



Fraidyzoo

Thyra Heder

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It's a great day to go to the zoo! As her family hustles to get out the door, Little T lags behind. She's afraid to go back to the zoo; the only trouble is, she can't remember why. As an ingenious solution to help her remember, her mom, dad, and sister construct homemade costumes and act out zoo animals—in alphabetical order, no less! The costumes and scenes grow increasingly elaborate and breathtakingly creative. An umbrella and bubble wrap magically transform into a jellyfish, bath towels and a can of soda become a parrot, and many, many more. At the end of the day, Little T has conquered her fear and no longer feels like a "fraidyzoo."

In this charming, witty picture book debut, Thyra Heder honors the bravery it takes to face your fears, and the loving people who help you do so.

Fraidyzoo Details

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Author : Thyra Heder

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From Reader Review Fraidyzoo for online ebook

Rebecca says

So much fun! I'm glad I read a review telling me it was an alphabet book, because I didn't even realize what with all the homemade costumes and twist ending. Great dramatic play tie-in.

Kimberly [Come Hither Books] says

Great illustrations and a clever story. Little T is afraid to go to the zoo, but she can't remember why. Her family helps her out - by making costumes to act out zoo animals and help her remember. Then, they can overcome her fears together.

The costumes are fantastically elaborate. The illustrations are great fun to explore, figuring out not only what animal they're dressed up as, but also what it's made out of and how it's held together. The whole family gets involved: mom, dad, sister, and even the cat. Exploring fear has never been so much fun!

I love this book for how lovingly supportive the whole family is. It's got clever costumes any kid will love. And, it's an alphabet book that goes beyond the basics - the animals are in order, but they're not all named on the page. It's up to the reader to remember what letter comes next, look at the pictures and figure out what animal they've become.

Recommended.

Jo Oehrlein says

This is a semi-hidden alphabet book. When Little T is scared to go to the zoo, her parents and big sister step through the alphabet using homemade costumes to figure out which animal might be the problem. Many of the built animals are AMAZING. It apparently takes all day to do everything (honestly, building that many costumes would probably take much longer).

This doesn't have the normal alphabet book format with the letter and word on each page. Sometimes there are multiple animals per page. Sometimes it says the letter and sometimes the animal name and sometimes neither.

It shows a family loving each other and sharing their creativity.

Melanie says

One sister is super excited to go to the zoo and it's the perfect day. But the other sister is not so sure. She is afraid of something but she can't quite remember what. Her family helps her try to remember by dressing as an animal that starts with each letter of the alphabet. This results in hilarity. In the end little sister isn't afraid

of anything. Someone else in the family has a zoo-related fear.

Fantastically funny and the kids will love guessing what each animal is.

Jessie says

[I wasn't sure about the ending? I felt better about it with the illustration of the "scary" lady standing with the family like they were friends now, though T's sibling was still hiding a little. (hide spoiler)]

Erin Buhr says

This book is all of the things. It is funny. It is bursting with creativity. It is suspenseful and surprising. This is the story of a family who is planning to go to the zoo, except one of the kids is afraid of something....only they don't remember what. No worries, this creative family does everything it can to figure out the mystery. Charming, witty, fun. You will want to join this family while you try to guess not only what each picture holds but the answer to the ultimate mystery. Thyra Heder is becoming one of our favorite authors. This is a delight.

Luann says

So fun! The illustrations bring this story up to another level entirely. Make sure you spend some time looking at them all - including the illustrations on the endpages. The clues are there for the sharp-eyed reader who pays attention to detail.

Rebecca Honeycutt says

Smart and goofy and joyfully creative. A cut above the average alphabet book.

Jen says

This book borders on overly TWEE. An adorable, creative family that helps their youngest member remember what she's afraid of at the zoo. Pretty sure the parents are set designers for The Lion King. Appealing to different age levels.

Alisha says

This is the best children's book I have read in a very long time, and considering our "over 50 books a week" "the librarians know all our names" I think that is saying something.

The family in this book is the family I am trying to create. They changed their plan because the youngest got spooked, but DIDN'T just drop the subject. Nope, they spent a day trying to figure it out, using real things that congregate in homes with children. It's real. And beautifully done. Will be purchasing.

Crystal Smith says

Awesome

The pictures were very colorful and detailed. My daughter loved calling off the animals and would laugh at how silly they were being In the story to prove no one was scared of the zoo. Awesome read for kids.

Sheri says

Little T's family is helping her overcome her fear of going to the zoo. They are playing creative dress up games to try and figure out what she is afraid of at the zoo. Cute twist ending and very interesting family with costumes. Cute read aloud and fun ending to read and re-read to the picture book audience.

Dani - Perspective of a Writer says

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A girl is afraid to go back to the zoo so her sister and parent act out different animals that could possibly be the culprit. When none of them are scary they decide to go to the zoo the next day.

The illustrations are so beautiful in this book. From the close up of the scared girl's face to the intricate rhino costume the family makes and wears. They truly are works of art and they capture the love this family has for each other and their willingness to help one another with their fears.

My nephew and I so enjoyed the puzzle aspect to the book where we are given a clue to the costume shown in the picture but we are not told the animal. The answer key is on the inside back cover. We had a lot of fun with this once we figured out that it was a part of the book. We were stumped on a few but that seemed to be the readability the book had.

I also loved the message the book had about fear and how to work through ones fear and see that with confidence we can overcome the unknown. The sister's inclusion was so lovely from her excitement to go to the zoo, her willingness to help her younger sister with her fear and her own fear once they got to the zoo. So well done and thought out. I would definitely pick this up for any children in my life.

BOTTOM LINE: Gorgeous drawings + a cute guessing game \ overcoming a fear = a winner!

You can find this review and many others on my book blog @ Perspective of a Writer. See my picture book reviews in a special feature called Boo's Picture Gallery...

Lydia says

A little girl thinks she may be afraid to go to the zoo, so her family tries to help her figure out why and what animal she might be afraid of.

First off, this family is super-imaginative and creative, but they have *way* too much time on their hands (or cardboard boxes... maybe both). Fun to guess which animal they are thinking of, and then a surprise twist at the end when they do make it to the zoo keeps the story interesting. Though the illustrations also help as they suit the story perfectly.

No content issues.

Judy says

My 4.5 year old and I loved it. Brilliantly illustrated. Very clever way of depicting the animals and my daughter had a good time guessing as well as learning about the animals that she did not know. She also thought the ending was absolutely hilarious and I loved how the end pictures were so well done that accompanying explanation was not needed. Would read again!
