



A Perfect Day

Lane Smith

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Today is a perfect day for Cat, Dog, Chickadee, and Squirrel.

Cat is lounging among the daffodils. Dog is sitting in the wading pool, deep in the cool water. Chickadee is eating fresh seed from the birdfeeder. Squirrel is munching on his very own corncob. Today is a *perfect* day in Bert's backyard.

Until Bear comes along, that is. Bear crushes the daffodils, drinks the pool water, and happily gobbles up the birdseed and corncob.

Today *was* a perfect day for Cat, Dog, Chickadee, and Squirrel. Now, it's just a perfect day for Bear.

Lane Smith uses perfect pacing and vibrant illustrations to emphasize the power of perspective in this hilarious picture book about the goings-on in Bert's backyard.

This book has Common Core connections.

An NPR Best Book of 2017

A 2018 ALSC Notable Children's Book

A Perfect Day Details

Date : Published February 14th 2017 by Roaring Brook Press

ISBN : 9781626725362

Author : Lane Smith

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From Reader Review A Perfect Day for online ebook

Lisa D says

Loved it! A terrific spring book! Love this author!

Agn? says

4.5 out of 5

Lane Smith's simple, whimsical, and immensely satisfying story, which celebrates simple joys of life and introduces the concept of different perspectives, is masterfully told through succinct, repetitive text and richly textured mixed-media illustrations:

There is so much to celebrate about *A Perfect Day*:

- colors (somehow they manage to appear both muted AND vibrant);
- texture (you can almost FEEL that fur);
- expressions (that squirrel cracks me up, and the bear's giddiness is simply contagious);
- pacing (the final page turn is priceless);
- interesting use of air framing;
- multiple meanings of the same sentence based on the emphasis and the accompanying illustration;
- a photo on the back book flap suggests that this story is inspired by true events!

Laura Harrison says

How I love Lane Smith. One of the truly and consistently great children's book author/illustrators of our time. A cute story about a variety of animals having a great day until Bear comes along. The illustrations are warm, lush and glorious. You really have to see the book in person to appreciate it. Positively enchanting.

Kate says

This book is about how it's the perfect day for various creatures, but then bear comes along and ruins things to make it the perfect day for him.

Melki says

A bear's visit to a certain backyard bird feeder disrupts *EVERYONE'S* perfect day . . .

. . . except for the bear's, of course!

Smith's artwork is simply sublime! I LOVED this one! *A Perfect Day* is a perfect book in every way.

Laura says

A perfect book! (Caldecott 2018?)

Sara Grochowski says

What begins as perfect day for many - including a cat, a dog, a bird, and a squirrel - soon turns to disarray as a bear lumbers onto the scene. Through this visually striking book, readers will discover that perfection and the things that bring joy may not be the same for all.

Dolly says

The gorgeous textured paintings in this book are really the cat's meow. We are big fans of Lane Smith's creative works, first becoming fans through his collaborations with Jon Scieszka.

The narrative of this story includes descriptions of 'the perfect day' for five different animals and the last one is very humorous and wraps up the book nicely.

Along with his biographical information on the back book flap, Mr. Smith added a photo that shows a glimpse into his inspiration for this story. I loved the image of a bear investigating a bird feeder outside the window of his schoolhouse workspace.

I expect that this book will work well in groups as well as a way to encourage children to describe their own idea of "A Perfect Day."

Sheri says

Happiness is often unexpected and sometimes short-lived, but we all find our perfect day in our own way. Love the whorls, swirls, and lines in the illustrations in this short and sweet tale.

Edward Sullivan says

A perfect day for bear means spoiling it for all the other critters in Bert's backyard. Superb illustrations, great narrative pacing, and a delightfully humorous introduction to the concept of point of view.

Cheryl says

Because Lane Smith, and reviews.

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3.5 stars rounded down, because imo it's not as amazing as the hype. Clever, yes. Original, sorta. Lane Smith does know how to defy expectations. I like how the child, Bert, is *friend* to the animals, not pet owner or patron, and how he feeds both birds and squirrel. The art is so warm and joyful, without being gaudy. Good for kids who are tired of 'sweet' books, but whose parents' don't appreciate Battle Bunny.

Kristine Hansen says

A hot summer day and everyone is having a perfect day - until Bear comes along. And then it becomes HIS perfect day.

With a story that is pleasant and light, you might be surprised at how deep a story like this can be. Read this one with your child and invite them to discuss their perfect day, and what they do when they feel like their perfect day is spoiled. There's a lot here about expectations and reality, and accepting change.

But better than that, is the artwork which suits the story so well. Loved the style, and the story. This is a book that was just fun to read. Not one to own, but one to definitely grab from the library to share with your child.

KC says

Chickadees, squirrels, bird feeders, and a bear! Oh my!

Laura says

I really like the textures and soft colored illustrations in this book. The story is about how a cat, dog, chickadee, and a squirrel were all having a perfect day. Then a bear enters the scene and whimsically delights in what made such a perfect day for the other animals.

" The warmth of the sun. The cool of the water. A belly full of corn and seed. A flower bed for a nap. It was a perfect day for bear."

Angela says

I am not the first, nor will I be the last to say this is a practically perfect picture book.

Surely one of the greats of 2017.
