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# O'Sullivan Stew (Picture Puffins)



## Synopsis

Someone has stolen the witch of Crookhaven's horse, and there will be no peace in the village until it is returned. So bold, brassy Kate O'Sullivan takes matters into her own hands. But instead of saving the day, she manages to land herself--and her family--in trouble with the king. So Kate sets out to save their hides the only way she knows how--with a good story. Filled with imagination, wit, and a healthy helping of good old-fashioned Irish blarney, this is a hilarious tale that will keep readers coming back for more.

## Book Information

Series: Picture Puffins

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (January 15, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698118898

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Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (29 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #286,531 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > St. Patrick's Day](#) #206 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe](#) #301 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

"O'Sullivan Stew" is a rollicking book with a truly heroic female protagonist. The pictures are both lovely and funny--if you pay special attention to facial expressions I guarantee you'll be laughing out loud. Kate, the heroine, spins yarns with a skill beyond her years, painting pictures with her inventive tales. Her speech is like music--you can practically hear her brogue while you're reading. And if her storytelling doesn't convince you that she's painting pictures with her words, then the illustrations will. They vary from dreamy pastels to muted and murky to bold and bright depending on the nature of the tale she's telling. And when she stops, the world turns black and white. Not only does this book contain excellent illustrations, a strong, believable heroine, and a captivating story

line, but there are several surprises and an unexpected ending. I hope you'll read it... it would be a shame to miss out on such a marvelously fun book!

The children in my school love this book. One of my little boys asked, a couple of weeks ago, if it was St. Patrick's day yet, and could I begin reading O'Sullivan Stew! The pictures are quite detailed, and the adventure story is a good one. I am a school librarian and I highly recommend this title for storytime., or for a study of Irish folktales. Another excellent title is the new The Last Snake in Ireland .

I bought this book for my nephew but decided to wait to give it to him for several reasons. The main one being that I absolutely LOVE the book myself! LOL! However, while the story is good and I know he'll enjoy it, he's still a bit young (not even 2); it seems more appropriate for 4 years old or older. In the story, Young Kate uses her wits to save her family and her village with an ending I never saw coming -- not your typical 'Fairy Tale Ending' but an excellent one nonetheless especially for our modern times. I fell in love with the illustration's ton of detail that kept me looking at each page long after the reading was over. My one complaint is that, while the book itself is good sized so you can see the pictures, the paperback edition seems a bit flimsy. If this story is to be loved (and thus read) as much as I think it will then I may have to order another copy or two to last through the years. Perhaps the school binding edition is more sturdy? Both girls and boys will enjoy this story and I think you grown ups will, too.

This is a modern day folktale with a terrific, spunky heroine, a good story and a wonderful ending. It would make a very satisfying read aloud for children 5 years of age and older. The words and pictures work well together. Highly recommended by me, a children's librarian.

Bejabbers! What fine yarns here are spun - and true, every one - in this Irish-flavored Scheherezade-style story. Brave, clever Kate O'Sullivan leads the way and saves the day for the men (and women) of her clan. In this brew of a stew with its wonderfully whimsical illustrations, there's a King, a Witch, giant monsters and monstrous giants. Then there's the real story beneath it all, and, a surprise ending. As a storyteller myself, I could only enjoy this yarn more by telling it to others. As a children's librarian, I've already witnessed the magic of this book with children and adults. So, sit yourself down and relish a heaping helping or two of some delicious O'Sullivan Stew!

The Irish have long memories, and even longer tales to reflect that. This book is a wonderful way to get children caught up in the excitement and tension of a classical tale, while also giving them a resourceful and modern heroine to admire. The book is everything a children's story should be: it's funny, the language reads well and beautifully, and the illustrations are well done. This is a must-have.

This is probably my favorite story for a St. Patrick's Day read aloud. The village of Crookhaven is cursed when the local witch's horse is stolen by the king. Kate O'Sullivan and her father and brothers try to steal the horse back but are captured. It is up to Kate to weave a series of tales to get them all off the hook by describing other "true" stories where her family was in a "worse spot" than this one. The King is amused and enthralled by Kate's tales until the last one and all her work is about to be undone until an astonishing secret is revealed. Hudson Talbott's illustrations are a riot of color and action. The expressions of the characters are so evocative you will laugh out loud. Grab some Irish music to play in the background and share the story with everyone. The story will compell you to read with an Irish brogue even if you never have before. Hudson Talbott books are like having a storyteller sitting at your elbow. The pacing of the story as it interplays with the illustrations is perfect.

I always look forward to reading O' Sullivan Stew to my children (now 6 & 8) beginning March 1st. This is by far my favorite St. Patrick's Day story in our collection - I just love Kate's quick wit and courage. The yarns she weaves are so entertaining; she's an amazing story teller! If you only have one St. Patricks Day story book - this should be it! Highly recommend.

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