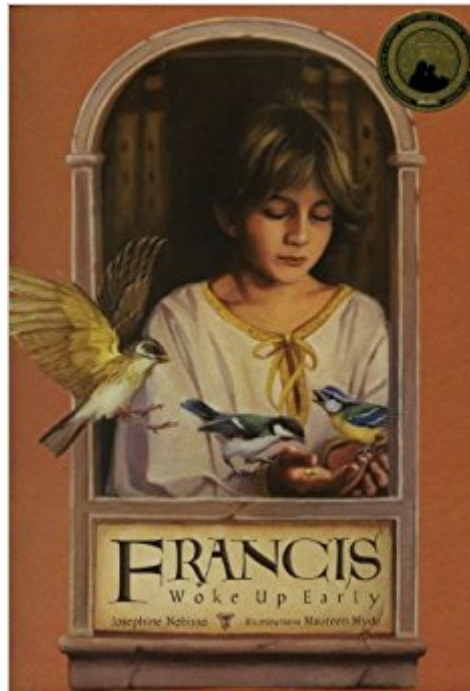




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Francis Woke Up Early



Synopsis

While other children's religious titles focus on Saint Francis of Assisi as an adult, few, if any, have concentrated on the early life of the patron saint of animals and the environment. Stunning illustrations punctuate this beautifully told story of Saint Francis as a boy as he communes with nature and treats even the fiercest of animals—a hungry wolf—with the same compassion he would show his grandmother. In a fearless display of courage, tolerance, and understanding, the young Francis makes peace with the wolf, foreshadowing his teachings of harmony with the world around us and man's duty to protect nature.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Gingerbread House (November 1, 2011)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.4 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,807,341 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > People & Places #224 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Historical #408 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Values & Virtues

Age Range: 5 - 7 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 2

Customer Reviews

Josephine Nobisso is an award-winning author of more than 50 books, including *Take It to the Queen*, *Show, Don't Tell!*, and *Weight of a Mass*. Her titles have earned her a Learning Magazine's Teacher's Choice Award and a citation in Parent Magazine for Best Books of the Year, among numerous other awards. She lives in Westhampton Beach, New York. Maureen Hyde is an artist and a professor at The Florence Academy of Art in Italy.

A most wonderful book! Especially considering that there are no other books out there about the childhood of St. Francis. Carefully and lovingly researched by a truly great artist and gifted writer.

I love Josephine Nobisso. I love that she writes spiritual books for children. It is wonderful to have this book to read to my great grandson. The paintings illustrating in the book are exquisite and work together with this charming story to make it one my little man will remember forever.

This is one of those books where you gather the children around your feet and read out loud. Discussing saints and animals in a way that appeals to little children who love animals. I love reading it with my children and perhaps one day with my grandchildren!

Go back in time and experience the imagined world of St. Francis. My children were in awe. The whole family will love it!

Francis Woke Up Early is written by Josephine Nobisso, the author of my favorite Catholic children's book ever - *The Weight of a Mass*. In this book, the author imagines what St. Francis of Assisi would have been like as a little boy? Probably inspired by the tale of Wolf of Gubbio, *Francis Woke Up Early* tells the tale of a young Francis encountering a she-wolf that had been prowling around and threatening the village. Using his gifts of love, generosity, and the special bond he has with animals, Francis is able to subdue the wolf. Unlike Ms. Nobisso's other works, there isn't deep and hidden symbolism dripping on every page. It is merely an imagined story of a young saint-to-be. What really caught my attention with this book was the illustrations. Ms. Hyde's work is outstanding and will be sure to captivate you and your young readers! It has been a while since the website for Ms. Nobisso's works has been up and running. I hope she continues to write, especially since we are still waiting for her "tale of love," to complete her trilogy of faith (*The Weight of a Mass*), hope (*Take it to the Queen*), and love.

One of the most vivid childhood memories is sitting in my parish church, gazing up at a large fresco of the Child Jesus and St Joseph working in their carpentry shop. I wondered what the pair discussed amid the rasping of their tools and fragrant wood shavings. My childish faith imagination helped me forge a deep bond with the young Jesus and St Joseph which has never left me. The same bond is recreated in "*Francis Woke Up Early*". No saint outside of the Bible is as widely known as St Francis of Assisi, yet he can be little more than a garden statue in children's minds. "*Francis Woke Up Early*" gives children a chance to enter into a day in the life of the child Francis. This is not a biography; it's a meditation on the character of the boy who became a saint. "Francis woke up

Early" helps children see that all saints began life like them, seeking outdoor adventures, and loving their family, yet, his future spiritual greatness is foreshadowed in this enchanting book. What is best known about Francis is his bond with animals, particularly his sermon to the birds and his befriending the fierce wolf of Gubbio. Using these events as inspiration, author Josephine Nobisso paints a charming yet thoughtful portrait of the young saint. Imagine a sunny morning, which awakened Francis at dawn, and coaxed him to venture outdoors past a sleeping household in search of a breakfast of goat's milk, all frothy and warm. Dramatic storytelling paired with brilliant illustrations fires imaginations both young and old, and will lead to many a discussion of the life of St Francis. Each painting is a work of art worthy of framing; these captivating paintings of Assisi were completed over a period of twenty years by artist Maureen Hyde who provided the idea for the story. "Francis Woke up Early" will become a family favorite, and would be a delightful Christmas gift for preschool through third grade children. Review by Leticia Velasquez Catholic Media Review

Every bit as beautiful as Josephine's previous works (of which I'm a huge fan), this jewel is illustrated by Maureen Hyde, an American painter who also lives and works in Italy. The story is gentle and lovely, and the paintings immediately transport the reader to gorgeous Assisi. This book is a bit of a respite, an escape from the noisy world -- an imaginative immersion into beauty, love, and saintly goodness.

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