



Big Foot and Little Foot

Ellen Potter, Felicita Sala

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Hugo is a young Sasquatch who longs for adventure. Boone is young boy who longs to see a Sasquatch. When their worlds collide, they become the unlikeliest pair of best friends.

At the Academy for Curious Squidges, Hugo learns all manner of Sneaking—after all, the most important part of being a Sasquatch is staying hidden from humans. But Hugo dreams of roaming free in the Big Wide World rather than staying cooped up in caves. When he has an unexpected run-in with a young human boy, Hugo seizes the opportunity for a grand adventure. Soon, the two team up to search high and low for mythical beasts, like Ogopogos and Snoot-Nosed Gints. Through discovering these new creatures, together, Big Foot and Little Foot explore the ins and outs of each other's very different worlds but learn that, deep down, maybe they're not so different after all.

Big Foot and Little Foot Details

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From Reader Review Big Foot and Little Foot for online ebook

Paul Hankins says

I had originally pulled this book from the envelope and put it right on my reading stack as this IS an Ellen Potter book.

Look. . .Ellen Potter writes good books for kids. And in my humble opinion, she is probably one of the more quiet, under-celebrated gifts to children's literature right now. We can name a lot of names in the business and I hope that Ellen Potter is on your reading radar and one of those names that you share with your readers and your colleagues looking for good books for children.

But, back to this book. I have had colleagues recently looking for those "chapter books" for the younger reader. I thought about the layout of Bigfoot and Littlefoot and thought, "This is the book they are really looking for, but it isn't out yet."

And this is where I often come in (cue the music).

With larger texts and illustrations by Felicia Sala to guide the reader, the format for the book is perfect for that 6-9 reader group.

In her author's notes that accompanied the book, Ellen talks about how "intercultural mistrust" had been on her mind quite a bit as she began approaching this story of a Sasquatch who attends school with his friends (and the characters here are delightful and the long-suffering teacher is not to be missed for her reactions to her students, in particular Malcolm) and learns to keep himself hidden from humans. There are drills that address this very need.

And all of the students are progressing nicely through their studies until the day that Hugo, a Sasquatch, laughs at Boone, a human. A note is sent home with Hugo to discuss his infraction and this sets Hugo to think and to wish that he could go out into the larger world to explore the places that humans can go.

Through a series of interactions that happen aboard a small wooden boat sent to sail back and forth over a river, Hugo and Boone use letters (bringing in a genre that may actually be unfamiliar to young readers so don't just gloss over these) to learn more about one another to include the use of nicknames to describe who we are and how this can be hurtful whether intended or not.

When Hugo attempts to right a misunderstanding between him and Boone, an adventure on the river occurs and a story begins to take shape.

The promise of the 1 on the book's spine promises that this story might become a part of a series and this makes my reader heart happy for the reader's hearts I might reach by sharing this book with colleagues.

Martha says

Mysterious creatures are high interest for my audience, especially stories about the Sasquatch, or "Big Foot"according to the humans in this story. Hugo a young Sasquatch lives in the Widdershin's Cavern with

his family, all of the Sasquatches live under the protection of this large cavern secure from the "Big Wide World" where humans live. They have everything they need in their community, a school called the Academy for Curious Squidges, (squidge is the term for a young Sasquatch), a general store, and bakery, barber shop, Post Office, toy store, etc. Hugo has big dreams even though all of the squidges MUST stay in the cavern, except on special occasions when their teacher allows them to go into the "Big Wide World" to play Hide and Go Sneak. Hugo is not like the other children who follow the rules, he wants to become a sailor and sail the Big Wide World. This might be possible with the help of a "forbidden" human boy. Told with humor and sprinkled with whimsical illustrations that bring this delightfully clever tale to life, this is the first title in a series that kids will enjoy.

Laura Mossa says

Special thanks to Ellen Potter for sending an advance reading copy to our #bookexcursion group. All opinions are my own.

Hugo is a young Sasquatch who yearns for adventure in the Big Wide World but exploring beyond the North Woods is off limits. Why? Because the most important Sasquatch rule is never be seen by a human. During a class lesson on Hide and Go Sneak, Hugo accidentally laughs at the sight of a real human while observing a boy (whose name is Boone) blowing a dandelion. Sent home with a note from his furious teacher and punished by his parents, Hugo makes his own wish for adventure by sending his toy boat down a stream in his room. Hugo is amazed when his boat comes back with a plastic toy human from Boone. Perhaps this is the start of not only an adventure but also a new friendship!

Like Ellen Potter's Piper Green and the Fairy Tree series, Big Foot, Little Foot is sure to be a hit with transitional readers and their teachers. Young readers will easily relate to Hugo and his curiosity. Hugo and Boone also teach an important lesson about making assumptions before getting to know someone. The ending definitely leaves readers wanting more adventures with Hugo and Boone.

Look for Big Foot Little Foot's release soon in April 2018.

Kelli Gleiner says

Hugo, a Squidge (young sasquatch), is extremely curious about the Big Wide World, and especially about humans. His inquisitive nature gets him into trouble when he makes eye contact with, and laughs at, a human.

Although he isn't allowed to venture back into the Big Wide World for a while, he becomes penpals with Boone, the boy he met in the woods, via a little boat that floats outside of his home inside a cave. The world inside the cave has a school, several apartments, stores, and has a wonderful cast of Sasquatch characters.

This early-middle-grade novel will capture many young readers with its story of friendship, courage, and heart.

I am eager to see the finished artwork, as I read the ARC. My five year-old son and I enjoyed this book as a read-aloud, and we've already started re-reading it (he wouldn't allow me to pass it on to another bookseller!).

Pamela says

Big print and many pictures make it good for kids starting chapter books. Captured details of a Sasquatch community paint a vivid picture. Bothered me, though, that a river running through Hugo's room could both deliver messages downstream and back again, like it was a loop at a water park. And again, that Hugo was caught in rapids going downstream but didn't seem to have any problems w them returning upstream.

Ms. Yingling says

ARC from publisher at ALA

Another fun early reader title from Potter.

Cheriee Weichel says

How can you not love a book where children trade monster cards for stink sap and the school is organized like this?

“There were three classrooms in the Academy. Classroom One was for the younger squidges. Classroom Two was for squidges who are old enough to know better. Classroom Three was for squidges who thought they knew better than everyone else but really didn’t.”

Hugo is one of these young squidges in classroom One. On a sneaking expedition with his class he sees a human. By chance this same human, Boone, and Hugo end up writing letters to each other and eventually become friends.

Ellen Potter has created a world I want to be part of. I especially want to eat like a Sasquatch: hazel nut pancakes, wild mint juice, acorn butter and raspberry cream sandwiches, walnut pie, mushroom casserole, acorn butter cookies, gooseberry pie, walnut rumples, huckleberry trifles, and rosehip crunchers! There is a whole Sasquatch culture with baby Sasquatches called chuddles. That’s going to be my new word for my grand babies!

Ellen Potter never lets her readers down! I can’t wait to read the further adventures of Hugo and Boone.

Stephanie says

I read this book for something easy and quick, but also hopefully humorous! This book was definitely a quick read - although it would be a good read for a transitioning reader moving from picture books to chapter books. I thought the story was very cute! I do wish Hugo and Boone (the characters on the front of the book) met earlier on in the story, but since it is a short book I'm sure they'll get more "screen-time" in follow up books in the series.

Laura N says

I received this copy from the publisher at TLA in April 2018.

Hugo lives in apartment 1G with his parents and his older sister. Everyday, he and his friends go to school, where they practice not being seen by humans. This is because Hugo and his friends are Sasquatch. Or, to be more pexact, they are 'squidges'--young Sasquatch. One day, Hugo is seen by a human boy named Boone and the expereince is life changing for them both.

Big Foot and Little Foot is a cute beginner chapter book about friendship and adventure. The Sasquatch 'secret life' is fun take on the elusive creature. The book is the first in a series, so young Bigfoot enthusiasts will have more to look forward to.

Angelika says

Hugo is a young sasquatch, who lives in a cavern with his and other families. He wants to be a sailor and have adventures, but he learns in school how to hide when he's outside. When he meets a human boy they become friends, first through letters, then Hugo goes to find Boone at his home to clear up a misunderstanding. And learn to get over stereotypes and mistrust to become friends. - A great story for this age, lots of detail, larger print, good illustrations and characters (annoying older sister, smart friend, stressed teacher, worrywart mom).

Dawn says

I can't wait to share this one with my class. They love trading cards and in this book children trade monster cards for stink sap. It would be a great read aloud.

I think they will also love how the school is organized:

There were three classrooms in the Academy. Classroom One was for the younger squidges. Classroom Two was for squidges who are old enough to know better. Classroom Three was for squidges who thought they knew better than everyone else but really didn't.

Totally logical!

Stephen Baird says

This is the story of Hugo and Boone, a story of friendship and adventure.

Hugo is a Sasquatch and Boone is a Human and the two were never meant to meet, fear of discovery keeping Sasquatch society hidden as they think that humans will either want to capture or kill them.

Hugo wants adventure and is bored of the restricted life of a young Sasquatch and he wants to see the world

and one day he sees a human.

This is a fun story about how two societies see each other and overcoming fear to become friends.

The series looks like it is going to continue with the adventures of Big Foot and Little Foot in their search for other mythical creatures as Boone wants to be a cryptozoologist.

The illustrations by Felicita Sala are cute and match the story so well.

Margaret Boling says

8/15/2018 ~~ An amazing friendship story with an insider/outsider perspective. Kids will love the idea of making friends with an imaginary creature; they'll also get a kick out of the ways the sasquatch's experiences with school and parents is so similar to our own. Adults will appreciate the ways in which our own biases prevent kids from new experiences. Big Foot, otherwise known as Hugo, desperately wants to know more about humans. His adventure leads him beyond his community's stereotypes and enables him to expand everyone's experience.

Absolutely lovely.

Chris says

Some people claim to have seen Sasquatches, or at least evidence of them, but those sightings are rare and impossible to prove. There's a reason for that. Sasquatches are excellent at hiding and sneaking. It's even one of the main subjects their children (squidges) study in school: Hide and Go Sneak. They learn to be experts at being unseen.

Which is all well and good for avoiding awful Humans, but it also means avoiding most of the big, wide world. It means living in a cave and never having adventures, rarely even getting to venture outside at all. And young squidge Hugo longs for adventure. He dreams of seeing the world and discovering all its marvels. So when he has an accidental encounter with a young Human, he can't help but be curious. Are Humans really as bad as he has been taught? He might just find out.

A highly appealing and relatable story for young readers.

Jennifer says

Big Foot and Little Foot is a cute story for children showing the importance of not judging someone without actually getting to know them.

Hugo is a Sasquatch who has heard terrible things about humans, but when he finally has a chance to see one up close, he risks everything for that one peak. He is soon has a secret involving Boone, a child. As Hugo grows closer to Boone, the reader wonders what the rest of the Sasquatch will do if they see one of the humans they fear so much. Hugo and Boone have to work together to stop the stereotypes plaguing both

sides.

Once you get to know someone, the differences don't seem as big, even if you are a Sasquatch and a human.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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