

The Crocodile and the Scorpion

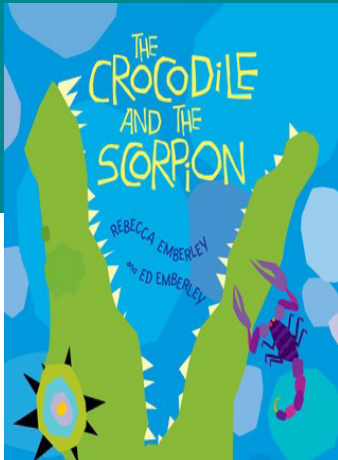
Lindsey Smith

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Book Review

The Crocodile and the Scorpion

Author

Rebecca Emberley

Illustrator

Ed Emberley

Reviewer

Lindsey Smith

Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary

Neither having ever had a friend before, the Crocodile and Scorpion decide to give friendship a try. Unfortunately for them, their small brains make that difficult. The Scorpion goes down to the river but knows he can't get across, so he asks the Crocodile for a ride on his back. The two mutually decide not to hurt one another, and so the Crocodile agrees. Before making it to the other side, however, everything falls apart when both break their promises, and in the end, both animals become victims of their rash behavior.

Rebecca Emberley's story has the feeling of a folktale with a message of the importance of friendship and selflessness. However, though the characters behave badly, it is a little unclear whether they could have done any better, as the author blames their behavior on the fact that "They both had brains no bigger than a pebble." The rich language that she uses makes the book an engaging read, and the message of working together is one that parents and teachers will find applicable to all children. Rebecca Emberley's delightful story is enhanced by the illustrations of her father, Ed Emberley, who uses simple illustrations and a cool color palette, helping the reader feel the setting of the "great big, brilliant blue river."

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29

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