



Harold Finds a Voice

Courtney Dicmas

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Harold is an amazing mimic, and can imitate the sound of everything in his home. Tired of repeating the same old noises, he yearns to find out what other voices there are in the big, wide world. But what happens when he suddenly realises that he doesn't yet have a voice of his own? This fantastic debut by author/illustrator Courtney Dicmas recounts Harold's hilarious tale. It's full of colour, humour and invention, and children will love to join in with Harold as he mimics everyday noises.

Harold Finds a Voice Details

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Author : Courtney Dicmas

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From Reader Review Harold Finds a Voice for online ebook

Smelleykins says

Won via a competition on twitter through Waterstones Birmingham. They tweeted saying to respond for an aged group to win a undisclosed book, so i tweeted the age group 0-5. Not expecting to win but deciding if I did, my nephew could have the book. I won. Two books infact

I LOVED this book. I know its for children and my nephew has claimed it, but it's bright, funky, has paris, and birds in it. What's not to love. It also i think teaches children to find their own voice, something my two year old nephew is doing very well with at the moment.

A brilliant book for reading with your child, who will practically copy every sound you make. The pictures are just gorgeous, a lot of time has clearly been spent on this.

A great picture book for children :)

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

Harold is a parrot who lives in Paris. He can make all kinds of wonderful sounds. But what is his true voice?

A stunning array of bwueeee, ding, frzz, burble, vrrmmmmm, whooosh, hello, flip, flap, RAWK!

Pam says

Harold the Parrot can mimic any sound. He's one of the best at this. However, he longs to find his own voice. One day, he slips out the open window and explores Paris. He hears so many sounds and discovers every thing has its own voice. He tries to speak and discovers his own voice. It startles him and he doesn't like it. Parrots come from all over as they heard him speak. He finds new friends, his voice and is still able to be the best mimic in Apartment 4B.

Barbara says

Harold is a very clever parrot who can imitate the sound of just about anything! Children will be rolling on the floor laughing and imitating Harold as he makes the sound of a toaster, the vacuum and even the toilet. When he escapes the house he discovers a whole new world of noises. Everything he sees makes its own noise an he can imitate it. But after a while he wants to make a noise of his very own. Read Harold Finds a Voice to see what he comes up with.

Kailyn Gilliam says

This children's book is about Harold, a parrot, taking the opportunity to find his own voice. Harold is tired of only mimicking the noises around him, and wants to expand his noises beyond the walls of his home in Apartment 4B. One day, he sees his chance and he takes it! He is out in the city learning all the new sounds, when he realizes he doesn't have his own voice. Overall, this story is about Harold learning to find his voice and to love all the sounds he can make.

By using this book in the classroom as an introduction to my concept voice, I would use this to help students find their own voice in their writing. Students often, like Harold, mimic the sounds of others - or in their case, the writing styles of others. Many times students have not found their own voice in their writing, by pairing this reading with an adapted Semantic Differential Scale that will allow students to evaluate how they would characterize themselves in regards to their writing voice. This strategy, though typically done as an after-reading strategy to foster discussion on the book, will be used to allow students to begin thinking of where they would put themselves on a given spectrum on their writing - in ways, that will allow them to grow into strong writers with their own distinctive voice.

Hope Edwards says

A very colourful story suitable to younger children, I think this book would work really well alongside a music lesson where children could create the sounds that Harold hears within the book.

Kelsey says

Age: Preschool+

Animal: Pet parrot

Sense: Sound

Country: Paris, France

This book is begging to be read-aloud with all the sound effects--and Dicmas must have labored over the spelling of each sound effect because they are just perfect when read aloud. The artwork is fantastic and pairs well with what is happening in the story. This is also a great book for accepting one's special identity when Harold finds his own sound/voice.

Suzi says

My new favorite picture book! As a parrot owner, I can tell the author is very familiar with parrot behavior and body language. Every page is lively and life-like and full of parrot personality. So many picture books with exotic animals are just full of cute, but wooden, illustrations that don't have any real vibrancy. Courtney Dicmas, however, captures the gleeful, feathery insanity of Harold the macaw perfectly in every illustration. I love particularly the pages where he is twisted up in some funny pose (just like real parrots do when they are being inquisitive).

The story is perfect, too! I really like how this book isn't about a TALKING parrot. I often sit with my African Grey and listen to him make all sorts of weird noises, and wonder, "what's his own natural sound??"

Lorna says

illustrations are simple yet effective in this book. I found myself joining in Harold's excitement at being outside and discovering more sounds. this book also lends itself well to a range of ideas corresponding to the eyfs.

Iqra Fiaz says

This story is about Harold - a parrot - who is great at copying and imitating but hasn't yet found his own voice. He goes on a trip to find other voices and noises out in the world and surprises himself when he opens his mouth to speak.

This is a great, fun way of teaching children, especially Key Stage 1 children about the power of being themselves and how being unique and different can lead to better things than copying can.

The artwork in the book is so vivid and bright that it draws you into the story. It would make a great basis for an art lesson where children could draw/colour a parrot in any way that represents who they are as an individual.

Overall, a great text with a great message.

paula says

Ok, it's a little hammer-over-the-head-y, what with Harold could imitate everybody else's beautiful voice but didn't discover his own identity until he spoke with his own whatever whatever... but Harold is such a cheerful pal of a parrot, loving the vacuum cleaner's sound, reveling in the cellos and foghorns (foghorns?) of Paris, and the big splunchy wads of paint are so happy-looking... well I LIKE IT.

Alice Blackwell-Sisk says

Harold is a parrot just trying to find his voice and discover new things. This book sends the message that you should always be yourself and there is a lot more out there to discover than you can imagine. It will enforce the idea to children that they should dream big and not let anything get in their way (PSHE)

This book would be lovely to introduce to early Key Stage 1, or even to just add it to the book corner. It would help development Phase 1 phonics as it explores rhyme and sounds.

Claudia G-D says

Harold is a parrot who lives in Paris. He is really good at imitating sounds of the things he hears. Harold realised that he doesn't have his own voice. So one day he decides to try and make his own noise. He is shocked at it and at first doesn't like it- until all of the other parrots start clapping and cheering him because he has found his voice. This is a nice story to share with children in EYFS as it can link to phase 1 phonics and teaches children about the importance of their own voice and ideas. This also has good PSHE links because it can be used to explore the idea of valuing everyone's ideas and thoughts and supporting one another. I also really like the illustrations in this book. They would be good for art when teaching children about primary colours and how to mix colours to create new ones. Additionally, this book could link to topics and could stimulate discussion around countries such as France and making links between places children have been and school. Could also use instruments to make the sounds that Harold hears.

Hannah Higson says

Amazing artwork

Tc says

Beautiful picture book with lots of potential in the classroom! The story is not very well developed, but the art work is lovely, and it is perfect for teaching children about sounds. I can imagine reading this book with my iPhone at the ready with all of the sounds found in the book and letting each child take a turn playing the sound that correlates to the image. It would be great for phonological awareness to practice having the children close their eyes to guess what the sounds were after reading the book. Can you say onomatopoeia?
