

HOME SCHOOL BOOK REVIEW

Book: *The Ant with Red Pants*

Author: J. A. Osowski

Illustrators: Michael and Alicia Smith

Publisher: Baltic Books, 2007

ISBN-13: 978-1-5997197-4-0

Related website: www.antswredpants.com

Language level: 1 (nothing objectionable)

Reading level: Grades K-3

Rating: 5 stars (EXCELLENT)

Reviewed by Wayne S. Walker

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Osowski, Joseph A. *The Ant with Red Pants* (published in 2007 by Baltic Books, P. O. Box 706, Baltic, CT 06330). Have you ever felt that you were different from everyone else and thus inadequate in some way or another? Andrew the Ant is embarrassed because his legs seem thinner than those of his fellow workers, and he's afraid that he's not strong enough to do as much as the rest. So Andrew makes himself a pair of four-legged pants, weaving them from a spider's web and dyeing them red with berry juice, to cover his legs. However, the other ants giggle so much at Andrew's red pants that they start fooling around and bringing less food in preparation for the winter. What does the Royal Queen Ant tell Andrew to do? And how does Andrew react?

The flow of author Joseph Osowski's rhyming text is easy for children to read, and the colorful illustrations by Michael and Alicia Smith reinforce Osowski's goal of building children's confidence as they try to fit in with their peers. The fact is that youngsters often feel inadequate because they don't look or perform like their friends. Parents may try to teach a child that being different isn't necessarily bad and in a lot of instances is actually better. Yet it's sometimes a hard concept for us to get across and for the child to grasp, so a captivating story like *The Ant with Red Pants* may serve as an additional resource to help impress such an important lesson on a young person's mind. A parent, grandparent, or teacher can use this book to assist children in discovering their uniqueness and developing their own special gifts and talents.

Note: Presently the book is available through Amazon.com and at the www.antswredpants.com web site where you can purchase it through Baltic Books, P.O. Box 706, Baltic, CT 06330. When you order through Baltic Books, the author signs the books prior to the orders being filled.