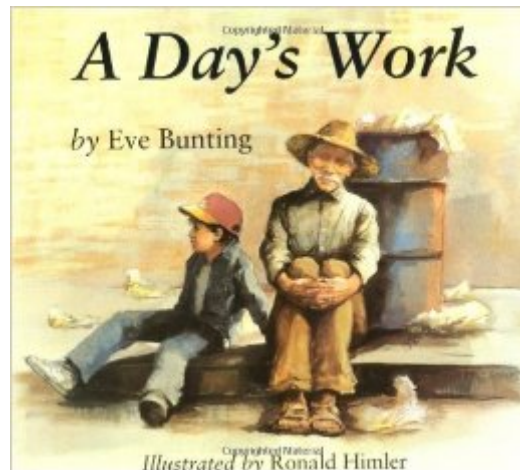


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# A Day's Work



## Synopsis

Francisco, a young Mexican-American boy, helps his grandfather find work as a gardener, even though the old man cannot speak English and knows nothing about gardening.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 14, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395845181

ISBN-13: 978-0395845189

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 9.5 x 8.5 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (41 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #14,772 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino](#) #50 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#) #86 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Let me begin by saying that I am a big fan of Eve Bunting and admire her for writing about people who otherwise receive little attention in stories. "A Day's Work" is worthy of that reputation. It is a story of day laborers from Mexico; moreover, it describes how the whole family pulls together to make ends meet (a theme that Francisco Jimenez beautifully explores in "The Circuit/Cajas de Carton). Though it's a simple story, there are several surprise twists. As with her other stories, Eve Bunting tells this one with her characteristic sensitivity without indulging in, you know, the mushy stuff. This book will enable children and adults alike to take a new look at honesty and, as the title says, a day's work.

This story describes an American lifestyle that most of us will not experience. It avoids criticism of that life and presents a situation in which honest people are trying to survive. The author provides a human face to the characters. Very nice.

"A Day's Work" is wonderfully engaging and a beautifully illustrated work. It is so rare to find a children's book today which integrates moral truth so seamlessly into a believable and thought-provoking story. We will never be without this book on our bookshelf to read to each child as he comes to the age of reasoning! A MUST HAVE for any family who values teaching their children at an early age about honesty & accountability.

Beautifully illustrated, this heart-warming story is an excellent read-aloud for grades 2-5. Many themes in the book include honesty, hard-work is rewarded and family. I love the fact that no stereo-type Hispanic characters are in the book.

On Saturday morning, young Francisco waits with his abuelo (grandfather) with other day laborers, hoping for a day's work. In order to persuade a potential employer to choose them, Francisco claims his grandfather is a gardener, even though he is actually a carpenter. It is only at the end of the day that the lie is found out. Then Abuelo shows Francisco the value of integrity, admonishing, "We do not lie for work," and taking steps to make restitution. Bunting's understated text, written from the child's perspective, expresses the raw desperation that the most poverty-stricken people experience daily, helping the reader understand why Francisco would tell such a lie. But his grandfather's personal honor proves that, regardless of circumstances, even the lowest labor carries dignity and worth when it is carried out with self-respect. This is a serious story, and even illustrated with Himler's wonderful paintings it retains a somber mood that might not draw readers in as easily as more lighthearted books. But it provides a vital, sympathetic glimpse into the world of immigrant day laborers while demonstrating the moral importance of honesty. It's a beautifully moving book which will help cultivate love and compassion for others.

This book has touched me very much. I have read it three times and I bought the book. I think this book is a must in every classroom and in every house. It powerfully describes how people struggle with the daily paid, not only in the US but in the world and it also teaches about important values as family values and honesty. A beautiful book for all ages. I give five stars for this book. I loved the way the author gives a glimpse about the immigrants in this country and the powerful values they have and can share to this country. I also love the illustrations very much.

Eve Bunting is one of my favorite young adult authors. This story is great for elementary age children who can read it themselves. It is also good for somewhat younger kids; I read it to my

4-year-old grandson who enjoyed it and asked good questions. It raises several issues: immigrants who might have difficulties with a new language and culture, the bond between a boy and his grandfather, and a work ethic. The illustrations add to the charm of the book.

"A Day's Work" is a beautiful tale about the difficult life of a migrant worker. My mom is a 2nd grade teacher and book reviewer for her district and our favorite past time is reading children's books together. She read this one to me and I was in tears! It is such a beautiful story about integrity and character. You will love this book!

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