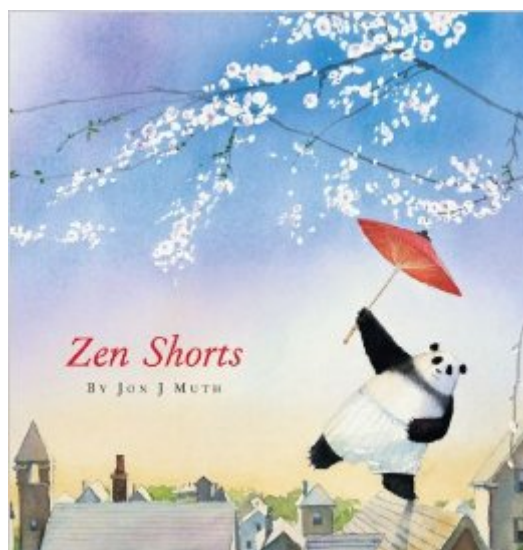


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# Zen Shorts (Caldecott Honor Book)



## Synopsis

Jon J Muth, author of the best-selling book, *THE THREE QUESTIONS*, has crafted another profound and winning picture book. "Michael," said Karl. "There's a really big bear in the backyard." This is how three children meet Stillwater, a giant panda who moves into the neighborhood and tells amazing tales. To Addy he tells a story about the value of material goods. To Michael he pushes the boundaries of good and bad. And to Karl he demonstrates what it means to hold on to frustration. With graceful art and simple stories that are filled with love and enlightenment, Jon Muth -- and Stillwater the bear -- present three ancient Zen tales that are sure to strike a chord in everyone they touch.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 540L (What's this?)

Series: Caldecott Honor Book

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press (March 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439339111

ISBN-13: 978-0439339117

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 10.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (245 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,694 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bears](#) #29 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings](#) #68 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

If at first you don't create the world's most philosophically sound picture book, try try again. When illustrator and sometime graphic novelist (though you wouldn't know it from his bookflaps) Jon J. Muth turned a Tolstoy short story into the picture book, "The Three Questions", response from professional journals was mixed. People liked the IDEA of making Tolstoy accessible to children but "The Three Questions" just didn't seem to cut it. When the book didn't get much in the way of attention, Muth could've abandoned the whole idea of bringing larger ideas to very young people.

Instead, he came right back with a heaping plateful of Zen with panda. "Zen Shorts" is the result and remains perhaps the most beautiful picture to be published in the year of 2005. To call it classy doesn't even begin to cover it. A panda appears in the backyard of three children. He is holding a large red umbrella (one that he holds over the three children as they talk) and is extraordinarily polite. The book notes that he, "spoke with a slight panda accent". With this initial meeting, the children slowly befriend their new neighbor, Stillwater. When Addy comes to his home with a housewarming gift, Stillwater returns the favor with the gift of a small story about his Uncle Ry. Michael visits the panda at the top of a tall tree. There they discuss, with the help of another story, what luck is and how a person can never really know what is going to happen to them next. Karl, the youngest of the three, brings too many toys to swim with in Stillwater's wading pool. At the end of the day, the two have had a good time, but Karl has wasted much of it by being mad at his older brother. On the way home, Stillwater tells a tale of letting go of what you cannot change.

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Zen Shorts (Caldecott Honor Book) Zen Doodle Drawing BOX SET 5-in-1: Zen Cats, Zen Dogs, Zen Horses, Zen Underwater Life, Zen Girls First the Egg (Caldecott Honor Book and Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book (Awards)) Selected Shorts: Food Fictions (Selected Shorts: A Celebration of the Short Story) Selected Shorts: New American Stories (Selected Shorts: A Celebration of the Short Story) Selected Shorts: Baseball (Selected Shorts: A Celebration of the Short Story) Selected Shorts: Lots of Laughs! (Selected Shorts: A Celebration of the Short Story) (v. XVIII) Zen Flesh Zen Bones: A Collection of Zen and Pre-Zen Writings Tarot Osho Zen/ Osho Zen Tarot: El juego trascendental del Zen/ The Transcendental Game of Zen (Spanish Edition) Zen Flesh, Zen Bones: A Collection of Zen and Pre-Zen Writings (Unabridged Selections) ZEN DOODLE: The Art of Zen Doodle. Drawing Guide with Step by Step Instructions. Book one. (Zen Doodle Art 1) Tops & Bottoms (Caldecott Honor Book) Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin (Caldecott Honor Book) Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra (Caldecott Honor Book) The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins (Caldecott Honor Book) Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom (Caldecott Honor Book) Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride (Caldecott Honor Book) The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain (Caldecott Honor Book) Tibet Through the Red Box (Caldecott Honor Book) Bartholomew and the Oobleck: (Caldecott Honor Book) (Classic Seuss)

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