



Never Tease a Weasel (Picture Book)

By Jean Conder Soule

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A funny, finger-wagging rhyme with some very good advice: never tease a weasel, because teasing isn't nice! Rather, kids should do *nice* things for animals, such as bake a drake a cake, or give a mule a pool, and much more. Long out of print, this new edition of *Never Tease a Weasel* with art by the great *New Yorker* cartoonist George Booth will surely please a weasel, and everyone else who reads it!

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Never Tease a Weasel (Picture Book) By Jean Conder Soule Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 3—Soule's 1964 picture book has been reissued with new illustrations by a *New Yorker* cartoonist, and the result is a marvelous meld of text and art. The "be kind to animals" lesson is crafted in such slyly humorous terms that it's sure to win universal acceptance, even as it's met with giggles and grins. As a boy and girl tease a weasel in a variety of ways, Soule suggests other ways to make friends with animals, such as making a goat a coat or giving a mule "a pool/And some jaunty swimming trunks." The animals look appropriately awkward and uncomfortable with these "kindnesses." As Soule observes: "You can knit a kitten mittens,/And perhaps that cat would purr," Booth draws a wide-eyed feline gazing warily from a safe distance at a pair of clunky, oversize mittens. In the end, the children and weasel snuggle on a couch, since: "It's more fun to please a weasel/and be friends with him instead." Soule's zany suggestions beg to be read aloud, and Booth's line drawings with bright daubs of color perfectly capture the lighthearted goings-on. Reminiscent of Judi Barrett's *Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing* (S & S, 1970), this charmer's inspired silliness will win a wide audience.—Marilyn Taniguchi, *Beverly Hills Public Library, CA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Accompanying a text first published in 1964, this picture book has new artwork by *New Yorker* cartoonist Booth, who also illustrated Dr. Seuss' *Wacky Wednesday* (1974) and April Halprin Wayland's *It's Not My Turn to Look for Grandma!* (1995). Tinted with colors, his ink drawings combine sophistication of line with a real zaniness of spirit. The rhyming verses detail ridiculous ways of pleasing various animals, while the refrain recurs in slightly varying forms, including, "But never tease a weasel, / Not even once or twice. / A weasel will not like it-- / And teasing / isn't / nice!" Sidestepping the prissiness that could easily have accompanied such a message, Soule and Booth opt for droll humor instead. The result is a picture book that will be reread to the point that the eminently repeatable refrains could become part of a family's store of familiar quotations. Fun for reading aloud. *Carolyn Phelan*

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About the Author

Jean Conder Soule wrote many books and poems for children in the '60s and '70s, and she's thrilled to see an old favorite come back. She lives in Pennsylvania.

Since 1969, George Booth's illustrations have been an iconic feature of the *New Yorker* magazine. He also illustrated the classic Dr. Seuss book *Wacky Wednesday*. He and his wife, Dione, live in Stony Brook, New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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