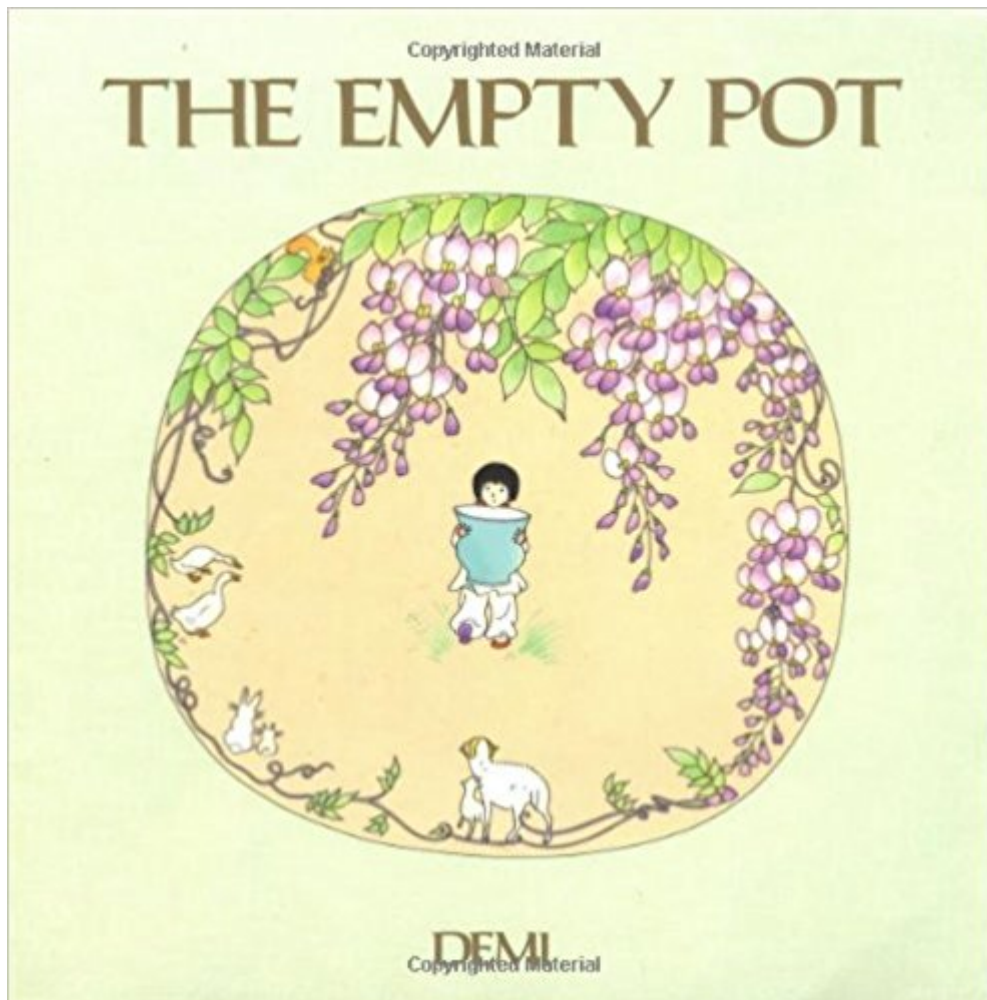




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# The Empty Pot (An Owlet Book)



## Synopsis

The Empty Pot is Demi's beloved picture book about an honest schoolboy. A long time ago in China there was a boy named Ping who loved flowers. Anything he planted burst into bloom. The Emperor loved flowers too. When it was time to choose an heir, he gave a flower seed to each child in the kingdom. "Whoever can show me their best in a year's time," he proclaimed, "shall succeed me to the throne!" Ping plants his seed and tends it every day. But month after month passes, and nothing grows. When spring comes, Ping must go to the Emperor with nothing but an empty pot. Demi's exquisite art and beautifully simple text show how Ping's embarrassing failure is turned triumphant in this satisfying tale of honesty rewarded. An IRA-CBC Children's Choice. An American Bookseller "Pick of the Lists."

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 630 (What's this?)

Series: An Owlet Book

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (September 15, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805049002

ISBN-13: 978-0805049008

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 194 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,435 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Children's Books >

Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #10 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy

Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #894 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

A Chinese boy with an green thumb wins the emperor's competition; PW praised the "extraordinarily delicate Oriental landscapes." Ages 4-7. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 1-3-- When the Chinese emperor proclaims that his successor will be the child who grows the most beautiful flowers from the seeds the emperor distributes, Ping is overjoyed. Like the emperor,

he loves flowers and anything he plants bursts into bloom. But the emperor's seed will not grow, despite months of loving care, and Ping goes before the emperor carrying only his empty pot. The emperor ignores the beautiful blossoms brought by the other children and chooses Ping, revealing that the seeds he handed out had been cooked and could not grow. This simple story with its clear moral is illustrated with beautiful paintings. Each page contains a single picture, shaped like a stiff, rounded, paper fan and framed in celadon brocade that subtly changes pattern from one spread to the next. Isometric perspective, traditional Chinese architecture, and landscape motifs are combined with Demi's fine line and lively children and animals. While all the landscapes featuring the emperor and the other children are in brilliant red, gold, and purple, the scenes involving Ping alone are predominantly beige and delicate green. Ping is almost always shown as a solitary figure in contrast to the busy groups of running, smiling children, reinforcing the portrait of him as a quieter, more contemplative person whose values make him a worthy heir to the emperor. A beautifully crafted book that will be enjoyed as much for the richness of its illustrations as for the simplicity of its story.

--Eleanor K. MacDonald, Beverly Hills Public Library Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

--This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

A friend of mine told me about this book and I was immediately taken with the story. I love the core point of personal integrity, sincere effort, and honesty in the story. I think that the way the story twists and makes its point at the end is powerful and will stick with its target audience. Heck, it will stick with me. But then I was already taken with those values a half century ago. When I see so many young people willing to cheat to "get ahead" and the idea that the ends justify the means or that getting your agenda implemented "by any means necessary" seems justified, well, I am horrified. This book makes the opposite and more traditional point. I think the traditional value has a longer term importance where the short term getting it all now seems attractive to some in the present, it yields a toxic fruit. The illustrations for the story are also beautiful and add to the interest children will have in reading the book. This is a story an adult can read with a child many times without wanting to beat their head against the wall, unlike so many children's books that quickly become torture to read over and over and over again. I bought several copies for my grandkids and will keep buying them as new grandkids come along. And I will likely give it to other children for gifts, as well. I think it is that good.

Reviewed by Craig Matteson,  
Saline, MI

I heard about this beautiful story in another book called, Golden, by Joni Hilton. I love children's

picture storybooks so I was curious and checked it out. I love it's wonderful message of honesty and integrity. It's a parable for what is truly important in life! I not only bought the kindle version for myself, I bought a hardcover copy to give as a gift. It is marketed for ages 4-8, but it's also for those who are young at heart, and anyone who loves books! Note: The kindle version of any picture book is never going to be as nice as the hardcover copy. But it's still nice to have because it's always with you, and easy to share from an iPad. You just have to learn how to "click" the words on the very first page to enlarge them "in this case, the dedication" and then swipe each page after that to enlarge the rest of the text. "You did your best, and your best is good enough to present to the Emperor." Demi, The Empty Pot

This a delightfully easy story to read, the word to picture ration is wonderful even for your most impatient listener, the pictures are interesting to look at with many little rewards for the interested viewer. The story is the gem, giving a great opportunity to discuss what honesty and integrity and honor are. Loved this story, I will be looking to get copies for gifts. Totally recommend 100% and receive no discount for our review or with our purchase, but you're welcome to leave feedback if this was helpful to you.

Wonderful story with a twist ending that the children don't see coming. After this story we make hand flowers. (Students trace their hands several times to create the petals).

This is a darling book with an unexpected ending. Kids love it! I am a school counselor and I read it to classes in my lesson on integrity. Even the teachers were intrigued and surprised! Very touching! Great lesson!

One of my all time favorite children's books. Beautiful character building story with gorgeous illustrations. You could look at the detail in the pictures for hours, but the sweet, simple story is the best part of this book. My favorite of all Demi's books. Should be on every child's shelf, especially if you like effortless teaching on the value and power of honesty.

The story is great. I bought this as a book off kindle. It won't adjust to the screen. The words are so tiny. They could have done a better job.

This story is a favorite of mine. It is about having integrity and humility, and what happens when a

boy faces the consequences when he does not get the results that are expected of him and how he faces it head-on. I often tell my students, "You never know what can happen..." meaning that you never know what can happen if you are in the right place and doing the right thing and with the right mind-set. This is that kind of story. :) A person could be penniless, but they still have their Word, and their Word is everything... it could prove who they really are and could change everything.

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