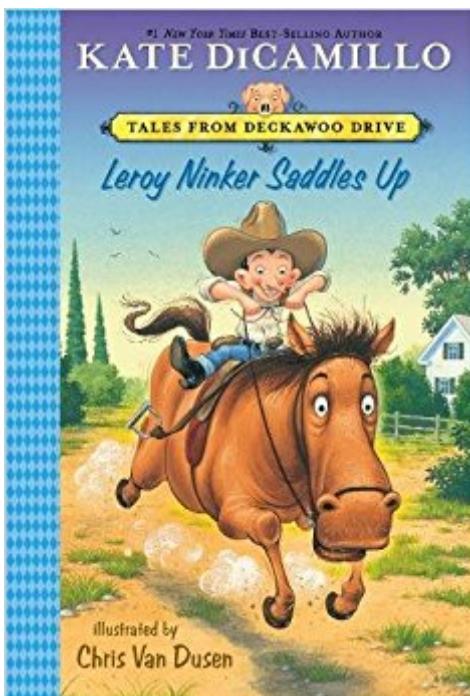


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# Leroy Ninker Saddles Up: Tales From Deckawoo Drive, Volume One



## **Synopsis**

Yippie-i-oh! Saddle up for the first in a spin-off series starring favorite characters from Kate DiCamilloâ™s New York Times best-selling Mercy Watson books. Leroy Ninker has a hat, a lasso, and boots. What he doesnâ™t have is a horse â” until he meets Maybelline, that is, and then itâ™s love at first sight. Maybelline loves spaghetti and sweet nothings, and she loves Leroy, too. But when Leroy forgets the third and final rule of caring for Maybelline, disaster ensues. Can Leroy wrestle fate to the ground, rescue the horse of his heart, and lasso loneliness for good? Join Leroy, Maybelline, and a cast of familiar characters â” Stella, Frank, Mrs. Watson, and everyoneâ™s favorite porcine wonder, Mercy â” for some hilarious and heartfelt horsing around on Deckawoo Drive.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 570 (What's this?)

Series: Tales from Deckawoo Drive (Book 1)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Reprint edition (August 4, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763680125

ISBN-13: 978-0763680121

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.3 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 124 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,368 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Westerns #20 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Horses #374 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## **Customer Reviews**

K-Gr 2â” Fans of Mercy Watson will delight in meeting Maybelline, a horse who loves to hear the melody of pretty words, likes the company of others, and enjoys spaghetti noodles. Leroy Ninker is a concession stand worker at the local drive-in movie theater with dreams of being a real-life cowboy. One dayâ”"Yippie-i-oh"â” he discovers a horse for sale. Leroy ends up choosing

Maybelline for his mount. Adventure ensues as Leroy must learn how to ride her, find her food and shelter, and cure her fear of rain. Van Dusen's black-and-white cartoon pictures provide a lighthearted humor that makes the book a good choice for transitioning readers. Character driven, this fast-paced story is sure to please. A fun new edition to the cast and crew of "Mercy Watson" (Candlewick).â "Melissa Smith, Royal Oak Public Library, MI --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

DiCamillo â | has always been at her best when dwelling on the good and the bad in relationships between humans and animals, and Van Dusen knows precisely how best to present Leroy to us.â "The New York Times Book ReviewKate DiCamillo and Chris Van Dusen strike gold again with this charming addition to the Mercy Watson story-verse. ... As with her Mercy Watson books, DiCamillo manages something extremely difficult in an early reader series--a delicious sense of language that is playful and poetic while also staying accessible and appropriate. Leroy Ninker Saddles Up is full of immensely likable characters, unexpected plot twists and humor that will appeal equally to kids and adults. Chris Van Dusen's personality-filled illustrations perfectly complement the writing, making this a very enjoyable read-aloud.â "Shelf Awareness (starred review)DiCamillo effortlessly slips back into the comfortable rhythms of Mercyâ ™s world, infusing every chapter with subdued wit, warmth, and heart. Van Dusen matches the text stride-for-stride, delivering caricatured spot art and full-page scenes of the Pinocchioesque Leroy and the four-toothed, spaghetti-loving Maybelline, who Leroy comes to consider "the most splendidiferous horse in all of creation."â "Publishers Weekly (starred review)DiCamilloâ ™s quirky, eccentric characters speak in flowery sentiments and employ charming wordplay. Along with Van Dusenâ ™s well-matched illustrations, thereâ ™s a sweet, retro innocence reminiscent of McCloskeyâ ™s classic "Homer Price." Despite the old-fashioned accent, the absurdities will easily appeal to a modern audience. Filled with love and kindness and glorious sweet-talk: "Yippee-i-oh."â "Kirkus ReviewsFans of Mercy Watson will delight in meeting Maybelline, a horse who loves to hear the melody of pretty words, likes the company of others, and enjoys spaghetti noodles. ... Van Dusenâ ™s black-and-white cartoon pictures provide a lighthearted humor that makes the book a good choice for transitioning readers. Character driven, this fast-paced story is sure to please. A fun new edition to the cast and crew of "Mercy Watson."â "School Library JournalDiCamilloâ ™s use of inventive and colorful language and Van Dusenâ ™s stylized gouache illustrations make this story click; give this to graduates of the earlier series looking for a bit more of a challenge.â "BooklistSpot art, full-page art, and double-page spreads with Van Dusenâ ™s characteristic shiny-faced characters infuse the plot

with extra energy and expression. Part cowboy story and part pet love story, this multi-layered tale beautifully balances comically exaggerated details and true spirit. Mercy Watson fans will enjoy being back in the saddle in this slightly more advanced spin-off. "The Horn BookReaders will have a hootenanny of a good time as this rookie cowboy learns to deal with these characteristics, and they'll be especially pleased to find that the pair's adventures (or misadventures) land them back on Deckawoo Drive meeting up with a few familiar faces from the Mercy Watson series, including that toast-loving pig. The text is lengthier here than in those books and the sentence structure more complicated, but there's still the same skillful use of repetition, goofball humor, and easy accessibility. Mercy fans will be quick to cowboy up to this title." Bulletin of the Center for Children's BooksNewbery Medal winner Kate DiCamillo has incorporated characters from her popular Mercy Watson series into this charmer. ... Readers who love horses, cowboy fiction, DiCamillo, buttered toast, and the Mercy Watson series will enjoy this title." Library Media ConnectionFans of DiCamillo's popular Mercy Watson series, rejoice! ... Short, colorful sentences make this a surefire hit, either as a book for younger readers or a family read-aloud. Van Dusen's retro, hilarious caricatures are perfect." Plain DealerThis transitional reader offers witty wordplay, a creative storyline, and endearing characters. ... DiCamillo's brilliant use of descriptive language and character development coupled with a heartfelt message about friendship make this a must-have for the classroom." Reading Today OnlineColorful cowboy slang and silly caricatures multiply the laughs and together convey the 'yippie-i-oh' happiness at the heart of what becomes a love story." The San Francisco Chronicle

I'm not sure my son and I appreciated this book in the manner the author intended, but we had great fun. First, find Sid the Science Kid on Youtube. Second, perfect imitating his voice. Third, use this voice when Leroy Ninker speaks and be prepared to feel like super-dad as your 9 year old rolls in his bed from laughter. We are still calling each other Leroy Ninker. Again, probably not what the author intended, but come on...Leroy is a grown man who lives in a tiny apartment, want's to be a cowboy, feeds his horse spagehtti, and has the most beautificus horsicus in all of the whole wide world...Maybelline. Oh Ma-be-weeenn I wuv you. One thing I didn't understand, and maybe there's a sequel out there, is Leroy Ninker's quote about once having been a thief and a bad man. What did he rob...candy stores? ;-) If a director out there was willing to eschew political correctness, and not worry about offending, this would be a hilarious kid's movie.

If you like the Mercy Watson series, you'll enjoy this new series as well. We got this for my 5 year

old's birthday, and he seems to enjoy the story and the illustrations. My only "con" is that unlike our hardcover Mercy Watson books, the illustrations in this book are not in color.

All of the Mercy Watson and Tales from Deckawoo Drive from Kate DiCamillo are the PERFECT reading level for my 6 year old. She started reading these when she was 5. Great beginning chapter books! Clean and respectful content, silly stories, good word repetition, opportunities to expand vocabulary and practice intonation...we sit and read together and giggle for hours!

A couple of years ago, we bought a set of Mercy Watson books by this same author. We have a soon-to-be 7-year-old who is crazy for cowboys, so when I saw this short chapter book with some of the same characters, I thought it would be perfect. It is a really cute book, decently easy to read, but still a bit of a challenge to keep him interested. After he finished reading this one, I tried to find more about Leroy Ninker, but it looks like the next couple of books are about other characters. We'd love to see more about this little guy. In the meantime, we'll probably buy those next books, because the style of these books (like the Mercy Watson books) is just so fun.

Cute story. More words and a little more advanced reading level than Mercy Watson. We really miss the color illustrations of Mercy Watson. My boys (6 and 4) like it, but they loved Mercy Watson more. I cannot tell you how many times we've read Mercy Watson. This one we've read 2-3 times.

If your child loved Leroy Ninker from the Mercy Watson series, this book won't disappoint. I loved the sweetness of this story! Kate DiCamillo is a great storyteller and my son loved that Mercy Watson made a small appearance at the end. It's a hilarious adventure from beginning to end.

If you love the Mercy Watson series then you will really enjoy reading about the same characters in this extension.

We LOVE the Mercy Watson books and we read them over and over to our four year old. This was a great continuation of the stories from the characters on Deckawoo Drive. Kate DiCamillo is a fabulous writer and I would highly recommend any of her books. These introduce some big vocabulary in a fun way for young readers with plenty of context clues to help them figure out meaning and they are hilarious! I enjoy reading them to her and she really loves them. I can't wait for more!

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