



The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians

Carla Morris , Brad Sneed (Illustrator)

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Every day after school Melvin goes to the library. Everything has its place in the library and Melvin likes it that way. And his favorite people - Marge, Betty, and Leola - are always in their place, behind the reference desk. When a subject interests Melvin, his librarian friends help him find lots and lots of books on the subject. When he collects creepy bugs in a jar, they help him identify, classify and catalog the insects. When he is cast as an Enormous Eggplant in the school play Betty reads aloud from Organic Gardening Magazine to help him find his motivation. As the years pass, Melvin can always find the answers to his questions and a lot of fun in the library. Then one day he goes off to college to learn new things and read new books. Will he leave the library and his friends behind forever? Readers will enjoy Brad Sneed's delightful illustrations that colorfully capture the fun-loving spirit of Carla Morris's story about the contagious enthusiasm of learning.

The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians Details

Date : Published March 1st 2007 by Peachtree Publishing Company (first published 2007)

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Author : Carla Morris , Brad Sneed (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians for online ebook

Erika Bowen says

1. Book Summary in your own words

Every day Melvin visits the Public Library after school. Melvin loves how everything has its place. His favorite people are the librarians behind the reference desk—Marge, Betty, and Leola. When something catches his attention, he gets help from his friends to find the information. As the years pass, Melvin gets older but still visits the library for everything. One day he leaves for college to learn new things and read new books. Will he return to his friends? Or will he leave them behind forever?

2. Grade level, interest level, lexile

Grades K-3

3. Appropriate classroom use (subject area)

Discovery, Curiosity, Helping Others

4. Individual students who might benefit from reading

Students who have a curiosity about something new and want to know where they can go and who they can ask for help.

5. Small group use (literature circles)

In small groups, students will pick their favorite book and talk about why they like it and what it is about.

6. Whole class use (read aloud)

As a whole class, we will visit the library and talk about the characteristics of the books. Authors, illustrators, how to find the book in the library, who they can ask if they cannot find a book.

7. Related books in genre/subject or content area

Genre: Comedy

8. Multimedia connections (audio book, movie) available

This gives insight into a book creator and is not directly tied to a specific book.

<https://www.teachingbooks.net/pronoun...>

Dolly says

I just love stories about libraries and this was such a sweet story. I love the different ways that the librarians could help the young boy learn and satisfy his curiosity. And I certainly loved the ending. The illustrations remind me strongly of C.F. Payne's style and complemented the story nicely, if a bit abstractly. I liked to see how the librarians aged throughout the book, still as happy and helpful as ever. We really enjoyed reading this story together.

This story was selected as one of the books for the March 2012 - Library reads at the Picture-Book Club in the Children's Books Group here at Goodreads.

Lisa says

Loved this book!!! I read it before signing it to my niece and putting it in the box going to Joplin for

Christmas. Oh my, it really is a lovely story, but particularly for this librarian and daughter of a librarian. Nice that my niece will get a little idea what her grandfather did for a living.

Nicole Cornelius says

My Aunt wrote this book!!! Way to go Aunt Carla!!

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

OK, you knew where this book was leading to right from the start. What kind of career is a nerdy kid who likes to learn and practically lives in the library going to choose? I wish the librarians in my library when I was growing up had been as much fun as these three were! I would have LOVED a sleepover at the library. Melvin was sure a lucky kid. I enjoyed the illustrations--I noticed that Betty was wearing an "I love cats" button in most of the pictures. I do think, however, that the librarians aged way too fast, especially in the first picture where Melvin is graduating from high school. Aside from that, great story, even if predictable.

Jamie says

I am a sucker for any books about libraries, so this one gets a solid star just for that reason. The story is cute and shows the power of librarians to assist and inform, and the art is interesting, but maybe a bit too caricature-based for something that is representing real people in a real setting?

Linda Lipko says

Melvin's second home is the Livingston Library! He is embraced by three fun-loving, intelligent and spunky librarians who help him with research projects, guide him, welcome him and encourage his love of knowledge.

Illustrated by Brad Sneed, the images are crisp, clear with lovely facial images.

If you, like me, were raised by a librarian, or a series of librarians, you will appreciate this lovely book.

Personally, Miss Alice Blake, former Bangor, PA librarian is one of the people who had a profound impact on my life. A skinny, shy, introverted child entered the stone structure and was forever changed by a caring, loving woman who saw a spark of intelligence and gave confidence and encouragement which has forever helped to shape the person I am today. Hats off to unsung heroes...the librarians!

<http://bangorlibrary.org/about>

brea says

oh my gosh! all the feels y'all

That was so fantastic -- it seriously gave me chills.

I freaking love my job!

Kathryn says

4.5 stars. (I wasn't really a fan of the illustration style, although they were well-done and apt.) Wonderful story about the power of friendship (especially from adult mentors) the joys that result in a quest for knowledge, and the wonders that can be found in the library!

Marni says

How can you go wrong when the second page goes like this?

"He wanted to know a little...no...alot about everything. He was curious. And the library is a wonderful place to be if a person is curious.

"Everything had its place in the library and Melvin liked it that way. His favorite books were always in their places, lined up on the shelves like soldiers. And his favorite people were always in their places, behind the reference desk."

Is that not a description of heaven? I got happy all over reading that.

This is a sweet story about a boy that goes to the library every day after school, and the three librarians that help him answer his every question and learn more about every interest.

The kids and I have talked about how fun it would be to sleep over at the library, so I was a bit jealous that his library had a "Spend the Night at the Library" party. "Melvin curled up in his sleeping bag near the encyclopedias. Surrounded by thousands of books, he felt rich and happy."

I'm sure all my reading friends here can sympathize, even a little bit. :)

Crystal Marcos says

My little one really liked this book and so did I. It is a bit lengthy for younger children but she could relate having spent time at the library. It is a heart-warming story about a little boy who grows up getting to know his librarians through spending many days after school at the library. Though the story is somewhat predictable it is still a treat to watch all the characters grow older together. I liked how interested the librarians were in him and vice versa. The illustrations were very expressive. It was also fun to find out the author is a librarian.

This was another great selection from the Children's Picture Book Club found here:

Amanda [Novel Addiction] says

I've seen this in the children's room of the library for months, if not years (time moves differently in a library). I finally decided to read it today, while I was sitting at the desk in the empty children's section..

I've got chills. I may have sniffled. I almost cried! This book, this simple, short, little picture book gave me all the feels. I was this kid. I was raised by librarians. They helped me when I was confused in school. They helped me when I couldn't find just the right book to read. And after college.. I came right back to this library, this time as an employee. And here I am now, a librarian myself. Now I get to help kids find just the right book to read. I get to encourage adults to continue their education, whether it means pick up a new book or try out a new class.

100% awesome. Or maybe I'm just weird sentimental.

Donalyn says

While I thought the "librarians are amazing" message was a bit blatant, we seem to need the reminder these days. I was raised by librarians myself!

Gabby Mondelli says

During my first few weeks of school, because I am a reading teacher, all of my read-alouds are about book and library appreciation. One of my favorite new additions is "The Boy Who Was Raised By Librarians." This heartwarming story is great for lovers of libraries and the smell of a well-loved book.

Everyday after school, Melvin goes to his local library. The women who work there help him with homework, schoolwork, various questions, and projects. He loves the library, and the for that, the librarians love him. He grows up in the eyes of these librarians and grows up to become a librarian himself.

"He wanted to know a little...no...a lot about everything. He was curious. And the library is a wonderful place to be if a person is curious."

This is a great book to read to inspire your students, whether they're reluctant readers or lovers of books. Melvin's adventures in the library put a smile on the face of each of my students, and left a smile on my own face as well.

Manybooks says

Carla Morris' The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians is sweet, humorous (and sometimes bordering on the downright silly), albeit also rather and frustratingly and majorly predictable. The author does paint an

engaging and fun portrait of a curious boy who loves books and who practically lives at his local public library, as well as the librarians of said library, who not only continuously inspire and re-inspire Melvin's curiosity, but also help the boy with research, help him rehearse for a play, and even attend his high school graduation (that Melvin then studies to become a librarian is not only natural and a bit of a given, it is also a more than fitting tribute to librarians everywhere). But all being said I do have to admit that for me personally, some if not actually even many of Melvin's antics and the amount of especially research guidance he is constantly being given by the librarians seem more than a bit unrealistic and far-fetched, unbelievable to and for me. I do not think that I have ever met librarians who were that patient and that committed to their patrons (I find it sweet that the librarians seem genuinely and emotionally interested in and committed to Melvin, but I still and actually much consider their unending, unwavering helpfulness somewhat exaggerated and overdone). And I also pretty well know for a fact that the librarians at my local branch (even those who work primarily with children) would not be all that pleased if they had to collect a bunch of creepy, crawly bugs from the carpet (Melvin spilling his jar of collected insects on the floor is perhaps mildly amusing, I just do not consider that the reaction of the librarians to this mishap is even remotely realistic and normative).

As to Brad Sneed's illustrations, I have to admit that I did not and do not find them all that enjoyable (and actually quite visually grating at times). The bright colours, as well as the depictions of books, buildings and the like are appealing enough, but the human figures (and especially the facial expressions of said human figures) seem very much exaggerated (to the point of being almost creepily distorted, somewhat akin to cartoon caricatures). Now my personal lack of enthusiasm for Brad Sneed's illustrations notwithstanding, I do think that they work well with Carla Morris' featured narrative, as the illustrations certainly manage to tenderly and evocatively mirror the fun, the sense of humour, the sense of discovery portrayed in and by the text (but while I do thus recommend The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians, judging from my own reaction and enjoyment of the latter, I can and will personally only consider a two star ranking).
