



2020

Bear Came Along

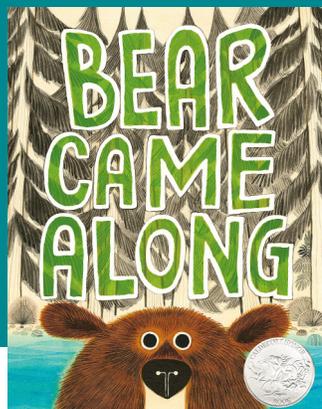
Karen Abbott

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Book Review

Bear Came Along

Author

Richard T. Morris

Illustrator

LeUyen Pham

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Preschool, Primary

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Pages

40

Year

2019

ISBN

9780316464475

Publisher

Little, Brown Books

Bear is exploring a river that flows through the forest when a log breaks, and he begins floating toward a new adventure. He is joined on the log by a lonely frog, They are joined by a beaver, some raccoons, and a duck. Everyone seems to be having a wonderful time until a waterfall appears ahead. Some consternation appears on each animal's face at the possible danger looming ahead. They plunge over the falls together, holding on to one another as best they can. They dive with smiles into the still water, splashing and diving and having fun. The river has brought them all together to enjoy a little time. The final words, "the river came along" leave the reader wondering what other adventures might lie ahead for the animals, together or individually.

As Bear and the river and all the friends meet, the reader discovers that adventures can happen at unexpected times, in unexpected ways, and with unexpected friends for unexpected fun. The message in all of this is that many days do not go as planned, and that this is normal and okay. Unexpected events can lead to great opportunities when we go with the flow. Even things that look like disaster can turn out well. The illustrations are absolutely amazing. The vibrant teal of the river contrasts with the warm browns of the bear and the yellows in the background. This keeps the reader's attention focused on the activity occurring on the log in the center of the brilliantly colored river. The expressions on the animals tell stories happening between the characters as the river and the words keep the action moving forward to the crescendo at the end. This book is highly recommended for its timeless theme, bright illustrations, and joyous adventure.