



Vanilla Ice Cream

Bob Graham

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A wild sparrow's journey sets in motion a toddler's new experience in Bob Graham's tale of life's surprising little turns — and unlikely connections.

Following some food, a curious young sparrow stows away in the back of a truck and takes an unusual voyage south — through the lush rice paddies of India, across the rough sea, and all the way into a bright new day. As the sun rises high over the city, he finds little Edie at a café with her grandma and granddad, and for a fleeting instant, his world meets up with hers and changes her life in the most delightful way. From the masterful Bob Graham comes an invitation to notice the smallest of moments as they unfold around us, full of unexpected promise.

Vanilla Ice Cream Details

Date : Published August 26th 2014 by Candlewick Press

ISBN : 9780763673772

Author : Bob Graham

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From Reader Review Vanilla Ice Cream for online ebook

Rachel says

I think I'd like to be a bird.

This is really pretty.

Lucy Allison says

This book has some words but so little that it could be classified as a wordless picture book. The story is a little complicated for younger children to understand through just the use of pictures, so I would use this story for EAL children who are a little older. EAL children can discuss the story and practice spoken English skills and their understanding of the story. The story also focuses on the theme of journeys and travel which may be suitable for EAL children who may have come on a similar journey.

Bill says

wow

Now that 2014 is over, I say that this is my choice for best picturebook of the year.

GraceAnne says

Beautiful illustrations, wonderful, as in full-of-wonder, story, thoughtful and thought-provoking and just lovely, really.

Cheryl says

Omg a new Bob Graham book! I had to read this twice in a row to fully appreciate it; I hope you do, too, before passing judgement. What a wonderful philosophy about how the world is connected by the mundane. What an illuminating (to me, from the US) portrait of a truck stop (somewhere, presumably) in rural India.

Though the point of the message seems one of celebration of our small world, the book could even be used with older children to springboard a discussion of invasive species.

I assume the second setting is Australia, as that is where Graham lives. But I don't know city skylines so I'm not sure.

Angie says

Such a beautiful story! Bob Graham always gets it right. I wonder, were the grandparents really going to eat the ice cream cone without giving Edie a bite? Not possible.

Dimity Powell says

Never before has a sparrow been more endearing.

Wendi says

This is a cute story. My son and i enjoyed following the sparrow with each turn of the page. I was delighted the story centers around the bird since it being on the cover is what drew my eye to the book and why we ended up checking it out at the library.

Another reviewer said it best: "Never has a Sparrow been more endearing".

Den says

Another delightful book which looks at the simple happenings in life - both in India and here

Michael Earp says

I love how Bob's books are simultaneously grand and intimate.

Amanda says

The title--the focus--of the story only took place over 2 pages, at the very end. The real story was about the sparrow and his journey...not the vanilla ice cream. Ok, the sparrow was the impetus for the vanilla icecream but the whole book was NOT about that one tiny moment.

Kristy McRae says

I simply ADORE all of Bob Graham's books, and this was no exception. The illustrations are fabulous, and the story just makes me smile. It's a fun take on that old theory about a butterfly in one part of the world fluttering its wings, causing a storm in another part of the world....all about the chain of events that lead from point A to point B....but told in such a sweet, endearing fashion!

Creative Kids Tales says

An action driven picture book that engages mainly visual narrative to reveal the story of a little sparrow's journey across the sea from India to Australia. The sparrow follows the food, and at the Café Botanica he chances upon little Edie Irvine and her grandparents.

The story's theme is that of freedom, choice and chance, and how these simple things can bring so much joy and enrichment our lives.

Bob Graham's tender and sensitive cartoon drawings are set against more realistic watercolour illustrations of sparrows, with some gorgeous scenes from the bird's-eye viewpoint of the sparrow. Well-placed words and pictures flow effortlessly, and as the story's conclusion approaches there is maximum reader impact, as the last few pages warmly reveal the cause and serendipitous effect of the sparrow's action. In one fleeting moment, the sparrow's freedom to act allows the young and curious Edie to discover the sweet taste of vanilla ice cream. The delighted expression on Edie's face says it all!

Vanilla Ice Cream is a perfect example of how a picture book can deliver the full emotional and visual effect of an important message in a subtle way.

For children aged four to eight years.

Reviewed for Creative Kids Tales by Kathy Creamer

Barbara says

In search of food a hungry sparrow leaves a tiny truck stop in India to perch among some bags of rice on their way across the ocean. The bird survives and thrives since the rice is plentiful. Upon disembarking, the sparrow has a chance encounter with Edie Irvine, a little girl who is enjoying the day with her doting grandparents. Although the sparrow causes a little bit of confusion, its passing by also results in Edie's enjoyment of the delicious taste of vanilla ice cream. I liked this philosophical examination of the way the things that happen by chance often change us in unexpected ways. The ink and watercolor illustrations are as attractive as the book's message. Young readers will enjoy following the sparrow's journey and will worry about its fate as the ship on which it's riding faces turbulent seas.

The Brothers says

A swallow accidentally gets caught in a bag of rice heading from India to another (European I'm guessing) country. There it comes across a human child in a stroller who experiences ice cream for the first time. A kind of odd story.

Illustrations are nice to look at.

