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Review of *A Big Guy Took My Ball!* by Mo Willems

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A Big Guy Took my Ball!

Willems, Mo

New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2013

978-142317491-2

From beloved children's book author Mo Willems comes another Elephant & Piggie book about friendship and acceptance. When Piggie's ball gets stolen by "a big guy," she runs to Gerald to vent her sadness. Her flailing and spastic emotion is met by Gerald's quiet constancy, but soon he, too, becomes so upset that this happened to Piggie that he vows to take back her ball – after all, Gerald is a big guy, too. But soon, Gerald discovers that he may not be big enough for *this* guy. But fear turns to understanding and empathy, and enemy turns to friend, drawing on the theme of acceptance. Classic Elephant & Piggie illustrations add emotion, humor, and substance to the story, told in speech bubbles. The distinct personalities of the characters are clear, relatable, and relevant to the story. A great book for young readers. Recommended.

Courtney Raymond, Centennial Library Intern