



Yes, Let's

Galen Goodwin Longstreth , Maris Wicks (Illustrations)

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*Let's get into the station wagon, roll those windows down,
Let's sing out loud and wave to cows as we drive out of town.
Let's park the car beneath the trees and trade our shoes for boots,
Let's set the timer, all say "Cheese!" then head into the woods.*

In this cute book about a family's camping trip, the simple, rhyming text is enhanced by comical illustrations that bring wit and energy to every page. Packaged in a smaller size for little hands and easy to pack up, this book would be a perfect read-aloud during the car ride, along with a great way to recap a trip at the end. The illustrations inside the front cover serve as a reminder of things to pack, and the story inspires activities to plan. There is even a space in the back to paste a picture of the reader's own family trip. This little book serves as a loving tribute to family togetherness.

Yes, Let's Details

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Author : Galen Goodwin Longstreth , Maris Wicks (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Yes, Let's for online ebook

Heidi says

I think we really enjoyed this book because it was our family, down to the size and love of nature. It is something we would do and enjoy. I am pretty sure that is a large part of why we all loved it.

Tracie says

More like this, please! Awesome go-outside-and-have-fun kind of book. The rhymes are perfect, the pictures are interesting and the message is spot-on! Use for Earth Day, camping, outdoors, family, etc.

Dave Peterson says

What a fun book!

Merged review:

A really fun book to read with your kids or grandkids!

Sarah says

This is such a fun, simple and sweet story that reminds me of the outdoor adventures I took with my own family when I was a wee lass. I think my little nephew will like it as I much as I do too.

Scope says

I didn't realize this was self-published first (thanks Betsy). I loved it through and through.

Ellie says

Perfectly lovely summer family book.

Rebecca Honeycutt says

Simple text with exuberant, detailed, clean-lined illustrations, and a surprisingly uncommon plot(a family hike)--overall, charming and loaded with kid appeal. Maris Wicks is an illustrator to watch.

Betsy says

It's tempting, when you look at the sheer number of picture books published in a given year, to assume that every topic under the white hot sun has been covered by this point in time. Tempting yes, but inaccurate, a fact any children's librarian will attest to when facing a patron looking for, oh for example, a Quaker-centric story for two-year-olds on weaning from breast feeding. But while there will always be gaps for obscure topics, there will also always be gaps in areas you were convinced were already covered. Take family hikes. Find a picture book about a family that goes hiking for the day. Even as I type this it sounds like a no-brainer. Surely with the nation's current fixation on health and wellness there should be loads of such books on the market. Nope. And if it were a book solely good at filling such a gap I would be on board with *Yes, Let's* anyway. Yet as it happens, Longstreth and Wicks have penned a truly fun outing chock full of gentle cadences, genuine familial affection, loads of hidden details, and at least one instance of squirrel-based thievery.

"Let's wake up extra early, / before the day gets hot. / Let's pack a picnic, hurry up / - ready or not." And with that we meet our intrepid family adventurers. A mom, a dad, their four kids, and a good-natured sheepdog head into the car for a day trip to a local forest for some low-key hiking. The usual trials and tribulations of moving any big family come up, but after a picnic, a dip in the local river, some games, and a hike on back to the car, the now thoroughly exhausted and happy family head on home and, justifiably, collapse as one.

I'll confess now that unlike other picture books, my first encounter with *Yes, Let's* took place years ago at a little comic convention in New York City called MOCCA. The day had, for the most part, been a bit of a bust with very little worth noting. While I love comics, my focus is on the 0-12 year-old set. The great wide swath of comics out there come nowhere close to this limited range. I would have written off the whole day as a bust book-wise had I not stumbled across a teeny tiny perfectly square self-published comic called *Yes, Let's*. It was exactly what you will find in the current production. A quarter its current size, its charm leapt off the page. I was instantly enchanted but neglected to review it like I should have. Fortunately, Tanglewood Publishing picked up where I left off. Phew! Cause I can assure you that as good as this was in a snack size, it's loads better when you can actually make out the details.

There is much to be said for the picture book that rewards rereading. And rereading. And rereading. Parents have been known to go more than a little nutso when forced by their beloved offspring to repeatedly read schlock. So much more preferable is a book like this where you actually do see something new every time. I've probably read this book to my own kiddo more than 15 times but even paging through it just now to review it I stumbled on the fact that the dad in the family somehow manages to be the only family member bitten repeatedly by mosquitoes in the course of the trip (a fact reflected in the final posed picture and final shot of the book itself). Did you notice that the yo-yo obsessed brother sports a "Yo-Yo Champion" t-shirt that he wears to bed? Or the owl asleep in the beginning is the same as the one at the end? I could go on. As for the artist herself, if the name "Maris Wicks" sparks a synapse in some darkened recess of your hardworking little gray cells it may have something to do with her other 2013 title of the year. That would be the young adult graphic novel *Primates* by Jim Ottaviani. Evidently it is a very short step from displaying uncivilized animals going nuts in nature and, you know, primates.

Text-wise it might be easy to miss the fact that the entire book consists entirely of suggestions. That is, until you reach the final (and very satisfying) answer, "Yes, let's." I'm not entirely certain how much input Longstreth had in terms of the family itself, of course. Showing this book a friend of mine she noticed something I had initially missed. "It's a large family!" she cried, inordinately pleased. As the youngest child from a similarly large clan she had long since noticed how few books reflect this kind of home life. It's not a

ludicrously large one, mind you. There are plenty of picture books out there that indulge in clans so big as to be ridiculous. No Wicks has given us a realistic big family of a mom and dad, two boys, two girls, and a dog. Not exactly Cheaper by the Dozen levels, but also much bigger than most books out there. I know there will be a fair number of big families out there that rejoice in this fact.

It's nice to once in a while encounter a picture book without subtext, ulterior motive, or snark. We've grown accustomed to books that break down the fourth wall or upset our expectations. There is much to be said for a book that just wants to present a day in the life of an average American family in a straightforward manner. Perfect for hikers, wannabe hikers, big families, small families, and anyone that takes delight in seeing siblings and parents take delight in one another. Shocking in its lack of shocks, hiking finally has its day.

For ages 3 and up.

Kathy Ellen Davis says

Loved this book.

It's such a great adventure with the family.

Awesome illustrations give you fun to look for in every picture.

Reading this will make you want to go on an everyday adventure though!

Grg says

Things I love about this books: the nerdy bother with the yo-yo, the fluffy dog who tries to help pack by bringing more sticks, the little girl in water-wings, the trail mix with too many chocolate chips in it, The family reading in the sun on a summer day, the Dad stacking rocks in the river, the mischievous squirrel (keep an eye out for him), the bright beautiful art, the charming rhymes, and pretty much everything!

Emma says

I love this book! We randomly checked it out from the library and have had it out for a long time now. Every time I read it to my toddler I love looking at all the illustrations and how they both enhance the text but also tell a story of their own. It's fascinating! My daughter is constantly asking about the illustrations (What's the mommy doing? What is the boy saying?) which leads us into great discussions about the text. I love hearing her little inferences!

I also love the family dynamics that are pictured. The illustrations capture the tension but also overall love of everyday family interactions. It reminds me of my childhood camping and hiking trips. Such a fun and sweet book!

Emmaline MacBeath says

This book had me smiling from the very first page. The author tells a story about a simple family outing in

the woods, but manages to convey so much more. There is fun, there is reality, there is love. She shows why being together with family is so valuable. The illustrations were rich. So much so, that you could read this book over and over and see something new each time. The book is also packed with humor which makes any book fun.

I recommend this book for all ages. Even my teenage sons enjoyed it!

Heidi says

I love this book! This reminds me of the trips my family would take during the summer. A sweet, rhyming story that shows a family early in the morning getting ready for a relaxing day in the woods. From a hike, to playing in the water and eating a picnic lunch, this family covers an entire day just enjoying nature and each other's company. I especially enjoyed the end when the children have all fallen asleep on the parent's bed. A charming book that celebrates family and the simple things to be enjoyed together. Yes, let's!

Jen says

this super cute book rhymes. I wish it had bigger pages for storytime. It's all about a camping trip.

Stephen Twelker says

A great paean to camping and spontaneity. Nicely drawn with fun, flowing prose. Great for young ones.
