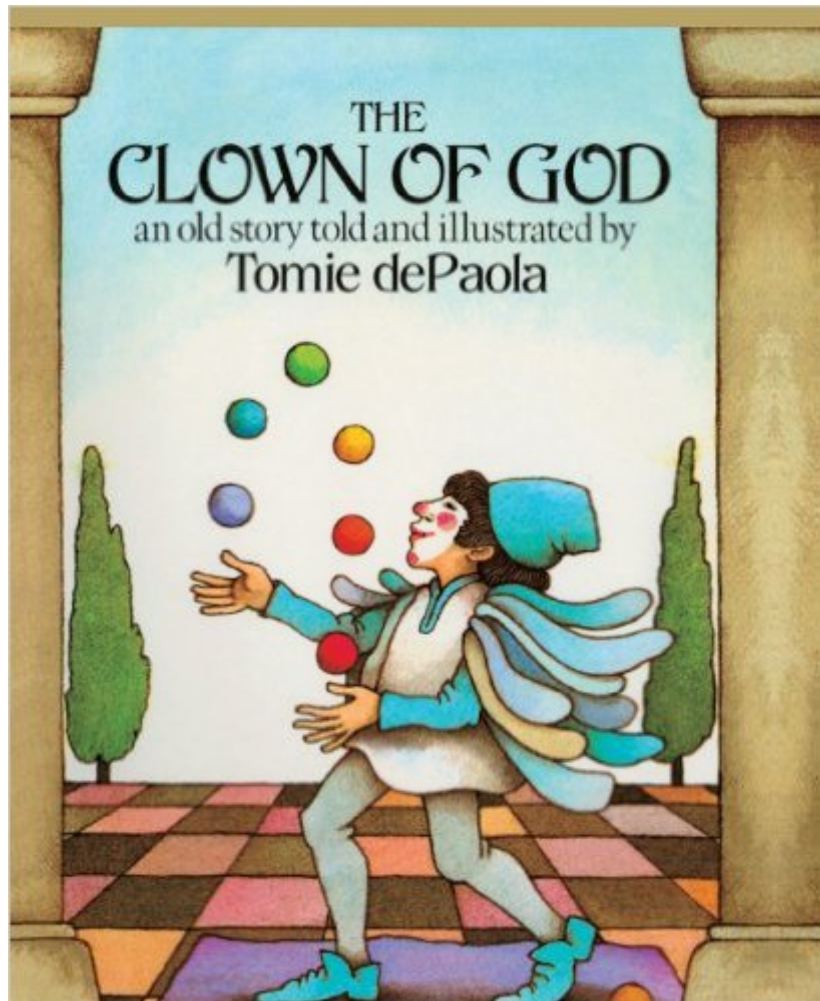


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# The Clown Of God (Turtleback School & Library Binding Edition)



## Synopsis

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. A once-famous Italian juggler, now old and a beggar, gives one final performance before a statue of Our Lady and the Holy Child.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 600 (What's this?)

School & Library Binding: 48 pages

Publisher: Turtleback; Turtleback School & Library ed. edition (May 1, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0808526855

ISBN-13: 978-0808526858

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (86 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #490,229 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > European](#) #1276 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas](#) #1403 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

This book was a Christmas present in 1998 to my then four-year-old son from his aunt. She had wanted to give him books for Christmas and had asked my wife and I for ideas, we had given her two suggestions: "The Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg (another wonderful, highly recommended book) and anything by Tomie dePaola, since our son loved the "Strega Nona" series and other titles by Mr. DePaola. She gave him both "The Polar Express" and "The Clown of God" and they became not only favorites of my son, but also my wife and I as well. The story is Mr. DePaola's interpretation of "Le Jongleur de Notre Dame" ("Our Lady's Juggler") by Anatole France that in turn was based on an old medieval legend. In Mr. DePaola's version, the setting is early Renaissance Italy; Giovanni, a young orphan boy in the town of Sorrento, has a talent for juggling. He leaves Sorrento to join a travelling troop of players, where he refines his art and becoming increasingly successful, deciding to strike out on his own when he grows into a man. Giovanni travels the length of Italy far and wide performing for audiences ranging from peasants to royalty amazing

people with his effortless juggling routines, culminating in the wondrous "sun in the heavens" a gold ball juggled after a rainbow of many colored balls. However the years pass, Giovanni is now an old man, times have become harder, and audiences are bored with his routines after all this time. In addition, with age Giovanni's skill is ebbing away, his reflexes no longer as quick and as lithe. At last it happens; Giovanni drops some balls ruining his act, the audience turns on him, running him out of town. Sadly he takes off his clown makeup and costume, and decides to go back home to Sorrento.

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