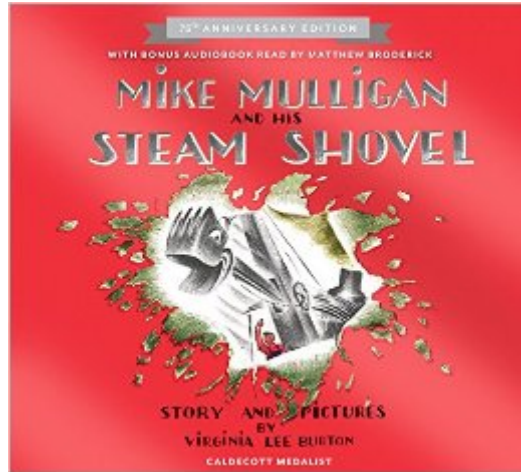


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# Mike Mulligan And His Steam Shovel 75th Anniversary



## Synopsis

Mike and his trusty steam shovel, Mary Anne, dig deep canals for boats to travel through, cut mountain passes for trains, and hollow out cellars for city skyscrapers. When Mary Anne is destined for the scrap heap, the duo must dig their way out of trouble in this timeless tale of friendship, old-fashioned hard work, and ingenuity. Includes bonus audio download performed by the Tony Award winner Matthew Broderick.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 56 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 75 Anv edition (October 21, 2014)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 9.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (368 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #19,185 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Children's Books >

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Things That Go > Cars & Trucks #387 in Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

I hate to give this such a low rating, but before you buy the board book edition you need to know that it isn't just shortened, but the whole plot is gone. Yes Henry B Swap is mentioned, but no mention of a challenge to dig the cellar in one day, or he won't get paid. No sun high in the sky and being halfway done. No Henry B Swap saying that since the steam shovel can't get out they don't get paid. No ending where Henry B. Swap sits in the cellar and smiles in a way that's not mean at all. If you want the great story, DON'T BUY THE BOARD BOOK!

When I was growing up, I don't think there was any story I requested more than Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel. I have fond memories of my grandfather reading it to me again and again. The easy to remember and recite text, and the early 40s middle America drawings combine to create an

evocative time piece. I believe this is one book that will cut past the computer generated entertainment for today's youngsters, and prove to be a classic in generations to come. If parents don't buy this for their kids, then I hope they'll buy it for themselves. Great ending too!

Yes, it's true -- I dreaded the nights (night after night after night) when one of my sons would insist we read this book! Why? Because it's long, and detailed -- good for the child, terrible for a weary parent. My boys memorized the story, and if I ever tried to skip a page, I was found out and the missing page was revisited. This book is a great gift to give to any child who is enthralled with heavy machinery, but there's more to it than that. At the time the story is written (1939) Mike Mulligan and Mary Anne, his steam shovel, are becoming outdated. They used to be busy in the big city, making basements for big buildings. But as always happens, something better - faster, more efficient gas, electric and Diesel shovels - is replacing them. Mike Mulligan knows they still have value. He's always told people that Mary Anne could dig as much in a day as a hundred men could dig in a week, though he's never been quite sure this is true. To find work, he ventures into the country to the town of Popperville, where a new Town Hall is being built. Mike promises to build the cellar in just one day ("What!" said Henry B. Swap. "Dig a cellar in just one day! It would take a hundred men at least a week to dig the cellar for our new town hall.") Henry and the townspeople are swayed when Mike promises that "If we can't do it, you won't have to pay." The citizens of Bangerville and Bopperville, Kipperville and Kopperville plus all the people from Popperville come out to watch Mike and Mary Anne work hard under the hot sun. They finish the job as the sun sets, just in the nick of time. One small boy has been watching them, and he asks a really good question - "How are they going to get out?" Mike was in such a hurry, he forgot to make a way to get Mary Anne out of the cellar. Everyone tries to think of a solution, but it's that astute little boy who comes up with the best one. They decide to keep the Steam Shovel in the cellar, and build the town hall over them. Mike Mulligan can be the janitor, the steam shovel will keep the building warm in the winter, they won't have to buy a new furnace (Henry B. Swap really likes this frugal thought!) and everyone is happy. The kids who read it especially like looking at all the tiny details in the pictures, but I think they especially like the small boy finding the solution that none of the adults can figure out. In retrospect, I suppose it really wasn't that awful to have to read it again and again and again. I've got the original hardcover in hand, waiting for the grandkids! Definitely worth buying the hardcover edition!

Well, contrary to Susan McGee's opinion, this book is great for girls and about girls. The

gender-oriented language of "policeMEN", "fireMEN", etc is not straight out of the 1950's, it is in fact straight out of 1939 when the book was initially published. And in your obsessive noticing of all the "weak" women in the book, you overlooked MaryAnn- the heroine! Better than 100 men, SHE could dig a cellar in JUST ONE DAY!!'m not overly crazy about this book. As one reviewer said, the detail is occasionally tedious for parents, but my kids love it and are riveted as the sun rises in the sky. That makes the book a winner for us. Not to mention that I like the message of not giving up on something/ someone just because something newer comes along. And my daughter loves it just as much as my son.

The original is a great book by one of the foremost writer/illustrator/designers of children's books. When I went to stay with my three-month old grandson, I was delighted that my daughter had provided him with a board-book edition, but when I started to read it to him, I was appalled at the omissions of plot, language, and character. I checked the copyright statement and found no acknowledgment of this abridgement. I think that any copyright holder who attempts to pass off an abridgement as the original should be stripped of the copyright.

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