



The Perfect Pet

Margie Palatini , Bruce Whatley (Illustrator)

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A funny book to share with kids who really, really, REALLY want a pet!

Elizabeth really wants a pet. She'd like a horse, a dog, a cat, or even a turtle. But her parents do not want a pet. Instead they give her a cactus. Even though Elizabeth's new plant proves to be a good listener, Elizabeth still really wants a pet.

While Elizabeth campaigns to find the right pet, her family imagines some hair-raising possibilities, until Doug comes along. Doug is, without a doubt, the most unusual, perfect pet of all. Doug is a bug! He's not big like a horse or loud like a dog. He doesn't scratch, or shed, or jump on furniture. And he hardly eats a thing.

Margie Palatini and Bruce Whatley have created a hilarious picture book that handles a topic every parent and child will relate to—choosing that perfect pet.

The Perfect Pet Details

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Author : Margie Palatini , Bruce Whatley (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Perfect Pet for online ebook

Jasmine says

The perfect pet is a creative book that allows students to look at the situation book as if it was them. Elizabeth wants a pet, badly, although her parents do not. She has to go through convincing and listening to the parents about the cons of having a pet. This realistic fiction books make the children think about what they would do f they had to pick their perfect pet. I recommend this book as for something to base a small unit on. If you are creative you can dig deep and make across the curriculum mini unit out of this book. I would ask students what would be their perfect pet, we would graph the response from all of the students in the class. I could also have the students look up information of their per and write a convincing letter as to why they should get this pet (persuasive writing). Students can look up habitats, etc to bring a science aspect in. For this reason alone, I think this is a great book to introduce a mini lesson.

Cheryl says

Cute enough, but I dunno... I just can't relate. And something about the way the girl is drawn is off; she doesn't look like a child in most images.

Ruqayya Jarad says

Elizabeth wants a pet, but her parents didn't agree to all of her ideas. She ends up with a cactus called Carolyn. But still she wants a pet and asks her parents for thatall the time. She finds a bug and decides this is the perfect pet.

I would recommend this book because most kids can relate to the story as a little girl wants a pet but her parents won't let her have one. Age 4-8

Elizabeth Smith says

Palatini, Margie. The Perfect Pet. Illus. Whatley, Bruce. United States: Harper Collins Publishers, 2003. Print. Preschool-Grade 2. The Perfect Pet is about a little girl who is desperately wanting a pet and trying to convince her parents. When all else fails she decides to have a bug as a pet and not tell anyone. Over time the bug gets so big that her parents find out but they decide that maybe it wouldn't be so bad to have him as a pet. The thing that stuck out the most for me in this picture book was the style of Whatley's illustrations. He uses animation but also ties in very realistic, life-like images. Also throughout the book the pictures are set at different viewpoints and angles, giving the story more perspective. When making this book a part of my class I think I would read it to the kids more for entertainment than make a lesson from it. Also I would read this story at the beginning of the school year to have the students discuss with me or one another what kind of pets they have. It would be a good, short get-to-know-you exercise.

Makenna Wheeler says

ATOS: 1.5

Guided Reading: K

6+1 Traits: Organization and Ideas

I really liked how this story was organized along with the unique take on the idea of pets.

Mandy Robek says

A fun story about a child wanting a pet - full of opinions

Karen says

Ellie rates this 4 stars. 1 star for the rest of us.

Rosa Cline says

The little girl in the book (which the illustrations make her look like a grown woman) wants a pet really really badly. She tries everything she knows to get her parents to allow her to get a pet of one kind or the other. When she finds a bug in her room she keeps him and takes care of him and soon he grows and becomes her pet.

Morgan says

This book is lighthearted and comical, and definitely something that I think most children can relate to: the desire of having a pet! In this story, the main character Elizabeth really wants a pet, but her parents keep saying no until they buy her a pet catcus instead. It actually displays some persuasive writing because Elizabeth is trying to come up with many different tactics to get her parents to comply with her wishes. This would be a great read aloud book as well.

Angie Carter says

Probably a good book to read when kids are asking for a pet. However, all I kept thinking was is the bug a bedbug? louse? cockroach? flea? Sorry, I'm bad.

Kathryn says

3.5 STARS

Cute, humorous little take on the child-longing-for-a-pet story. Wasn't a huge fan of the illustration style though they do add to the humor.

Catherine Johnson says

I just had to find a book about pets as that's all I can think about lately. I'm so excited because my puppy just went outside by itself for the first time, hoorah! It's freezing outside! Anyway I digress, *coughs* I love the way the girl in the story interrupts her parents, the illustrations are brilliant and really capture the mood and essence of the need for a pet. Do you remember when you were little (of course you do) and you wanted something badly, you'd interrupt at any given point to beg your parents. This is a funny story in that the ending will surprise you. Enjoy.

Emily Clare says

Great book that highlights organizational writing. Good to read to 3rd-5th graders.

Lexile: AD210L

ATOS Book Level: 1.5

Six + 1 Traits: Organization, Voice

Matthew says

There are plenty of books about kids attempting to convince their parents to let them have a pet. This one is pretty exceptional though. Elizabeth tries a number of different negotiating strategies and pet ideas before she finally finds the perfect pet on the carpet at her feet. Doug the Bug is a truly perfect pet, and Elizabeth knows it. She manages to convince her parents that he's just right too. If you are looking for a new story to go with all the kid-wants-pet books that are already on the market, this is a good choice.

Jenny says

Elizabeth really wants a pet. Try as she might, she cannot persuade her parents to let her get a dog or a cat ...or bird, fish, turtle, etc. When she finds the perfect pet, will her parents let her keep it.

Cute story with cute illustrations and nice accompaniment to our unit on persuasive writing.
