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# The Acorn People



## Synopsis

This true story of a boy who must overcome prejudice and weakness to treat a group of special needs children with the respect and love they deserve "will give your innards a bear hug. . . . You will read this book with a lump in your throat." (Lincoln Journal)

From Ron Jones, a teacher who started the classroom program that inspired the movie *The Wave*, comes a memoir about a life-changing summer. Ron expected that his time as a counselor at Camp Wiggin would be filled with sunny days spent hiking, swimming, and boating. But when he arrives on day one, his illusions are quickly shattered. He knew that the kids would be "handicapped," but he didn't anticipate having to care for children who can barely walk or see or retain the use of their limbs. At first, the severity of the campers' disabilities seems too much to bear. But everything changes once Ron gets to know his group of kids who call themselves "the Acorn People" because of the acorn necklaces they wear around their necks. The campers teach him that, inside, they are the same as any average kid, and with encouragement, determination, and friendship, nothing is impossible.

"A fantastic and beautiful story." "Seattle Times" "Uncomfortably moving, yet told in surprisingly unsentimental terms. . . . Succinct and tender, it will haunt the reader long after the brief passages have been read." "Houston Chronicle" "Ron Jones' true story of a group of handicapped children at summer camp is one of the most poignant, beautiful and eloquent tales to come this way in a long time." "Flint Journal"

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 720L (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Laurel Leaf (June 11, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 044022702X

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Product Dimensions: 4.1 x 0.3 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 84 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #85,596 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Special Needs #19 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Prejudice #98 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > History of Sports

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

"[The Acorn People] will give your innards a bear hug. . . . You will read this book with a lump in your throat."--Lincoln Journal  
"A fantastic and beautiful story."--Seattle Times  
"Uncomfortably moving, yet told in surprisingly unsentimental terms. . . . Succinct and tender, it will haunt the reader long after the brief passages have been read."--Houston Chronicle  
"Ron Jones' true story of a group of handicapped children at summer camp is one of the most poignant, beautiful and eloquent tales to come this way in a long time."--Flint Journal

Even though he knows the camp is for disabled children, Ron Jones anticipates sunny days of hiking, swimming, and boating as a counselor at Camp Wiggin. But he arrives and realizes how severely disabled the children are, it seems too much to bear. Until he meets his campers--The Acorn People. A group of kids who teach him that, inside, they are the same as any average kid, and with encouragement, determination, and friendship, nothing is impossible. "A fantastic and beautiful story."--Seattle Times  
"Uncomfortably moving, yet told in surprisingly unsentimental terms. . . . Succinct and tender, it will haunt the reader long after the brief passages have been read."--Houston Chronicle  
"It will give your innards a bear hug. . . . You will read this book with a lump in your throat."--Lincoln Journal (Nebraska)

Exposes student to real world challenges of people with special needs. Draws reader into intersecting points of similarity between special needs and those born without.

This book was required reading for a class, and would probably pass it up due to the subject material. With that being said, I found myself smiling a few times, and eventually cheering for the main character. I read it under two hours, so I would say it's an easy read. Definitely a, "feel-good" story. Pretty predictable, with funny moments, as well as some heart-tugging tones.

This has got to be one of the best books ever written. It is short and out of print, but it has so much to say about ability and disability, real caring, what love is all about and the strength of the human spirit. I recommend this book to everyone and have bought copies as gifts. It is a treasure you will

never forget.

It has things I wouldn't allow kids under 15 to read.

If you are going to be a teacher or are a teacher or even if you are just a parent read this it will impact your life.

This book really opens your eyes to the world of outdoor recreation activities for the disabled. It's a must read for those that are interested in outdoor recreations for people with disabilities, and gives you some insight on how to keep an open mind to the adaptabilities to suit individuals with various disabilities.. so that they become abilities.

I have a full class set of 30 of this book already. I thought I was ordering the DVD of the made for TV movie of the book. Very bad set up on the sales site.

I worked at this camp. The book is so good. Brings back wonderful times, I still gave a love for the camp

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