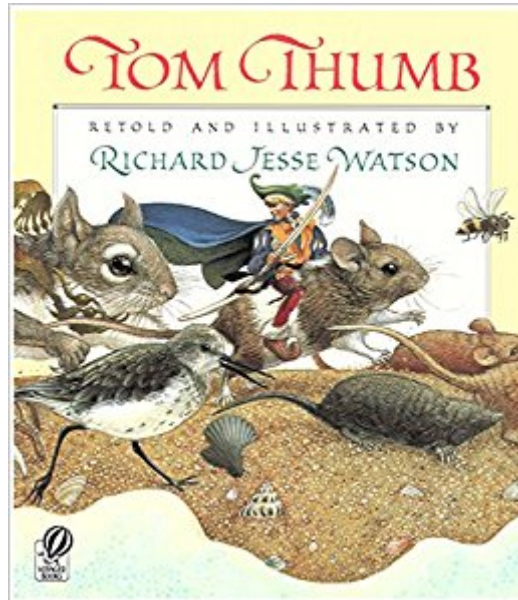




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Tom Thumb



Synopsis

When Charles S. Stratton was born in 1838, he was a large baby, perfect in every way. But then he stopped growing. At age four, though a happy and mischievous child, he was just over two feet tall and weighed only fifteen pounds—•the exact same size he had been as a seven-month-old baby. It was then that the notorious showman P.T. Barnum dubbed him Tom Thumb and put him on display, touring him around the world as a curiosity. ••••• A natural performer, Charley became enormously popular and wealthy, more so than any other performer before him. In this spirited biography—•the first on its subject—•George Sullivan recounts the fascinating adventures of Tom Thumb, and raises challenging questions about what constitutes exploitation—•both in the 19th century and today.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

The story of Tom Thumb is well-known: a poor, childless farmer and his wife feed a raggedy beggar (who is really Merlin), and he rewards them with a son the size of the husband's thumb. The farmer and his wife name their son Tom Thumb, and try to protect him from the perils of the world. Tom Thumb, however, gets into many dangerous situations--he is baked in a cake, eaten by a cow, stolen by a crow, swallowed by a giant and eventually imprisoned in a mouse trap. But with the help of the castle mice, Tom escapes and saves the kingdom from destruction. As a reward, King Arthur

gives Tom all the gold he wants, to take back to his parents, and makes Tom the smallest Knight of the Round Table. Watson, who last illustrated James Dickey's *Bronwen*, the *Traw*, and the *Shape Shifter*, has woven--with occasional stiffness--several of Tom's familiar adventures into a single telling. That minor failing is compensated for by Watson's full-color, realistic artwork; in startling perspectives and several striking close-ups, he transports the reader fully into Tom's thumb-sized world. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Kindergarten-Grade 4-- Although it is not stated, this is a loose adaptation of an English variant of the tale. All of the beginning plot elements--Merlin's granting the farmer's wife's wish for a "babe" even if it's no bigger than her husband's thumb, Tom Thumb being baked into a cake, carried off by a raven, swallowed by a giant, spit into the sea, and swallowed by a fish, which is cut open by the king's cook, who brings Tom to King Arthur--are also related in L. Leonard Brooke's version of "Tom Thumb" found in *The Golden Goose Book* (Warne, 1977; o.p.). However, Watson's heroic ending, in which Tom Thumb replaces the giant's beloved broken shell, is not mentioned in other variants available. The writing borders on the flowery, but is quite readable. The realistic, microscopically detailed tempera and watercolor illustrations are particularly suitable for this tale. The tiny Tom Thumb would see every hair on a cow's head, and the mobile made of an acorn, a jay's feather, twigs, and leaves hanging over a tiny wooden cradle is an enchanting reminder of just how small Tom really is. The illustrations' perspectives are generally successful and interesting. The subject and these illustrations will ensure this book's popularity with young readers and their parents. Felix Hoffman's *Tom Thumb* (Atheneum, 1973; o.p.) is based on the Brothers Grimm version. --Karen K. Radtke, Milwaukee Public Library Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I purchased this title as a gift for a little boy. I believe that anyone who wishes to reread this tale or share it with a child will happily turn the pages, enjoying beautifully created illustrations during the retelling of this old favorite story. Sybil Blazej-Yee
Children's Librarian
Children's Book Author (*The Honey Boy Story*; *Beagle Boy Watson*; *Leroy Goes To The Olympics*)
Artist
Dog Walker

You cannot beat a RICHARD JESSE WATSON illustrated book. His are the best and draw the children into the pictures for lots of side-line story telling.

Great illustrations on a classic tale.

wonderful pictures

"Tom Thumb" as retold and beautifully illustrated by Richard Jesse Watson is a wonderful new spin on an old fairy tale. The story accompanied by the bright, realistic illustrations will make a wonderful bedtime story and the perfect book to help a child learn to read. Every child will relate to Tom Thumb and his small adventures, Watson has crafted the perfect bedtime storybook!

I bought this book for my second grader since the illustrator was coming to his school and to sign autographs afterwards. It was an easy read for him. We read it at bedtime and finished that night. We both thought the story was strange and how Tom survived multiple times. I guess it makes an interesting twist to this story. Unfortunately, my son wasn't able to get his book autographed since the Mr. Watson was bombarded with questions & autographs at the assembly and had to leave.

The close-up illustrations in this story are imaginative and exciting. In this version, the giant (Grumbong) becomes enraged when he drops his seashell charm. Tom Thumb and the woodland creatures have to bring him another in order to save Camelot. Action packed, perfect for boys. This is rather long for littler children, but the illustrations may help them sit still for longer. Extremely well done.

A quarrel between a giant and a greedy wizard resulting with a curse set upon the giant's wife to bear a child no bigger than the wizard's thumb. A son was born soon later and named Tom Thumb. Regardless of its size, he lived a prosperous life with his giant parents until one day a misfortune struck him. His adventures started by he was eaten by a fish, discovered by a cook, worked for the king, and being betrayed by a jealous royal cat. But everything ends well as he resides in a place where everybody is in his size, at the Butterfly Kingdom.-----It is a perfect read for children. It's short and understandable, plus it's enjoyable.

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