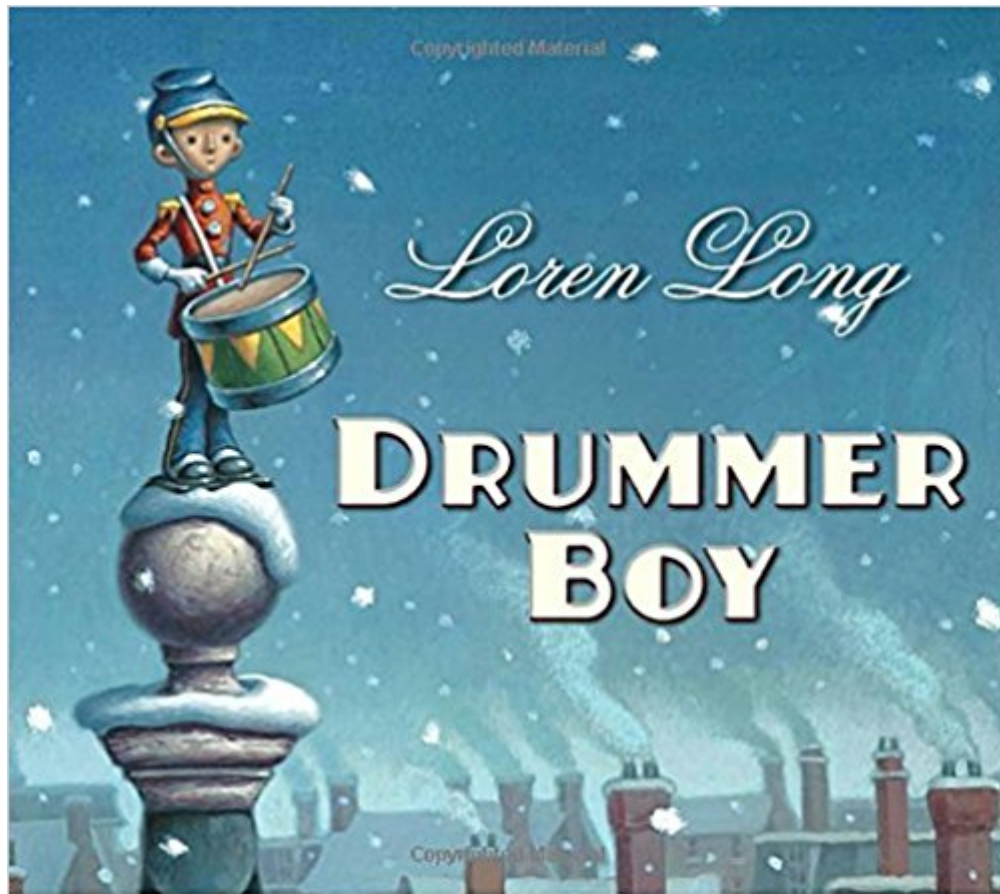




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# Drummer Boy



## Synopsis

In a wintry little town, a drummer boy appears on a child's doorstep. And when it is still and quiet, the drummer boy plays, boom pum pum boom pum, and warms the child's heart. But one day the drummer boy is accidentally knocked into the trash, sending him on a journey he never imagined—a journey on which he continues to play his drum, warming the hearts of others, from a rat to an owl to a snowman. And in a touching conclusion, his own heart is warmed as he plays to his most perfect audience: the baby in a manger. Loren Long brings this story of an unforgettable little drummer boy to vivid life with his timeless and magical art.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books; First Edition edition (October 2, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 039925174X

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Product Dimensions: 11.9 x 0.4 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,126,398 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in [Books > Children's](#)

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Age Range: 3 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 3 [3.0 out of 5 stars](#) —œThis story, a riff on The Little Drummer Boy, tugs at the heartstrings and offers a few exciting moments, despite some improbable coincidences. However, the real star here is Long's luminous acrylic art, which gives a real sense of scale and place. On a cold winter's day, a little toy drummer boy in a snappy red uniform mysteriously appears on a child's doorstep. The boy loves the drummer and spends a lot of time listening to him play, but a mishap sends the little drummer on a wild adventure all around town, where he plays his drum and brings peace to every listener he comes across. Finally, the toy ends up in a cemetery, where the boy finds it near his grandfather's grave. He takes the drummer home and, filled with the Christmas spirit, places him

at the feet of the baby in the Nativity scene on the mantel. A handsome, if not essential, purchase. —Mara Alpert, Los Angeles Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

An illustrator of distinctive talent, Long ventures into the author arena with this holiday picture book based on the Christmas classic "The Little Drummer Boy." In the honored tradition of lost-toy tales, Long's story unfolds when a magical figurine—a regal drummer whose companionship and soulful percussion offer comfort to a lonely child—is accidentally cast out with the trash. The drummer boy braves a string of harrowing encounters with wildlife, a steep fall from a bell tower, and the blustery winter weather the only way he knows how—by dutifully playing his drum. Captivating acrylic illustrations elevate the sometimes meditative cast of the tale with crisp winter scenes in an elegant blue and gray palette. The final pages, which show a glowing Christmas hearth and the drummer boy playing in a nativity scene before the outstretched arms of the baby Jesus, are sure to ward off any remnants of the story's winter chill. Grades K-2. —Kristen McKulski

Loren Long is fast becoming one of my favorite illustrators and now demonstrates that he can storytell beautifully as well. This is a story that can be understood on many levels - as a simple story about the travels of a Christmas toy, or on a deeper level as an analogy of the love Christ brings to all of us during this time of year. The drummer boy is illustrated in Long's humbly charming fashion familiar in many of his characters (such as the clown in "The Little Engine That Could" and the boy in "Toy Boat"). My children, ages 5 and 3, ask for the book every night. I'm sure we'll be reading it long after Christmas is over.

Good book, but I did agree with another reviewer that for a younger or more sensitive child, this could be rather sad for a Christmas book. While the ending is happy, the events are sad and I do not think that I would have bought this book if I had checked it out at the library first.

Loren Long's Drummer Boy is MAGICAL! I ordered a copy for my mother who saw in the newspaper an illustration from the book back in the summer, and for my 2 1/2 yr. old daughter. They both LOVE it! Being an artist myself, I had seen some of Loren's illustrations but had no idea how beautifully they could illustrate the Christmas spirit. I would recommend the book for children and adults who love art and heart warming Christmas stories.

The artwork is Amazing. It is a beautiful story with a very deep meaning. The story tells the long cold path of a toy drummer boy and how he ends up where he is suppose to be at the end. Very touching and meaningful. I would highly reccomend it. Loren Long is an excellent story teller.

Loren Long packs his story with adventure, thrill, and charm; all in a fairly small package. My three-year-old son enjoys the book and drums on his legs when the "boom, pum, pum" repeats. My 20 month old son has a hard time sitting for any book with paragraphs... what can you do? I think this is a very good book for kids 2 years and up.

Wonderful book and wonderful experience getting the book.

This is a beautifully illustrated book.

My 3 year old grandson loves marching soldiers/drummers. It's hard to find books in that area so this fit the bill perfectly!

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