

QUICK CARD: *LENTIL*



<i>Reference</i>	<i>Lentil</i> , by Robert McCloskey. ISBN: 9780440843467
<i>Plot</i>	A schoolboy named Lentil longs to make music, but finds he can neither sing nor whistle (his lips will not pucker). He decides to pick up the harmonica and everyone in town loves his music, except for the town grump: Old Sneep.
<i>Setting</i>	Alto, Ohio. Home of town hero, the great Colonel Carter. Set in the boyhood of Lentil, the protagonist. He is going through teenage years and his voice is changing. He is trying to find his own place in the town he loves.
<i>Characters</i>	Lentil, protagonist of the story, is a happy-go-lucky young boy, who dreams of making beautiful music. Old Sneep, the town grump, who went to school with Colonel Carter and feels bitter about his chum's success. He may have a nasty trick or two up his sleeve on Carter's homecoming day. Colonel Carter, the town hero, has been absent for many years doing great deeds on the world's stage. He now returns home, hoping for a warm welcome. The town band, full of wind instruments... who owe their positions in the band to their ability to pucker their lips!
<i>Conflict</i>	Man vs. Self – Lentil wants to make music, but his physical inability to sing or whistle stands in his way. Man vs. Man – Colonel Carter is coming home, hoping for a warm welcome, but bitter Old Sneep seems determined to deny him the honor he deserves. Man vs. Society – While Lentil and his whole town work tirelessly to throw the perfect welcome party for Carter, Sneep sabotages their efforts at fanfare by sucking on a lemon!
<i>Theme</i>	Perseverance; the indomitable nature of the human spirit; bravery and pluck in the face of bitterness; forgiveness.

<p><i>Literary Devices</i></p>	<p>Circumstantial irony-</p> <p>He can't pucker, which keeps him from whistling but also makes him impervious to the threats of a lemon-sucker. The very trait that makes Lentil feel like an outcast at the beginning of the story becomes the saving grace of the whole town!</p> <p>Foreshadowing-</p> <p>The initial description of the town members reads: "Everyone was happy, except Old Sneep. He didn't enjoy much of anything." Even as this line sets Sneep apart as a possible antagonist, it singles him out for future redemption. In the end of the story, the line repeats: "Everyone was happy, even Old Sneep." This repetition gives the story a sense of finality and neatness.</p>
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