



THE SPIFFIEST GIANT IN TOWN

AUTHOR: LAURA DONALDSON

ILLUSTRATOR: AXEL SCHEFFLER

See a video of the book read aloud here: [The Spiffiest Giant in Town](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

When George the Giant spies a shop full of wonderful clothes, he decides to treat himself to a new outfit. He puts on his new shirt, pants, shoes and tie, and is immediately transformed from the scruffiest giant in town to the spiffiest giant in town. But on his way home, George runs into various animals who need his help. And little by little, George finds himself giving away all his new purchases. This is a lively tale that reminds readers that sometimes it's what's inside a person – or a giant – that matters most. ([amazon.com](#))

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Julia Donaldson is a top selling author of children's books with over 65 million books sold worldwide. Among her greatest successes are *Room on the Broom*, *The Gruffalo* and *Stick Man* (all illustrated by Axel Scheffler). Julia's books have been translated into over 72 languages. She lives in the UK with her husband and divides her time between Sussex in the South and Edinburgh in Scotland. From 2011 to 2013, she was the UK Children's Laureate. Julia writes fiction, poems, plays and songs, as well as picture books. The TV films of *The Gruffalo* and *Room on the Broom* have both been nominated for Oscars. ([amazon.com](#))

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Axel Scheffler was born in Durham, England. He studied at the Bath Academy of Art and worked in advertising and publishing after graduating in 1985. He has drawn his distinctive illustrations for authors of children's books from Britain, Germany and the Netherlands, including Julia Donaldson. He lives in Blackheath, London.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these prompts before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- Look at the cover and tell me what you think the story is about.
- Are giants real? Tell me why you think that.
- Let's start reading and see what we learn.

THE SPIFFIEST GIANT IN TOWN

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Generosity
- Creative thinking
- Fables

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

DURING THE STORY

Use these prompts while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:

- (title page) How do you think the giant is feeling? What clues did you use to figure that out? I wonder why he looks so sad.
- (p. 2) What do you think “scruffiest” means? Can you figure it out by looking at the illustration?
- (pp. 3-4) Using what we learned on p. 2 and what we see on this page, what do you think “spiffy” means?
- (p. 4) Why was George so proud?
- (p. 5) I wonder what the storeowners will do with George’s clothes.
- (p. 8) If you sing when you’re happy, put your hand on your mouth.
- (p. 10) What do you think George is going to do?
- (p. 14) What does George have that can help the mouse family?
- (p. 19) Could you use a giant’s sock as a sleeping bag?
- (p. 21) I wonder what a bog is. It looks a little like a giant mud puddle to me.
- (p. 22) Why do you think the dog is on his back?
- (p. 24) Uh oh! I think I know what’s going to happen next. Do you?
- (p. 27) What do you see in this illustration that gives us a clue as to what happens next? What’s in that bag next to the shop?

AFTER READING

Use these prompts after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:

- What did you like about this book?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- (p. 6) Make your neck long like a giraffe’s.
- (p. 18) If you think the fox left the sleeping bag in the puddle on purpose, give me a thumbs up. If you think he left it there because he didn’t know it fell off his pack, give me a thumbs down.
- (p. 25) Shiver to show me how cold George is.

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- (p. 5) Turn to your neighbor and talk about what you think the storeowners did with the giant’s clothes.
- (after reading) Let’s try, working together, to remember all of the animals that needed help in this story.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Matching game: Create a sheet with two columns. One contains items of spiffy clothing the giant purchased in no particular order. The second contains the animals the giant meets along his way, also in no particular order. Have children draw lines connecting the item of clothing to the animal it went to help.