

Synopsis

In a spare urban fable, Bob Graham brings us one small boy, one loving family, and one miraculous story of hope and healing. "No one saw the bird fall." In a city full of hurried people, only young Will notices the bird lying hurt on the ground. With the help of his sympathetic mother, he gently wraps the injured bird and takes it home. In classic Bob Graham style, the beauty is in the details: the careful ministrations with an eyedropper, the bedroom filled with animal memorabilia, the saving of the single feather as a good-luck charm for the bird's return to the sky. Wistful and uplifting, here is a tale of possibility and of the souls who never doubt its power.

Book Information

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Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Kindergarten-Grade 2 • Poignantly told and visually rich, this narrative flies high. When a pigeon breaks its wing, no one notices except Will. Sporting a bright red jacket, starkly contrasted against his drab surroundings, he and his parents take the injured creature into their home. Clean lines and effective panels showcase its steady recovery, readily receiving encouragement from the family along the way. Graham's succinct text masterfully reveals the bird's resilience. "A loose feather can't be put back/but a broken wing can sometimes heal." Pen, watercolor, and chalk illustrations add depth to this tender tale as the injured bird wistfully watches a flock of flyers outside Will's window. Exemplary use of color and perspective denote shifting moods,

and thin lines enhance the vulnerability of this boy and his bird. Gently expressed and honestly delivered, this quiet, yet powerful story provides young readers with an affirming conclusion. —Meg Smith, Cumberland County Public Library, Fayetteville, NC Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Starred Review Quietly, effectively, Graham tells the simple story of a boy who finds a fallen bird and nurses it back to health. The text is minimal. In a busy city, “No one saw the bird fall.” But a little boy walking with his mother spies the injured bird and brings it home. Up until this point, the art has effectively utilized the oversize format, filling it with full-page pictures, vertical and horizontal strips, and cartoon-style boxes in cloudy hues. At the moment the boy lifts the bird, Graham slows the story and offers a two-page spread full of bright, hopeful colors and an intense focus on the boy with the bird in hand. Turn the page and both mood and perspective change once more. Now the pages are full of people, walking, biking, rushing, while in an upper corner of the spread, encircled in a glow, readers find boy and bird; the unspoken, unwritten message is clear. Who cares in such a large place if a small pigeon falls? One child does. Although the rest of the story is a little anticlimactic, there is a satisfying reality to it as the bird is bandaged, heals, and is set free. Because this is such a visual piece, however, readers, young and old, will return to the story to look more deeply; they won’t be disappointed. **Preschool-Grade 1.** —Ilene Cooper --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is hands-down one of my favorite pieces of children’s literature for any age. I taught second grade but have used this book with kids and adults of all ages. I am passionate about teaching compassion and kindness, aiming to gently nudge people toward thinking more outward. That begins with awareness. This book demonstrates that perfectly and becomes the “hook” I use to set the tone of compassion in my classroom as we all strive to be “good noticers” like the boy in this book. You can’t do something kind for someone unless you are paying attention. That mindset can only come as a result of humility and a slow, intentional way of moving through life.

Have you ever seen a bird with a broken wing and wanted to help it? That is exactly what happens in the story *How to Heal a Broken Wing* written and illustrated by Bob Graham. In our opinion this book will make you happy. In the story a boy named Will goes into the big city with his mom. They see a bird laying on the sidewalk with a broken wing. Will stops his mom from walking and together

they gently pick up the bird and bring it home to heal its wing. You will have to read the book to find out what happens to the bird. Our favorite parts of the book involve Will caring so much for this bird. Our least favorite part is near the beginning when the city people do not care for the bird. The people were busy and walked with their heads up. Nobody even noticed the poor bird with the broken wing, except for Will! There are very few words in the book but the illustrations help tell the story. They are colorful and filled with details. The illustrations help reveal the true meaning of the book which is to show compassion to all living creatures. This book is a must for every reader. We recommend this book for ages 7 and older! We rate this book 5 out of 5 stars!

I am an elementary school teacher with a Master's Degree in literacy. I cannot say enough about this book. Through minimal words and many pictures, this book teaches kindness and how anyone can make a difference. This book is excellent for teaching comprehension to primary students and can be used for writing: What words would you use for this series of pictures? It is also great for sequencing events or pure enjoyment. This is one of my favorite books.

I fell in love with this story the first time I read it. After many readings to my young students, this book still creates feelings of emotional attachment and caring for these amazing birds that share our city with us. I live in Queens and the wonderful illustrations of the city, especially lower Manhattan, make the setting of this book very personal. Pigeons are everywhere, but humans hardly notice them, because the species has adapted so well to our urban environment. I want all the children to whom I read this book to identify with the little boy and the pigeon. I hope that the message to all of us is that caring for the natural world surrounding us is essential to our humanity and survival. A great story for Earth Day or any day.

One of my favorite kid's books. Few words but lots to chat about with your little reader. Builds compassion. Makes a great gift.

I bought this book to use in my counseling class. The book is too vague.

Got this book as a Christmas present for my (adult) daughter. She has 3 children, so no shortage of people who would like to hear this read! Interesting story that really pulls the children in.

This was a great story with a nice theme about caring for God's creatures - I purchased this to read

to my 3rd grade catechism class - it was a bit hard reading to a large group - it loses a bit of it's meaning if everyone can't see the illustrations.- the art uses gray and dark tones too highlight the important parts - probably a better story to read one on one - if reading to a class be prepared to describe the pages.

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