



## How Rocket Learned to Read

*Tad Hills*

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## How Rocket Learned to Read Tad Hills

Learn to read with this *New York Times*-bestselling picture book, starring an irresistible dog named Rocket and his teacher, a little yellow bird. Follow along as Rocket masters the alphabet, sounds out words, and finally . . . learns to read all on his own!

With a story that makes reading fun—and will even help listeners learn to read—this book is ideal for kindergarten classrooms and story hour or as a gift for that beginning reader. Fresh, charming art by Tad Hills, the *New York Times* bestselling author/illustrator of *Duck & Goose*, will make this a favorite.

And don't miss the instant #1 *New York Times* Bestseller, *Rocket Writes a Story*.

## How Rocket Learned to Read Details

Date : Published July 27th 2010 by Schwartz & Wade (first published January 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9780375858994

Author : Tad Hills

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Dogs



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## **From Reader Review How Rocket Learned to Read for online ebook**

### **Ashley says**

Audience: The audience for this book would be primary grades. Kindergarten to second grade would enjoy this book because it is about learning how to read.

Appeal: This book is appealing to kindergartners up to second graders because they too much like Rocket are in the process of learning how to read. They are learning from a teacher and practicing independently to master such skills. Students can connect to listening to stories, learning the alphabet, learning to say and spell words, using words to form sentences, using sentences to create a story, and reading to understand the meaning of those words.

Application: I would use this book in the classroom to make students feel comfortable at their level of literacy and to explain the process of how we all learn how to read.

Award List: Nebraska Golden Sower 2012-2013

Copyright: 2010

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### **Ann says**

Okay, I loved this!

Rocket is an adorable little dog who, one day, finds himself in the company of a very persuasive birdie. The little yellow bird decides it is going to be Rocket's teacher, and the first thing Rocket learns is how to read.

I love the way this story approached education and reading - instead of demanding that Rocket "needed to learn his ABCs" the little birdie instead introduces Rocket to the wonder of stories found in books, so that Rocket \*wants\* to learn to read so that he, too, can partake of such glorious stories.

As I was reading, I kept thinking, "This book should do this. They should address that." And every time, the book did! It was fantastic!

This delightful story, matched with these truly enchanting illustrations, made this a wonderful picture book. I believe it will delight young listeners/readers, as there are bits that will make them want to read to the end. Great for anyone just starting to learn to read, and great for anyone hesitant to "get into reading."

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### **Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says**

Rocket is a playful, busy dog whose life changes when he meets a yellow bird who teaches him the alphabet and reads stories to him. This is like the playful child who enters school and finds a whole new world

opening up. It's a simple story that will give preschoolers a heads up as to what they might learn in school and will show them that it will be fun. I liked the way the bird enticed Rocket, who was initially uninterested, to join the class, by reading a story aloud, within Rocket's hearing, but not revealing the ending. The way Hills draws Rocket makes him so cute in some pictures that I wanted to reach into the story and pet him! My only complaint about the illustrations is that the bird looks like a canary, and if you want to be realistic, it should really have been a goldfinch if you wanted to keep her yellow. Aside from that, a good choice for preschool readalouds.

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### **Katie Clark says**

*How Rocket Learned To Read* written and illustrated by Tad Hills is a charming book that follows a dog named Rocket on his road to learning how to read. Rocket the dog has a teacher, a little yellow bird, who encourages the dog to come to lessons. Rocket is not interested at first, but becomes interested in reading as he listens to the bird tell a story about a bone. As Rocket comes to the bird's lessons, his love for reading becomes more and more voracious, and as he learns, his whole world around him becomes rich with meaning.

This book not only has a fantastic story, but it has beautiful illustrations to match. The pictures seem to be drawn with a mix of colored pencils and paint. The expressions of the dog and bird are convincing and hilarious!

This book is a fantasy book, since the main characters, a dog and bird, are able to talk and read. This book would be a perfect read for a kindergartener who is just starting to learn how to read. This book would be especially useful to read to children who are discouraged readers. Together with Rocket, students can draw letters and spell out words like D-I-G and W-I-N-D. Rocket's road to literacy starts with the basics of learning letters, but he preserves and learns to read on his own. What a great role model for young children!

I believe this book deserves a place in the homes of young children and in kindergarten classrooms.

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### **Sierra says**

From the cover of this book to the very last page the illustrations are adorable, super kid-friendly and vivid in color use! I thought the meaning and message behind the plot was cute! Rocket is a cute dog who has a little yellow bird as his teacher. I love the way this story approached education and reading - instead of demanding that Rocket "needed to learn his ABCs" the little birdie instead introduces Rocket to the wonder of stories found in books, so that Rocket \*wants\* to learn to read so that he, too, can partake of such glorious stories. As I was reading, I kept thinking, "This book should do this. They should address that." In addition, every time, the book did! It was fantastic! As the book progressed, I fell in love with the hymning aspect of "wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet" sayings that were repeated every so often! I would highly enjoy reading this to a class full of kindergartners especially and even 1st graders! I would not use this book as a way to force children to need to know the alphabet but instead use it as a way to show the importance of the alphabet for lifelong learning! An ideal book to be read aloud, this story practices spelling a few simple words, as well as introducing onomatopoeia, sounds spelled out as words. Literacy, phonics, and friendship are tied together! This story also describes independent learning outside of the classroom, as Rocket

continues to practice his skills after the bird has migrated for the winter. In addition, this book is also a tale of the cycle of seasons, marking transitions with illustrations and words to spell, such as “m-e-l-t.” Overall fantastic!!!

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### **Eman says**

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### **Rebecca Wilson says**

Opening: Have you ever learned something new? What have you learned about? In our story today, Rocket the dog meets a bird who loves to teach. At first Rocket doesn't think he will like learning, Have you ever not liked learning? Well the bird in this story helps to change Rockets mind, and when he does he changes Rockets life for the better. Let's read to find out what happens to Rocket in the story, How Rocket Learned to Read.

Opening Moves:

Invite personal connections.

Raise questions to spark curiosity.

Rational: This book is sweet story about learning. It is a great book to use at the beginning of the year to introduce helping others with learning. The students love the cute illustrations and spelling/sounding out along with the story. The bird and dog in the story create a friendship and Rocket is taught the gift of reading. The students can relate with the storyline of learning new things as well as the level of spelled words in the story It is a class favorite, guaranteed!

(2010, June 14). Publishers Weekly. <http://www.booksinprint2.com/leo.lib....#>

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### **Barbara says**

There's an old saying that when the student is ready, the right teacher will arrive, and that's exactly the case in this book. Rocket, an exceptionally cute little black and white dog, has settled down for a nice relaxing fall nap when a yellow bird intent on being a teacher arrives. She sets forth a few class rules and begins to teach her student to read, using many practices commonly followed by emergent and early literacy teachers. First of all, the yellow bird reads aloud to Rocket and leaves him hanging so he can't wait for her to read more the next day. And so it goes. By the end of the book, Rocket and his dedicated teacher have a stack of books, which they read together, and he's learned to sound out letters. Most of all, though, he's learned to love reading. Young readers will enjoy this adorable title, partly because of Rocket's personality and whimsical expression in the oil paint and colored pencil illustrations. This would be an excellent first day of school read aloud.

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## **Pooja says**

An inspiring short story about the dog who has hunger for learning.

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## **Sarah says**

Rocket has had a busy day and is ready for a nap when a little yellow bird arrives and wants to teach him how to read. Rocket isn't sure he wants to be the bird's student -- there are sticks to catch and dog things to do, but he's soon hooked on the little bird's story times about a dog named Buster, and soon he has developed a friendship with his teacher and is learning to read himself. This is a great book to share with any child who is learning to read - it helps children and caregivers develop pre-reading skills (spelling out easy words on the page which Rocket sounds out). It also shows that learning to read takes time, and that it can be a lot of fun. Brightly colored illustrations vary from small vignettes to full page spreads and are appealing-- children and adults will love to share this one together!

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## **Nicole says**

This book is absolutely adorable and I highly recommend it to K and 1st grade teachers. It is all about a little dog named rocket who loved his life of chewing sticks and taking naps under the same tree everyday until one day when everything changes. One afternoon while trying to take a nap under his favorite tree, a small yellow bird approached him and said she was happy he had joined her class. Rocket explained to the bird that he didn't come for any class and that he just wanted to take a nap so he moved and tried to fall asleep. Rocket was having a very hard time falling asleep because he could hear the bird singing a book about an unlucky dog named Buster who had lost his bone. At this point, Rocket was curious and really wanted to know the ending of the book—he wanted to know if Buster found his bone, but all of a sudden just before the ending the book stopped. The next day Rocket showed up to the birds class and the bird taught rocket how to read so he too could read books like the bird. In the end of the book Rocket is a reading and spelling wiz. It is an adorable story and perfect when talking with your students about how important reading is and how great learning to read on your own is. I would read this book to k through 1st grade.

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## **Lisa Vegan says**

I was smiling throughout this adorable book because the illustrations, particularly of Rocket the dog, are so expressive. Rocket's facial expressions are a hoot; they are so cute.

If the story is read to kids who love books and/or are eager to learn to read, I think this is a fabulous book. (If the book is used to try to coerce or entice reluctant readers or reluctant listeners, I'm not as big of a fan of it.) But, I've always loved books and reading, and dogs, and I'd have always loved this book.

The story is so funny and sweet, Rocket is an endearing character, and it's a book about learning to love

learning and books/stories and learning ABCs and reading. I loved Rocket's journey from wanting to play and be left alone to eager student to independent learner and more advanced student, and got a kick out of how he continued his studies even after his teacher, a bird, has flown south for the winter.

This is my first Tad Hills book but I see he's written many other books, and I'm now eager to check them out. I loved this book.

Great extra!: On the back inside cover, in the author's bio section, there's a photo of the author-illustrator with the real Rocket, who the reader is informed has not yet learned how to read.

I kept thinking of Snoopy and Woodstock; I liked them too., and also Harry the Dirty Dog and other beloved by me fictional canines.

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### **Donalyn says**

Rocket the dog learns to read after attending lessons each season with a clever yellow bird. A great book for launching a reading year with young children.

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### **David says**

Follow along as Rocket masters the alphabet, sounds out words, and finally ... learns to read all on his own. Fresh, charming art by Tad Hills, the author & illustrator of Duck & Goose, will make this a favorite. (Goodreads summary)

How Rocket Learned to Read by Tad Hills is an encouraging picturebook about learning to read and the love of reading.

(Apparently also marketed as an easy reader, some of the vocabulary is above easy reading level).

The text moves the story along nicely, but the pictures are the stars here. The illustrations were done in oil paint and colored pencils. Rocket is shown experiencing many emotions as he works to learn to spell and read.

Parts of the story made me think of City Dog, Country Frog, and I'm glad the little bird returned in the Spring. It's on the edge of being too sweet, but I still liked it a lot.

For listeners ages 4 to 7 and readers grades 1.5 and 2.

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### **Kathryn says**

This was such a wonderful surprise! I haven't read any of Tad Hills' work before but I'm definitely going to read more of it now.

This is the gently humorous, inspiring and heartwarming story of how a young pup named Rocket became interested in the wonderful world of words. His teacher is a wise, bright-spirited yellow bird and she entices

him with fascinating stories in books so that he understands why words are important and powerful and necessary. Then, when she flies south for the winter, Rocket continues to revel in his ABCs.

The story is grand, the illustrations are charming! Read this book! :-)

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