



2018

Neck & Neck

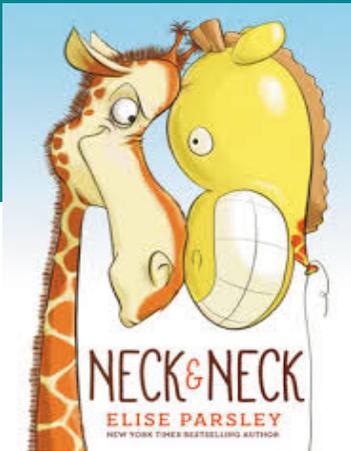
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Harris, Taylor (2018) "Neck & Neck," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 39 : Iss. 5 , Article 54.
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Book Review

Neck & Neck

Author

Elise Parsley

Illustrator

Reviewer

Taylor Harris

Rating

Excellent

Level

Preschool, Primary

Pages

40

Year

2018

Publisher

Little, Brown and Com-

ISBN

9780316466745

Life at the zoo is wonderful for Leopold the giraffe! But that all changes one day when a giraffe balloon shows up. He's flexible, cheerful, and doesn't have to be fed, the kid with the balloon brags. Leopold goes into a jealous rage and pops the balloon, hoping to get the kid's undivided attention. But he only comes back with MORE giraffe balloons! When the kid's balloons start flying away, Leopold has to make a decision—to save or not to save. They get stuck in his favorite tree and Leopold decides to return them to the owner. When he does, he gets the child's undivided attention, with cheering and laughing and many thanks to Leopold for saving his balloons.

From New York Times bestselling author Elise Parsley comes another fun picture book that everyone will enjoy! Her unique sense of humor comes out once more as she describes the struggle between Leopold the giraffe and a young child's balloon imitation of a giraffe. In a hilarious way, Parsley addresses self-esteem and jealousy through the confrontation between a giraffe and his faux counterpart. At first, Leopold allows his jealousy to influence his decisions and harbors bad feelings towards his bobbing look-alike. However, when he lets it go and decides to save the balloons in a kind act, only then does he get the attention he seeks, showing that kind acts are much more powerful than looks and ability. With energetic pictures and a variety of facial expressions, the fun illustrations definitely keep up with the vigor of the story. Fans of Elise Parsley's other books will find Neck & Neck a worthy addition to their collection.