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Mr. Scruff

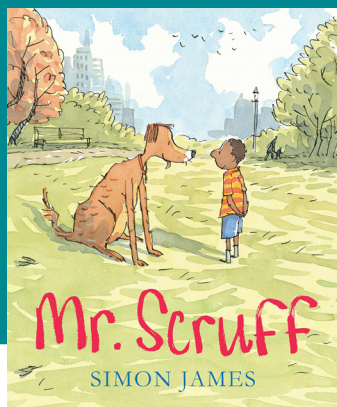
Jessica Mellor

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Book Review

Mr. Scruff

Author

Simon James

Illustrator

Simon James

Reviewer

Jessica Mellor

.....

Rating

Excellent

Level

Preschool

.....

Pages

28

Year

2019

ISBN

9781536209358

Publisher

Candlewick

Minnie belongs to Vinnie, just like every dog belongs to an owner who looks like them. But there isn't anyone for Mr. Scruff. That is, until he discovers Jim, who seems to like Mr. Scruff and decides to take him. But when Jim finds Mr. Gruff, they realize that Mr. Gruff and Jim may have found the wrong dogs.

This rhyming book builds a pattern when the dog names rhyme with the owners, and quickly breaks it when Mr. Scruff doesn't rhyme with Jim. The story builds anticipation when possible rhymes appear between dogs and different owners, but leaves everything on a cliffhanger. This playful use of rhyme makes fun of the text itself and plays with the readers' expectations, signaling that those expectations may not need to be met. The greatest anticipation will be in the first reading, since knowing the end reduces some of the drama. However, the emotions created the first time will make this book a fun read again.