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Puppy!

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Book Review

Puppy!



Author

Keith Graves

Illustrator

Reviewer

Acacia Haws

Rating

Excellent

Level

Preschool

Pages

30

Year

2016

Publisher

Roaring Brook Press

ISBN

9781626722255

Trog the cave boy has toys that should be lots of fun: sticks, rocks, and mud. But all he wants is a puppy to play with. He comes across a striped alligator and brings it home, dubbing it “Puppy!” His new pet causes a lot of problems for his family, like crying a lot and eating everything presented to it with a big crunch, including the family’s bed and table. Trog does everything he can to soothe his unhappy pet. Finally, the alligator’s enormous mother comes to retrieve her baby and brings him home where he is happy once more. Trog goes in search of a new pet and finds a “kitty.”

This book reads sort of like a comic book for very young readers. The story is arranged in panels as well as in full page spreads. The art style is cartoony and expressive. The frequent repetition of the word “crunch!” can make reading the story aloud very humorous. Trog’s enthusiasm and unfailing sympathy for his new pet is sweet, which offers a good balance to the humor. The comic book-like nature of the page layouts can make reading the story aloud a bit of a challenge because the book has continuous narration as well as frequent interjections from Trog, both of which progress the story. This would be easier for preschool-aged children who visually understand the concept of a speech bubble.