



2018

### Bruno

Samantha Bullock

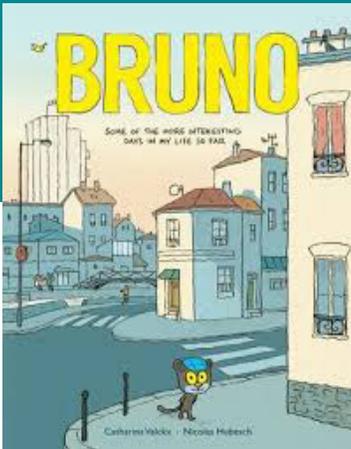
Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

---

#### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Bullock, Samantha (2018) "Bruno," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 39 : Iss. 5 , Article 9.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss5/9>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).



## Book Review

### Bruno

#### Author

Catharina Valckx

#### Illustrator

Nicolas Hubesch

#### Reviewer

Samantha Bullock

#### Rating

Dependable

#### Level

Primary

#### Pages

87

#### Year

2017

#### Publisher

Gecko Press

#### ISBN

9781776571246

Bruno the cat lives an interesting life or at least an ordinary life with a few interesting days mixed in. Much like anyone, he has peculiar days, rainy days, stupid days, and days bordering on perfection, among others. Accompanied by a faithful cast of both old and new friends, including Bup the Fish, Ringo the pony, and Tweety the canary, Bruno makes the best of life's ups and downs. He strives for fun and adventure throughout the six linked stories in the book, each detailing a different sort of day in Bruno's life. Bruno makes new friends, takes care of old friends, and survives bad days and days when the power goes out, but the final drama of the book occurs when Bruno loses his signature blue hat. Happily for Bruno, the hat is shortly and unexpectedly returned to him by one of the many friends he has helped and valued throughout the book, illustrating the benefits of nurturing and initiating friendships with a variety of individuals who have varying strengths and characteristics.

Bruno is a picture book best suited to primary readers. Its illustrations are minimalist and have the appearance of being hand drawn, yet are detailed enough to be engaging and appealing to both toddler/preschool and primary audiences. However, since the book regularly uses words like "stupid," and celebrates weirdness and peculiarity for peculiarity's sake, the book is most appropriate for older readers who are not as likely to crave a sweet, comforting story characteristic of books for very young children. The text does not read smoothly or rhythmically, and the only detectable theme is of the value of friendship, as illustrated through the book's ending and the fact that Bruno's list of activities for a perfect day includes interactions with most of his friends. Bruno would be useful as a grade school classroom reading practice book, since it is not as long as a chapter book but is more mature in language style and subject matter than most other picture books and is divided up into the six distinct day sections.