



A Ball for Daisy

Chris Raschka

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Winner of the 2012 Randolph Caldecott Medal

This *New York Times* Bestseller and *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book relates a story about love and loss as only Chris Rashcka can tell it. Any child who has ever had a beloved toy break will relate to Daisy's anguish when her favorite ball is destroyed by a bigger dog. In the tradition of his nearly wordless picture book *Yo! Yes?*, Caldecott Medalist Chris Raschka explores in pictures the joy and sadness that having a special toy can bring. Raschka's signature swirling, impressionistic illustrations and his affectionate story will particularly appeal to young dog lovers and teachers and parents who have children dealing with the loss of something special.

A Ball for Daisy Details

Date : Published May 10th 2011 by Schwartz & Wade

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Author : Chris Raschka

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Dogs

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From Reader Review A Ball for Daisy for online ebook

Ben Clark says

"A Ball for Daisy" is a wordless picture book that tells the story of a plucky black-and-white dog named Daisy, and the grief she experiences over the loss of her most precious object: a bouncy red ball. The ball is destroyed when another dog steals it away from her at the park and accidentally breaks it. Author and illustrator Chris Raschka uses broad brushstrokes and watercolors to tell Daisy's story. Without using a single word, the illustrations both establish Daisy's personality and convey her journey through the five stages of grief after losing her ball.

I have a three-year-old daughter and "A Ball for Daisy" is one of her favorite books of the moment. She can relate to all of the emotions Daisy feels, and explain why she feels "sad" or "happy" at different points in the story. Grief over separation from a treasured object is something that almost any child can identify with. Raschka's paintings - and especially his evocation of the dog's facial expressions - help take readers of any age along the same emotional journey as Daisy.

Heather McMaster says

The story of A Ball for Daisy (Raschka, 2011) is a darling tale about a lovable dog that has a favorite red ball. The ball that Daisy adores is deflated one day as Daisy allows another dog to play with it, which makes Daisy incredibly sad until the other dog brings Daisy a blue ball on another outing. The visuals that are used in A Ball for Daisy (Raschka, 2011) can be described as simplistic, yet bright, and endearing. The illustrations are cartoon like, and since this book is wordless the graphics must tell the complete tale. Since the pictures have to command attention, there are usually multiple pictures regarding Daisy's actions on each page. A Ball for Daisy (Raschka, 2011) helps readers to acknowledge that an audience can understand a story just by viewing pictures alone.

This story is in the genre of a fictional children's picture book. The themes are attachment, playfulness, and giving. The format of this book is broken up into small segments of text with many illustrations. The reading level for this book is a beginning level, for young children.

In the classroom this book would be an easy add on to an art lesson. The students could be read this book aloud during class. Then, there could be an art lesson on painting. Each student would choose a scene out of this picture book to try and paint on their own. They could have the freedom to paint the scene however they would like, even if it doesn't look similar to what is in the book itself. Since the artwork in this book includes many primary colors, the class could also learn about what those include. This would be a good lesson for young elementary students from kindergarten to third grade.

Raschka, C. (2011). A ball for Daisy. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books.

Mary Ronan Drew says

Chris Raschka's *A Ball for Daisy* was given this year's Caldecott award for the best children's picture book of the last year. Once again (I'm getting to be a curmudgeon) I find the award-winner unworthy of the award.

If there is such a thing as a sentimental post-modern picture book, this is it. Daisy has a red ball, which she plays with and obviously loves. When at the park another dog plays too roughly and the ball deflates Daisy is bereft.

But when she goes again to the park the other dog has brought a blue ball to give to Daisy. You have here angst over the loss of something beloved and the sentimental replacement with something equivalent. The story reminds me of Job, who at the end of the story is given a new family and flock. As if they could replace what he has lost.

Publisher's Weekly gushes over the pictures, but I was not particularly impressed with them. A trained artist might understand the appeal, but I doubt children will. The artist uses color to reflect moods: yellow for happiness, lavender and purple for sadness. (There's a brilliant new idea.)

The book is for children in preschool to grade 2.

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Stacey Borrer says

A Ball For Daisy is a Caldecott Award Winning book that falls in the genre wordless picture book.

Summary:

This wordless picture book is about a dog named Daisy using the illustrations to convey the story and portraying the emotions that the dog feels about a particular red ball.

Critique:

A) The arrangement of the illustrations engage the reader in how the author may go to a full page spread to picture clips. It feels like you are watching a movie in slow motion where you put the story together yourself and provide your own words.

B) The way in which the illustrations are arranged every emotion that Daisy feels the reader is able to interpret and ultimately cannot help feeling as well.

C) Towards the beginning of the story the author provides the reader with illustrations depicting just how much Daisy's red ball means to her. When looking at the full page spread, on the left there are 4 horizontal illustrations where Daisy is on a couch, and on the right there is one illustration taking up the whole page ending that scene. These illustrations start by showing Daisy taking a nap, being tired, unsure, how she went to cuddle her ball, but wasn't completely comfortable, until she was cuddling her ball. Later on in the story when Daisy is napping the author uses the same couch and stages of illustrations (horizontally) to convey the sadness that Daisy is feeling from not having her ball. The arrangements of the illustrations provide a vivid picture of the emotions that are being felt by the characters in them ultimately affecting how the reader as well feels.

Curriculum Connection:

In the classroom this could be a good book to use to teach students about how you can read emotions through the illustrations of a book. After looking at the book together as a class, have students come up with their own words to the illustrations. This will teach them how to look at the illustrations and develop word associations. Not all students will have the same answer, which will be fun. This would be a good group activity. This book also teaches about friendship. Another good idea is have students create their own story through illustrations about friendship.

Mya says

The pictures were easy to follow to tell the story. However, it could use a few words to clarify some instances.

Kate says

The pictures are nice, but a wordless picture book about a dog just is not going to hold my attention. I like Grandpa Green a lot more.

Laura says

This is a wordless picture book about a white dog who loves her red ball. A brown dog starts to play with the white dog's ball and accidentally pops it. The brown dog's owner makes the situation right and replaces the popped ball with a new blue one. The white dog is happy again.

Update: I am changing my four star to a five star. My two year loves this book and is always wanting me to "read" this to her. I appreciate the large brush strokes and simple story that a toddler can enjoy.

babyhippoface says

Daisy dog loves her red ball more than anything. She plays with it and naps with it and takes it to the park. That's a mistake, though, because another dog likes her red ball, too, and he runs away with it. When Daisy tries to get it back, her beloved ball bursts. Daisy is devastated. Will she ever be happy and playful again?

I'll say it up front: I'm not a fan of Chris Raschka's illustrations. I can't really pinpoint why; there's just something about his style that doesn't appeal to me. It's...ugly. (Obviously, this would not have been my choice for the 2012 Caldecott.) However, he does a good job here of telling a wordless story. Daisy's face shows lots of expression, and even very young children should be able to follow the story.

Manybooks says

As a wordless picture book, Chris Raschka's [A Ball for Daisy](#) is sweetly expressive, and I do much appreciate and heartfully enjoy the simplicity of the featured "text" (in other words, even as someone who for the most part, who generally, finds written narrative much more easily understood and fathomed than illustrated pictorial images, I have indeed been able to figure out the entire storyline of [A Ball for Daisy](#) without difficulty, without any type of comprehension issues whatsoever, without the need for printed words). It is simply a tender little tale about a little dog whose favourite toy, a red ball, accidentally gets destroyed, gets popped by another dog. And I do so love that the ball gets replaced, that the owner of the dog who accidentally popped and destroyed the red ball brings another ball for Daisy, a blue ball, but a more than adequate and thoughtfully contrite replacement (although I do have to admit that while I appreciate, while I in fact adore how thoughtfully the destroyed and deflated red ball gets replaced, I kind of have to massively cringe at the image of Daisy's owner callously taking the flat remnants of the red ball away from Daisy and simply, callously tossing it into the trash with seemingly scant thoughts as to Daisy's feelings and that she might perhaps desire or even need to keep the deflated, the destroyed red ball as a kind of remembrance).

Three stars, for while I do much appreciate the illustrations of [A Ball for Daisy](#) and as pointed out above, very much enjoy and yes, even love, the wordless storyline (and the messages of contriteness, of owning up, of making up for mishaps even caused by accident), I cannot say that the presented, featured illustrations, that the images would in any manner be personal favourites, be all that much to my aesthetic tastes (I do realise and understand that this book, that [A Ball for Daisy](#) won the 2012 Caldecott Medal for Chris Raschka, a fact and scenario that I also have to at least personally question and wonder at a bit, because while the illustrations are indeed expressive, lively and sweet, they are just not all that spectacular to and for me personally, but then again, for the intended audience, they totally and likely will hit the proverbial sweet spot).

Jeanine says

A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka is a wordless picture book intended for ages three to seven (Preschool to 2nd). It vividly depicts the adventures Daisy and her ball. It clear that for Daisy this is more than just a ball, this is her best friend.

Wordless picture books are always great for reluctant and beginning readers. They enable the readers to tell the story from their point of view, and help the instructor grasp their comprehension methods. For the preschool age group this is a great way to introduce emotions. At an early stage they will begin to process the feeling of losing something very valuable to them. Responsibility can also be incorporated as a theme for the curriculum. The dog Daisy met at the park accidentally broke her ball, however, the owner took responsibility for the action and purchased a new ball for Daisy.

I was pleasantly surprised by this book. First, I was not expecting it to be a wordless book. I am very taken by the child like illustrations The watercolors allow the illustrator to have more fun with creating each character and object. Daisy is transparent. She is painted with thick, wavy lines giving us the illusion of very fluffy fur. Her ears, tail, nose and tongue are solid in color. The ball is smooth, round, not transparent, and bright red in color. Creating the ball with this dynamic will cause the readers eye to carefully follow the

bouncing ball. When followed the reader will of course realize just how special Daisy feels for her "friend". When Daisy experiences the loss of her friend, each reaction is expressed within a frame. From confusion, disbelief, denial, despair, and finally depressed acceptance, the use of water colors within the background calmly enhance her sorrow.

Marybeth Batie says

The story A Ball for Daisy is a wordless picture book about a dog that loves her red ball. A bigger dog then pops the ball and Daisy grows very sad. The book is told entirely by pictures; therefore the pictures show the dog playing with her ball a lot. The pictures are very vibrant in color but cartoon-like an unrealistic with the ball being almost as big as the dog. This is a great book for babies and young toddlers who are just learning how to talk or read because they can see the big, red ball on every page and develop a language. This book would lily only appear in a kindergarden class, but could be used to develop vocabulary by giving the students a work sheet with a word search including words such as ball, dog, run, etc. Another activity could be a coloring activity, but asking the students to color the ball in their favorite color. I think this book is great for young kids!

Raschka, C. (2011). A ball for Daisy. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books.

L13 Tracy Beling says

A Ball for Daisy is a wordless picture book which won the Caldecott medal in 2012. I fell in love with this book upon my first reading, but that could have to do with the fact that I have dogs myself and consider myself a "dog person". This is the story of a dog named Daisy that has a toy she loves completely. One of my favorite parts shows Daisy cozy up to her ball to sleep near it. She and her person go to the park to play, and another dog plays with the ball and it breaks. The rest of the story goes on to show how Daisy not only receives a new ball, but also a new friend. These are all ideas to which younger children can find a connection.

I do a unit in writing with my fifth graders using wordless picture books. They choose a wordless picture book and write the text for the story. I will definitely add this book to their choices. I think this would also be good to teach inferencing skills to primary students. Understanding feelings, loss, and friendship are themes that can be inferred from the story. The pictures are simple to understand and very colorful. The one area of difficulty for younger students may be that the pictures do not always follow the same pattern on the pages. Sometimes the pictures spread across both pages, one page, or there may be several pictures on a page, making it difficult to follow the story.

Candace says

Daisy the dog loves her red ball. She plays with it, cuddles with it and takes it to the dog park to chase it. While at the park playing with her red ball, a larger, brown dog joins the fun. Daisy chases after the brown dog to get her ball back when the red ball pops. Daisy is very sad over the loss of her toy. When next they go

to the dog park, however, Daisy's sadness turns to joy. The owner of the brown dog has brought Daisy a new blue ball. Soon the dogs are chasing the blue ball. When the play day is finished, the owners wave to each other and Daisy trots off holding her new blue ball.

This 2012 Caldecott Medal winner is a wordless picture book about a dog's love of her toy. Some of the pictures are in frames and some of the pictures are a full-page spread. I feel a child can easily interpret Daisy's emotions from the illustrations.

Cheryl says

This is the first time I've enjoyed illustrations by Chris Raschka. So expressive - no words necessary for sure! I loved how at first we didn't see the people's heads while the dog was concentrating on its ball, but when the ball was lost, the people became more interesting.

And the theme about recovering from a loss and keeping your eyes open for a new opportunity extends far beyond 'oh no, that was my smelly scuffed old red ball and a new blue one won't satisfy.' The ppl in "Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity" could learn a lesson from this book.

Kathryn says

Absolutely darling wordless picture book about super cute dog Daisy, who loves her red ball... until it pops! Will she find a new best friend, er, ball? I think many children will be able to relate to the idea of having a favorite toy, and some will know how it feels when you have to transfer that affection to something else.
