

## Response to Timmerman Was Here (612)

We read a book called Timmerman Was Here. This was a story about a little girl whose grandfather moves out of their house and a man called Timmerman moves in and offers to help fix their roof and do other odd jobs for them and the community. At first the girl doesn't like Timmerman but as her dog, Henrietta, begins to like him, so does the girl. Rumours start because Timmerman was seen walking around at night with a sack and a spade. The little girl defends Timmerman at school and gets a black eye because of it. Unfortunately, a little while later, she finds the sack and the spade and begins to doubt him, but she didn't open the sack. She speaks to her grandfather about the situation and he suggests that she should continue to trust her inner feelings about Timmerman. She tries to ask Timmerman about the sack but he just tells her she will find out soon. Timmerman leaves and a few weeks later, tulips start to bloom and while the rest of the town have no idea how the tulips got there, the girl knew it was because Timmerman had planted them.

There are several possible meanings for this story however, the one I think best suits the story is don't judge a person until you get to know them. I know that this is the meaning because in the story the days after Timmerman was seen with the sack and the spade at night, people assumed he was either a cat murderer or a thief who was looking for his money. They judged him without really getting to know him.

Another example that proves that you should not judge a person until you get to know them is from the beginning of the book. The girl really didn't want to like Timmerman as he was taking her grandfather's place. She despised him even though she had no reason to dislike him. It was purely because she wanted to dislike him. Luckily, over time, she began to see how Henrietta, the dog, liked Timmerman and realized that he was a good man. Therefore, she saw that she shouldn't have judged him so negatively in the first place.

In my life as well as in society not judging a person until you get to know them is very important because sometimes you might lose the opportunity to become a very good friend to someone. If everyone judged each other without getting to know them there would be lots of lonely and unhappy people in the world.

This book sparked a lot of memories but the one that is most relevant is from another book we read in French called Les enfants à colorier . In that book it talked about kids who were bullied for their differences. The meaning is similar in the French book because the children were being judged for their differences. This was similar to what happened to Timmerman because the townspeople didn't accept Timmerman for who he was.

There were many features in this book but the two I shall talk about are illustrations and character development. In the picture where the girl is looking at her black eye in the mirror, we also see the bed with sack and spade underneath it. This picture had a big impact on me as it showed through the colour choice, the mood of the story at that time. The left side of the picture creates an ominous feeling by the illustrator's use of dark colours. On the right side we see the girl looking in the mirror. The shadows seem to create a feeling of doubt. This is when the girl starts to doubt Timmerman's actions. Also, we can tell she feels doubt because she is touching the bruise as if she is unsure about her true feelings. The illustration which shows the girl looking at the empty bed, seems to show that both the dog and the girl are unhappy about Timmerman's leaving. We see that in the way the dog is hunched over, and her tail is lower than in previous pictures where we saw that Heniretta held her head and tail high in a sign of positivity. The girl is staring at the bed and hugging her knees. This too shows unhappiness or thoughtfulness as she remembers the good times they spent together. These and other illustrations helped to make the book better by catching my attention and allowing me to see the different moods of the characters and settings.

The character development of the girl in the story was an important feature. At the beginning of the story the girl was sad and upset about her grandfather leaving and Timmerman arriving. In the middle of the book, the girl starts to open up to Timmerman after following her dog's lead. At one point she starts to question whether Timmerman is good because of the rumours she heard but at the end, her belief in Timmerman is restored by her grandfather's words of wisdom. If the author had not shown the various changes in the character, this book would have been pretty boring. Character development is key to keeping a reader's interest.

In conclusion, I enjoyed the story as it made me consider lots of things about why rumours are so bad for our society. It did, however, bother me that we never learned the girl's or Timmerman's first names.