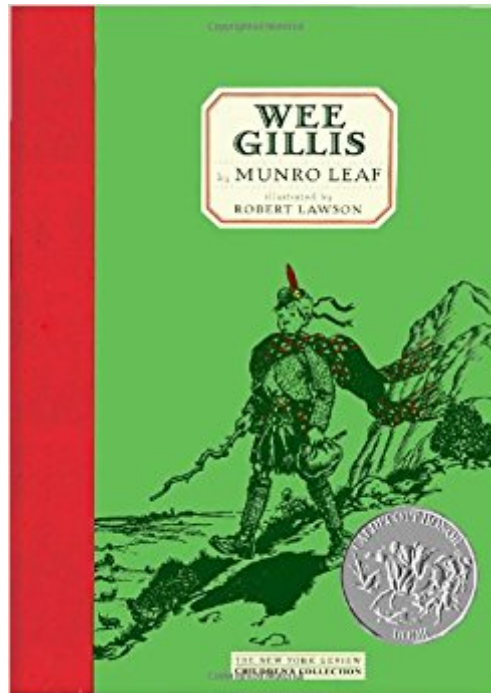




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# Wee Gillis (New York Review Children's Collection)



## Synopsis

A Caldecott Honor Book by the creators of the beloved *Story of Ferdinand* Wee Gillis lives in Scotland. He is an orphan, and he spends half of each year with his mother's people in the lowlands, while the other half finds him in the highlands with his father's kin. Both sides of Gillis's family are eager for him to settle down and adopt their ways. In the lowlands, he is taught to herd cattle, learning how to call them to him in even the heaviest of evening fogs. In the rocky highlands, he stalks stags from outcrop to outcrop, holding his breath so as not to make a sound. Wee Gillis is a quick study, and he soon picks up what his elders can teach him. And yet he is unprepared when the day comes for him to decide, once and for all, whether it will be the lowlands or the highlands that he will call his home. Robert Lawson and Munro Leaf's classic picture book is a tribute to the powers of the imagination and a triumph of the storyteller's and illustrator's art.

## Book Information

Series: New York Review Children's Collection

Hardcover: 80 pages

Publisher: NYR Children's Collection; Main edition (May 30, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 159017206X

ISBN-13: 978-1590172063

Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 0.5 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #253,503 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #188 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe](#) #279 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #1969 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

"Lawson's marvelous pen-and-ink drawings of the Scottish relations and their contrasting environments bring the story to exuberant life." *Horn Book Magazine* "Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson are best remembered for their 1936 classic, *Story of Ferdinand*, about a pacifist bull who's more interested in flowers than bullfighting. Three years later, they won a Caldecott Honor, one of the top prizes in illustrated children's literature, for a story set in Scotland, *Wee Gillis*. It had

fallen out of print but has been resurrected as part of The New York Review Children's Collection, which brings neglected gems back to life. It doesn't show its age. With vivid pen-and-ink drawings in black and white, it's about an orphan with a tough decision to make: whether to live with his mother's relatives in the Lowlands and raise long-haired cows or his father's relatives in the Highlands and stalk stags." *USA Today* "First published in 1939, when it won a Caldecott Honor award, and now back in print with this handsome hardback edition, *Wee Gillis* relates how a young Scottish boy cleverly finds a middle way between two sets of shaggy, overbearing and cantankerous relations...In Robert Lawson's brilliant black-and-white illustrations, *Wee Gillis* keeps an amusingly bland expression even as his uncles are leaping about, fulminating and remonstrating...The solution comes (with a hilarious picture) when *Wee Gillis* suddenly realizes that he can use the respiratory skills he has picked up from both sides of his family...to take up Scotland's noisiest and most musical occupation." *The Wall Street Journal* "Back in print after 20 years, this winsome story details a Scottish lad's road to bagpipe-playing greatness. Ages 4-8" *People Magazine* "This book is one of a number of largely unsung gems reissued by the New York Review Children's Collection imprint...it's a charmer." *The Globe and Mail* "Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson have done it again. [*Wee Gillis*] has already won the hearts of children and adults. The pictures of the Lowland farms and the craggy Highlands of Scotland have sufficient beauty to make anyone who comes from that lovely country homesick for its hills and heather. Boys and girls from 7 on are deeply interested in the small Scottish lad who called the cows in the Lowlands and stalked the deer in the Highlands, while his lungs meantime grew stronger and stronger until at last he was able to play the largest bagpipes in Scotland and, since he was welcome in Lowlands and Highlands alike, had no further need to choose either one or the other as a permanent home. The drawings of Robert Lawson combine beauty and humor with a reality that makes the reader feel he has taken a trip to Scotland. this is a distinguished volume." *The New York Times* "A delightful picture book for children, grown-up and otherwise" *The Washington Post*

By the author and illustrator of *THE STORY OF FERDINAND*, one of the bestselling children's books of all time

This book caught our eye because of our Scottish heritage, and we didn't realise what a treat was in store for us. The pen and ink illustrations are clever and humorous, adding to the delightful story of *Wee Gillis*, a young Scottish lad who is faced with the choice of where he will live - the Highlands or

the Lowlands. Although the book isn't overly simplistic, our 2 year old son enjoyed it as much as our 9 year old niece, and has requested it be read over and over and over! No problem for us - we enjoy it too. Find a copy, buy a copy, and you won't regret it!

A classic my mother read to me at least 55 years ago, the name of which I had forgotten (although remembering the author had written Ferdinand the Bull). Recently, I saw the cover illustration on line, and was transported back to the Pittsburg, California old library's reading room with my mother dramatically reading the hilariously funny (to me at five or six, and to me now at sixty) story to a crowd of kids that grew from me to about five or six other kids neither of us knew. They just knew that they loved being read to, and were having a great time with a great story. I loved it then, and love it now.

This is a classic story for children, but fun for adults. It is about the difficulty of making decisions in life, and the influences of others, a nice tug, but which benefits our young lad. Very positive for the boy in the story, who can decide for himself what he wants to do. Munro Leaf can make us laugh, as well, with his sensitive humor. No sentimental drawings, but fitting to a rugged country. A Scotsman will love it, I do believe.

This book is one of the best children's books ever, a real classic if you can find it. Wee Gillis must decide what to do with his life, and all the relations have their ideas for him. In the end, however, he finds his own path, which is welcomed and accepted by all his family. The illustrations are superb and detailed, just as one would expect from Robert Lawson.

I grew up with this book. I suspect our first version was from the original printing. It's still in the family and in very good condition. That said, I wanted to remove a couple the great illustrations for framing. Cutting them out of the original seemed criminal. Then I find that it is in reprint. At this price, it was the only way to go. I bought another to give to a new grand baby, and am so looking forward to reading it to him. It's a great story with great illustrations. Tells a story, teaches values, and without the aid of modern day super heroes with super powers

This is the story of Wee Gillis, a Scottish lad who has relatives in both the lowlands and the highlands. He lives half the year with each--calling cows in the lowlands, and stalking stags in the highlands. Eventually he is forced to choose where he wants to settle forever. But Wee Gillis just

can't choose, until he meets a bagpiper...The story is told with sentences just begging to be read out loud, and illustrated with beautiful pen and ink drawings that capture the Scottish scenery. When I was a child in the 1970's my grandmother owned this book. Whenever we went to visit her, I got to read it and I loved it. When we helped grandma go through her things in the 1990's she gave me the book. Great joy for me! As I had my own children I read the book to them, and my husband especially loved reading it to them with the most outrageous fake Scottish accent. It has been a perpetual favorite. But my copy of the book was published in the 1940's and was falling apart. It had been out of print since 1969, so I was thrilled to discover it had gone back into print in 2006. I bought one copy for each of my children and gave it to them for Christmas.

Thank you

I bought this book to read to students at a local elementary school during reading appreciation week. It had been my daughter's favorite when she was young. The kids loved it. The illustrations are exceptional. I am glad that it is back in print. Some of the teachers had never heard this story before and were impressed.

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