



2018

Elmer's Walk

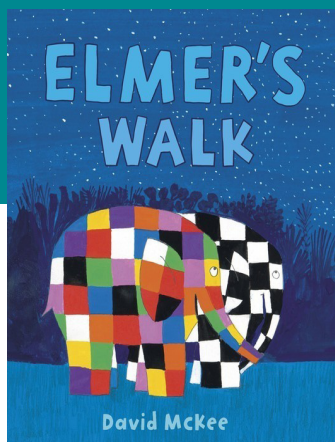
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Christopher, Leah (2018) "Elmer's Walk," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 39 : Iss. 10 , Article 80.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol39/iss10/80>

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Book Review

Elmer's Walk

Author

David McKee

Illustrator

Reviewer

Leah Christopher

Rating

Excellent

Level

Preschool, Primary,
Intermediate

Pages

24

Year

2018

Publisher

Andersen Press USA

ISBN

9781541535541

While life swarms on around him, Elmer the elephant enjoys the beauty and peace of nature. A beautiful spider web doesn't entice the monkeys to pause, but Elmer observes it thoughtfully. Elmer points out an interesting log to the crocodiles—but they keep on moving. He invites the snake to admire the colorful flowers to no avail. Even the lion won't delay his nap to look at the waterfall. Rush, rush, rush—no one has time to appreciate nature with Elmer. Eventually, Elmer finds and joins his cousin Wilbur in watching the sun setting and stars rising in the night sky. But even Elmer remarks that there's no time to count all the stars.

In typical David McKee fashion, this book allows readers to make deeper inferences by not telling too much. Simple but varied vocabulary creates interesting prose and dialogue for the repetitive structure of the plot, while the vivid, full-page illustrations of the jungle provide a solid backdrop for the story. The book may not draw many laughs from readers, but it offers a chance for a wide range of ages to discuss the importance of being mindful of one's surroundings. Acting as somewhat of a social commentary, the book may encourage readers and parents of readers to step back from the busy pace of life and, essentially, take time to smell the flowers.

No