



# Vernon Is on His Way: Small Stories

*Philip C. Stead*

Download now

Read Online ➔

# Vernon Is on His Way: Small Stories

*Philip C. Stead*

**Vernon Is on His Way: Small Stories** Philip C. Stead

*"It is a very nice day," said Vernon.*

*Porcupine agreed. "I do not remember a day as nice as this."*

*"Except for maybe yesterday," offered Skunk.*

Vernon, Skunk, and Porcupine are back! The stars of Philip C. Stead's acclaimed *Home for Bird* have returned in three enchanting new stories, *Waiting*, *Fishing*, and *Gardening*, each brimming with the tenderness and wry humor that made their first appearance such a delight.

## Vernon Is on His Way: Small Stories Details

Date : Published June 5th 2018 by Roaring Brook Press (first published 2018)

ISBN : 9781626726550

Author : Philip C. Stead

Format : Hardcover 64 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Short Stories, Humor

 [Download Vernon Is on His Way: Small Stories ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Vernon Is on His Way: Small Stories ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Vernon Is on His Way: Small Stories Philip C. Stead**

---

## From Reader Review Vernon Is on His Way: Small Stories for online ebook

### Jordan Henrichs says

The 'Waiting' chapter of this book isn't really a chapter, or a small story. It's really just an opener. The 'Fishing' chapter of this book, is a masterclass in picture book writing for young children. It is hilariously thoughtful. The 'Gardening' chapter of this book was a head scratcher. I wasn't quite sure what it was supposed to be about or what I was supposed to take away. Together with Stead's distinctive illustrations, this has a very timeless feel to it. The type of picture book that will age very well on a shelf.

---

### Tasha says

Vernon has returned for a second book following A Home for Bird, along with his friends Skunk and Porcupine. In three short stories, readers get to delight in even more time with these characters. The first story is told almost entirely in images since it's about waiting. Vernon waits and waits until he suddenly realizes that he's under way already! In the second story, the three of them head out to go fishing. Porcupine though worries that he is ruining the trip for everyone because he's never been fishing before. As the story goes on it becomes apparent that none of them know what fishing trips actually are, but their version is a huge success for all of them anyway. In the last story, Vernon creates a special garden for himself filled with things he loves and that remind him of Bird. Porcupine and Skunk want to help Vernon feel better about missing Bird, but they struggle to find the right thing to bring him. Along the way they accidentally find exactly what he needs.

As always, Stead hits just the right notes with this book. The three characters are each unique and interesting. Vernon stays as the focal point of the stories but shares the limelight particularly with the worrying Porcupine this time. These books feel like instant classics, the characters will remind readers of Pooh and Eeyore. They are characters you want to spend more time with as they head out on their small adventures together. The illustrations are classic Stead where he uses the white space on the pages very effectively to create space and sometimes longing.

Another winner from Stead that belongs in every library. Appropriate for ages 4-7.

---

### Jana says

This trio of short, sweet stories featuring Vernon, Skunk, and Porcupine remind me of the Frog and Toad series of books by Arnold Lobel. The stories feature very simple ideas like waiting for a friend to wake from a nap, learning how to fish, and missing a friend. This would be a great book to share with an emerging reader getting ready for longer chapter books.

---

### Erica says

Sweet stories in Stead's melancholy, quiet style. The first features Vernon waiting, waiting, waiting, until the

snail he has been sitting on begins to move, and then he is on his way, and we along with him. In Fishing, one of the friends is worried because he doesn't know how to fish, only to realize that Vernon and Skunk don't actually know what they are doing either. In Gardening, Vernon is reminded everywhere of his friend Bird (from A Home for Bird). Porcupine and Skunk cannot decide on what would be best to give Vernon to cheer him up, but inadvertently bring along just the right thing.

---

## **Elaine says**

Illustrations 5 stars. Writing 4 stars. So this is really a 4 and a half. Vernon is a precious frog? lizard? whose main friends Skunk and Porcupine (minor roles for snail and butterfly) accompany him on low key adventures. Quiet adventures like in the best chapter "Fishing," in which Porcupine frets about his ignorance of the activity then finds out that none of them actually know how to traditionally fish. There are bobbers and hooks around in nearly every scene, but ultimately they sit silently, no poles or strings, and watch for fish. They decide if they see one, they'll say hello. Stead's ability to illustrate tender emotions is unmatched. This is not a book for every child (but what is?), but it is a 21st century Frog and Toad early reader or read-aloud story collection for children lucky enough to be able to appreciate subtle genuine sweetness.

---

## **Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says**

Vernon and his friends have several adventures including a lovely adventure fishing. Simple stories. Gentle friendship. Reminiscent of Frog and Toad.

---

## **Marjorie Ingall says**

I reviewed this for the NYT this week but here is the gist:

So sweet and gentle. The focus is on mood, on reflection, on the moments when the natural world seems kind and safe. Stead's use of charcoal, pastel and crayon adds to the quiet, tender feeling that suffuses the collection.

In the first of the three stories, "Waiting," Vernon, well, waits. Like Vladimir and Estragon, he "waits, and waits, and waits." Stead deploys a huge amount of white space and a long minimalist line of green horizon to show just how all-consuming waiting can be. Preschoolers will relate. When the wait finally ends, it's with an incongruous, giggle-eliciting surprise. The second story, "Fishing," centers on Vernon's pal Porcupine and his anxiety about not knowing how to fish. One whole page is filled with an oversize, hunched, anxious Porcupine, little paws seeming to flex and clench with existential dread. ("I am ruining everything," he thinks, with the hopeless, neurotic intensity some adults would prefer to deny that small children feel.) But fishing turns out not to mean what we think it means, and when a fish leaps from the pond, surrounded by pussy willows and framed by a huge sun, the entire spread seems to explode with exuberant, ebullient color and humor. And in the final story, "Gardening," Vernon tries to remember his favorite things about his old friend Bird. "But sometimes," he thinks, "my memories are not so easy to remember." Porcupine and Skunk try to cheer him up with gifts of detritus from around the woods and pond — an old shoe, a red and white fishing bob, some acorns. The joys of this book are writ small, but they feel big.

---

## Peacegal says

Sweet and thoughtful, with gentle humor and bite-size life lessons, VERNON is an absolute winner. There are themes young and old can relate to, such as missing a friend who isn't around and making the most out of free time with friends.

Veg\*n families will appreciate Vernon's fish-friendly version of "fishing," which involves waving at the fish!

Very cute!

---

## Linda says

Vernon, Skunk, and Porcupine return with three sweet stories, all good friends trying to add to each other's happiness. They take walks, wonder about each other, have worries, but the feeling of comfort helps by being together. It's simply a nice thing reading about these friends walking along, listening to each other, accepting what the other shares. That's what is needed, isn't it? The illustrations show contemplation and a calmness, emotion without being overwhelming. I always enjoy Philip Stead's books.

---

## Leonard Kim says

I think Philip Stead has reached new heights in this and All the Animals Where I Live. Before, I would find his books well-intentioned but self-conscious to the point of being a little self-defeating. It would be arrogant of me to say he has "matured" but that's a bit what it feels like with these two books, while keeping what was admirable and distinctive in his writing before.

---

## Diane says

Three stories about three friends:

Waiting: Vernon is waiting and is afraid he will always be waiting, until snail arrives to give him a ride.

Fishing: Vernon and Skunk would like to go fishing, but Porcupine doesn't know how, so he is nervous. But do Vernon and Skunk really know what fishing is? And does it even matter when you're enjoying your time with your friends?

Gardening: "Vernon sat alone in his flower garden, thinking about his thoughts." He's mostly thinking about his friend, Bird. He's having a hard time remembering things about Bird, "so Vernon went out to look for his memories."

A quiet, thoughtful book.

---

### **Readergirl77 says**

Nathan liked the stories but didn't care for the illustrations all that much. He thought they were too babyish.

---

### **DaNae says**

Set up like an Easy Reader chapter book these sweet stories feel a little Arnold Lobel a little Leo Lionni and all Philip Stead.

---

### **Becky B says**

Three short and simple stories about Vernon (a frog), his friends Skunk and Porcupine, and their adventures waiting, "fishing," and helping cheer up Vernon when he's missing his friend Bird.

This book looks quite long but it reads very quickly. Vernon and friends' adventures are simple, ordinary, relatable, and sweet. I like Stead's use of white space in his illustrations and the way he is ok with imperfect illustrations is refreshing (and just might encourage kids that their illustrations don't have to be perfect to be good). Pick this one for little readers with short attention spans, animal lovers, and fans of simple friend stories.

---

### **Kate says**

4.5 stars

Three short, quiet, simple stories centering on a small frog named Vernon and his friends Skunk and Porcupine. Stead's softly colored art with sketched out lines and smudged background shapes fits the three stories as nothing big happens but everyday life with friends is a good life.

One quibble is the page with Vernon and Skunk taking a nap while Porcupine frets. Vernon looks like a leaf as he uses one for a pillow.

---