



Bill and Pete

Tomie dePaola

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Tomie dePaola has created two memorable friends in this wonderfully funny picture book. Bill, the crocodile, and Pete, his "toothbrush" bird friend, were inspired by the Egyptian plover, which does indeed act as a crocodile toothbrush.

Their adventures together along the banks of the River Nile, which include Bill's first day at crocodile school and an encounter with the Bad Guy from Cairo, are filled with the originality and offbeat humor of this favorite author-artist.

Bill and Pete Details

Date : Published July 16th 1996 by Puffin Books (first published 1978)

ISBN : 9780698114005

Author : Tomie dePaola

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction, Animals, Humor, Adventure, Cultural, Africa

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From Reader Review Bill and Pete for online ebook

Dolly says

We just love books by Tomie dePaola and we like the books in the *Bill and Pete* series. The first book we read, *Bill and Pete Go Down the Nile*, had a bit more information about life in Egypt, but this one was a nice introduction to the characters and is a fun book for children who are learning to read. We have put *Bill and Pete To The Rescue* on hold at our local library and are looking forward to reading it.

Oct 2011 update:

We found a Netflix treat: we just watched *Shelley Duvall's Bedtime Stories*, which features animated adaptations of children's storybooks with celebrity narrators. This story was narrated by Dudley Moore and we just loved the format. It reminded us of the Tumblebooks animations that we occasionally watch online. As the book is narrated, we followed along with a slightly animated version of the illustrations. It was very entertaining and we really enjoyed watching all of the episodes on the DVD.

Jennifer says

This is an oldie but goodie for storytime for preschoolers (patient preschoolers). I read it to some kids this morning at "reptile storytime" and they LOVED the whole deal with Pete the toothbrush bird as well as the crocodile suitcases. Sure, calling the Bad Guy in the story "The Bad Man" might be a tad simple, but hello, it's a talking toothbrush bird! And, the Bad Man (here's a spoiler) runs away naked, which always gets the kids laughing. It was really fun to share this with the kids.

Patricia says

This is the first Bill and Pete book. Bill is really William Everett Crocodile. Pete is William Everett's toothbrush and best friend. (He is an Egyptian Plover, a bird known for allegedly dining on decaying meat between the crocodiles' teeth.)

William Everett's mama takes him to get a toothbrush the day before he begins school. He learns his alphabet well (it's peculiar, however, that an Egyptian crocodile learns a Western alphabet), but he has problems spelling his own name. Pete helps him by spelling it B-I-L-L.

One weekend Bill and Pete watch a bad man ride his bicycle with lots of cages full of crocodiles riding behind him. The bad man intends to turn the captured crocodiles into suitcases. Bill and Pete follow him to his house. When the bad man goes inside to take a bath, Pete picks the locks, freeing the crocodiles, and Bill goes inside to get even with the bad man.

It's cute. Not great, but it's fun to read it with young children.

Paula says

Super cute book!

Ellen says

Very cute book and great for teaching students about the Nile River.

Colin says

My kids (3 and 5) really LOVED this story about a Nile crocodile named Bill and his toothbrush (a bird) named Pete. Tomie dePaola is awesome!

Claire says

Tomie dePaola's story and drawings are irresistible. The illustrations alone are great, full of funny little details (e.g. the wrinkled old crocodile and toothbrush bird offering a warning...). Little ones do not tire of this book!

Karen says

3.5

Philip says

Gwennie: Wait! *Gwennie holds the book up to the screen* YEP! THIS IS IT! This is it. *Takes book away*

Dad: Ok. Lets

Gwennie: Wait! *Gwennie holds the book up to the screen again* YEP! THIS IS THE BOOK! *Takes book away* Give it 3 stars! Gwennie promptly leaves the room singing, "Bang, boom, bang-gali bong..."

Dad: So Gwennie said to give the book 3 stars, what do you think, El?

Eleanor: Uuh! I wanna give it FIIIiive stars! Or else I might get bummed. I might get bummed daddy. I might. get. bummed. Hey dad? Dad?!?

Dad: Hey, hold on. It's been a while since we've done a review right?

E: Right.

D: SOoooo... *saying so extra long so I can keep typing* You have to remember that I'm typing so you can't talk too fast. Ok?

E: Ok... And dad?

D: What?

E: If. Well, today... put where I played with my fingers in the review! I said, "Daddy finger! Daddy finger!" And I put them on your arm! Did that hurt?

D: Hey El? I know you like to put goofy things in your reviews, but lets keep this one about the book, ok?

E: *Sighs REALLY loud* Dad, I guess I don't want to do this review, because it's taking a while... a really long while.

Gwennie enters the room YELLING. I can't tell what she's saying.

Liz just said, "Phil, did you hear what she just said? She just said something really important."

She entered and started yelling again.

D: Gwennie! Gwennie! Come here and tell me again. I'm here for real this time.

E: It's hard to wait! I don't want to wait!

D: What was Gwennie saying?

E: She said it was popcorn day, and corn day at her preschool.

D: Ooo.. What should I write about that? Anything?

E: Uh-huh... Only I'm going to get out of here because this is taking TOO LONG.

D: Well tell about it.

E: Well, he had to get a toothbrush. AND HE PICKED PETE! He didn't want to get two toothbrushes, he only wanted to get one. And he went to school, and all the crocodiles said A, B, C,

D: Hold on a second, because you said something crazy. You said he was supposed to pick a toothbrush, and he picked Pete. That doesn't make sense. People aren't toothbrushes...

E: Birds. Birds are.

D: Birds are?

E: Birds are for crocodiles.

D: Birds are for crodiles.

E: They brush crocodiles' teeth. It takes all the food. Chk chk chkachka chk chk chka *Eleanor is brushing her teeth with her finger - pecking at them like a bird...*

E: And all the crocodiles went to school, and Mrs. Ibis said, "Repeat after me," and they all said, "ABCDEFG" and they went out to the river on a day there was no school, and a guy on his bicycle was passing by...

D: Hold on a second. We don't want to tell the whole story.

E: And we're not supposed to tell the *end*...

D: Right...

E: But there's only a couple at the beginning, and it's a VERY SHORT BOOK. So, if I can only review the beginning, I'll GET BUMMED! I just really want to, just for today.

D: But if you tell people what happened, they may not want to read the book. You want people to read the book, right?

E: Uh huh... A couple of the beginning, there's only 1. 2.3... 3 parts of the beginning, and THEN THE END! And then 4, 5.6.7.8.9.10 and then it's the END. A very short book.

D: Well, hold on a second. Let me ask you a different question. You've been talking about this book non-stop, right? For days, right?

E: Em hm... Right. Rightie-o.

D: So, why have you been talking about it so much?

E: Because I *LOVE* it. SO, so much.

D: Well, who do you like more, Bill or Pete?

E: Bill.

D: Why?

E: Because... ...Bill's... just because... HEY! Mom's calling your name, and I want to read the review!

D: Maybe we can read it after dinner, because I'm gonna go help your mom.

Liz says

Week 4:

Pete the bird is William "Bill" Everett's best friend and toothbrush. Pete goes everywhere with Bill and helps him in school. One day, when swimming in the River Nile, Bill is captured by a scary man who turns crocodiles into suitcases. Brave Pete stays close to his friend and helps him escape the scary man's cage. Wanting to teach the scary man a lesson, Bill decides to scare the man before he goes back home to his mama.

"Bill and Pete" is appropriate for ages 3+ (Grades PreK+).

Although targeted for a younger reading/listening audience, this book contains a great lesson in friendship. The illustrations are very simple, never containing complicated or intricate details, but yet remain entertaining and whimsical. Bill and Pete are inseparable. As weird as it was for a crocodile and a bird to be friends, the illustrations show that all crocodiles travel everywhere with their "toothbrushes." I found the scary man humorous because I think he looks like the logo for the pizzeria chain "Rocky Rococo."

Bari says

You can never go wrong with a book by Tomie dePaola

Kay Mcaloney says

This will be a fun read with my second grade reading group!

Fjóla says

This is the first book we read by Tomie dePaola, as far as I'm aware. This is wonderful slapstick humor for 4 - 5 year olds. The pictures are really bright and funny too. What can you say about a crocodile who forms an intense friendship with his bird toothbrush?

My son brought up this book during his last dentist check-up. Surprisingly the dental assistant had never heard of it. "Have you heard of Doctor De Soto?", he then asked her. Makes me question the literary background of dental hygienists ...

We'll probably borrow the next one in the series about Bill and Pete, even though I suspect it might not hold up ...

S. J. says

I don't know where I got this book because I had never read it before last night. A fact that surprised me because it was such a fun, enjoyable read!

As stated in other reviews, I love Tomie dePaola's work. This was no different, a book with simplistic yet beautiful illustrations and a funny, cute story that made me sad when I reached the end because I wanted to know about Bill and Pete!

Bill or William Everett is a young crocodile who lives on the Nile and gets a 'toothbrush' or a bird named Pete before he goes to crocodile school. They become friends and Pete helps him learn as well as becomes his friend. One of my favorite parts, though it was so sad, was William Everett's attempts to spell his long name while all the other kids with names like Sam and Kay, etc. and how Pete helped him. I was fortunate to have an easy name but my two siblings were less fortunate. I always felt that was unfair to them and to other children who worked so hard to learn their names while people like Jim and Bob and others took no time at all.

The major conflict as well as resolution had even me worried and quickly reading in order to find out our two characters would be all right.

This is a fun book that both parents and children will enjoy reading together. It might be a good choice for a child who has a hard name to write and is experiencing difficulties learning how to write it.

Goshen PL Childrens says

Read for Storytime November 14, 2018

Theme: Reptiles

This was the first time any of my kids had heard this funny story. I told them how it was one of my favorites as a kid and that there might be a spot where some shoots a moon. I think that was what made them sit and listen. There were giggles and maybe have some Bill and Pete lovers now.
