



## Up the Creek

*Nicholas Oldland*

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There once was a bear, a moose and a beaver who were the best of friends, though they often disagreed. So when the three friends go canoeing together one sunny day, it doesn't take long for them to start quarreling with one another. First, they can't decide who should get to steer the canoe. Later, they debate how best to get across a beaver dam that blocks their way. But when they can't agree on the proper course for maneuvering through the white-water rapids they suddenly find themselves in, the consequences become truly perilous. It takes a long, uncomfortable night spent stranded on a rock to remind the bear, the moose and the beaver what they often forget: everything turns out better when they work together as a team.

As with his other popular books in the *Life in the Wild* series, featuring these three lovable animal characters, author-illustrator Nicholas Oldland has created a funny romp of a picture book adventure for young children that will be a favorite choice in the classroom. Oldland's distinctive, simple and playful artwork tells much of the tale on its own, with lots of visual humor in the characters' facial expressions and the numerous asides throughout. At its core, this is a fun, contemporary fable that champions the importance of teamwork, cooperation and communication while also promoting the joys to be found in nature, specifically the wilder parts of the outdoors. This book could serve as an introduction to discussions on animals and their environments in the early grades as well.

## Up the Creek Details

Date : Published September 1st 2013 by Kids Can Press

ISBN : 9781894786324

Author : Nicholas Oldland

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## From Reader Review Up the Creek for online ebook

### Alice says

**3.25 stars** I fun book to talk about cooperation! A moose, beaver and a bear...

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### Chels Patterson says

Most Canadian book ever! Totally love it! Has great lessons and friendships and playing to your strengths.

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### Sue says

Funny little story about the need for cooperation and teamwork.

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### Kim says

Very cute book

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### Omid Milanifard says

An excellent story for kids for learning about team working.

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### Diane says

It's a miserable trip until Beaver, Moose and Bear figure out that they're going to have to cooperate with each other to get where they want to go.

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### Aimee Dars says

Best friends the bear, the moose, and the beaver take a canoe trip, but they have different ideas about who should steer and which direction they should go. In their bickering, they stop paying attention, and they enter fast-moving rapids and crash. Their arguing starts again as they disagree what to do. My favorite lines: "The bear wanted to throw the beaver to shore to get help. The beaver figured swimming to shore would be safer." After a night's rest, the three friend realize that the only way they can get home is to work together.

Up the Creek includes illustrations that are in my favorite style: they are funny and bold, with bright colors. I got a kick out of spotting the cute red bird that followed the friends on their adventure. The story itself shows

the importance of cooperation, and, to a lesser extent, to value diverse skills, since the friends succeed when they each contribute their particular talents. This is a great book to encourage discussions about how getting one's own way isn't always the best thing for children. I think kids will love the silliness of the characters and enjoy the narrative. They'll also learn words like portside and portage!

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### **Katy Vance says**

Hilarious! All my Canadian friends should know and love this book! They portage, eh?

A nice story about working together and getting out while the getting's good.

Funny, simple pictures that will appeal to young kids. This will be a really fun read aloud. Thanks to my sister and my nieblings for gifting me this one for Christmas.

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### **Katniss Lavender says**

Kouzelná kniha nejenom pro děti. Má vtipné a opravdu povedené ilustrace a jelikož se vlastně jedná o bajku, najdeme v ní i nějaká ta ponaučení...

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### **Misbah says**

A group of friends go on an adventure but run into trouble because they don't know how to work together well.

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### **Raegan Rocco says**

This little book made me laugh so hard...I totally love the illustrations! A wonderful little read about respecting our differences and learning to work together/conflict resolution and never giving up! Thanks for a great little story Nicholas!

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### **Joella [www.cinjoella.com](http://www.cinjoella.com) says**

A bear, a moose, and a beaver decide to go canoeing. Trouble is they all disagree about who is going to do what part of the canoeing. So they end up capsizing, going in circles, and doing everything else that they shouldn't do. Eventually they figure out just what they need to do in order to move forward. But they forget to pay attention to where they are going. And often rivers where you canoe tend to have "wild white-water rapids." All three friends have different strategies for dealing with the rapids, which leaves them stranded on a rock in the middle of the river. Now they have to figure out how to save themselves from being on the

rock. Moose wants to “burn the canoe to make a signal fire.” Bear wants to “throw the beaver to the shore to get help.” Beaver wants to swim to shore. Eventually they realize they could work together to paddle through the rapids and make it to shore. Where they eventually walk home instead of going on the river again.

This is a fun story. I love the spunky personalities of the three friends. I love the browns, blacks, greens, and blues of the book—only off set by the red canoe and the random bird that is never mentioned but who shows up in most of the illustrations. (Even in the last one with a canoe paddle.) Kids will enjoy reading about these crazy and unlikely friends who finally learn the lesson about working together to get through a crisis. And the small size of the picture book will help the little youngsters feel confident in holding the book and looking at it themselves.

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### **Slytano says**

I don't care about books in a series, but this one is really good. The concept of teamwork is provided.

The best part of this book is when the animals take a break from canoeing so they can relieve themselves.

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### **Exina says**

Funny story, awesome illustrations! *Up the Creek* is my favorite from the *Life in the Wild* series.

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### **Stacie says**

Disagreeable friends always wanting their way ruin what otherwise have been an enjoyable day in the woods. Read at Missoula airport.

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