

### Reviews of the first Waltur Book

What reviewers said about *Waltur Buys a Pig in a Poke and Other Stories*, by Barbara Gregorich, illustrations by Kristin Sorra:

**The Brookeshelf** — Idioms have been played up for humor in children’s literature (*Amelia Bedelia*) but never with such sprightliness as they have in this book. Waltur is a somewhat bumbling but lovable bear who goes about buying a pet, earning money for honey, and digging holes for fun while his long-suffering friend Matilda gives advice like “don’t buy a pig in a poke,” or “don’t count your chickens before they hatch.” Waltur follows her advice literally, which leads to hilarious dialogue reminiscent of old Abbot and Costello routines.

**Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)** — Despite Waltur’s missteps, things do work out for him, sending an upbeat message to youngsters that at times one only learns by trial and error. Gregorich’s prose tickles nascent readers while building their confidence (Waltur to the horse: “I can make you drink water.” Horse to Waltur: “I think not.”) Sorra’s chipper spot watercolors add just the right touch of comic visual stimuli.

**Kirkus Reviews** — Gregorich both shows and explains what each saying means, and supplies glimpses of their history at the end to boot. An amusing way to introduce the idea of metaphor — or wordplay in general.

**School Library Journal** — Gregorich has fun with idioms in this easy reader featuring a single-minded bear. . . . The author makes excellent use of repetition, sight words, and engaging dialogue to create a manageable and entertaining read. Sorra’s cartoon-style watercolors are perfectly suited to the lively text and help round out the characters’ personalities with added emotional details.

**Cooperative Children’s Book Center** — A final note titled “Funny English Sayings” explains more about the origin of these three idioms. The author packs a humorous punch into carefully structured short sentences on well-designed pages scattered with colorful illustrations.