



## A Balloon for Isabel

*Deborah Underwood , Laura Rankin (Illustrator)*

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Balloons are bright and floaty and shiny and *perfect*.

More than anything else in the whole wide world, Isabel wants a balloon. Everyone will get one on Graduation Day—everyone except the porcupines, because Porcupines + Balloons = Trouble

But Isabel isn't going to settle for another boring bookmark. She has a plan. . . .

## A Balloon for Isabel Details

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Author : Deborah Underwood , Laura Rankin (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review A Balloon for Isabel for online ebook

### Diane says

Isabel and Walter will not receive a balloon for graduation, though all the others in the class will. You see, they're porcupines and **Porcupines + Balloons = Trouble**. So, Isabel starts trying to solve this problem before graduation day.

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### June says

This is my favorite picture book for this year. I think it would be wonderful for a strong female story time for March. I was just entranced by Isabel. Her planning, perseverance, and imagination are heartwarming. The writing is perfect from the "No fair" that begins the story. The tone "Isabel wanted a balloon more than anything" is perfect for the picture book crowd. The solution will please everyone.

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### Treasaa says

Graduation from Kindergarten is just two days away, and Isabel is determined to have a balloon. All the other graduates will have balloons, but not the porcupines - it isn't safe for a porcupine to hold a balloon. Isabel's determination and creativity bring about a delightful resolution to this problem.

This book is just delightful. The illustrations perfectly complement the sweet, fast-paced, completely fun text. I love that Isabel doesn't give up - she is determined to have a balloon! And she isn't just doing it for herself, but for all the other porcupines, too. I LOVE the ending - it left me with a huge smile on my face. And hooray for celebrating the simple things in life - balloons really are fun. :)

(As a side note, I have to say that I think it's pretty funny that it's considered ok for the other children to have balloons around the porcupines, but not for the porcupines to hold the balloons themselves. Do the adults really think that just because the porcupines aren't holding the balloons that no balloon will touch one of their quills? Seriously?)

Lovely book. I will definitely recommend it to people who come to my library, looking for a good picture book.

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### Amandasaved says

My daughter and I read this book everyday last week. She picked it because she is really into balloons and balls and the moment. (She's almost 2). Deborah Underwood did a fantastic job of relying the importance of the porcupine's struggle, and ultimately her victory against those who think porcupines don't deserve balloons.

To be honest, the story reads on many levels and we believed the moral of this story was: Your dreams may

seem impossible, but if you think outside the box, you can accomplish anything.

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### **Caroline Daniel says**

- o Summary: Isabel is a porcupine who is about to graduate. All of the other kids who are graduating get a balloon. None of the porcupines can have balloons because their teachers says that they will just pop. Isabel and her friend Walter try to think of different ways that they can make sure that they will get a balloon instead of a silly bookmark. Finally Isabel covers herself in small candies that way she cannot poke and pop her graduation balloon.
  - o Grade level: 2nd
  - o Appropriate classroom use would be a good to read during story time or a good book to have on your bookshelf.
  - o Individual students who might benefit from reading would be anyone. It is a fun book to read!
  - o Small group use: Students could read it to each other by taking turns reading a page each.
  - o Whole class use: Could be read during story time.
  - o Related books in genre/subject or content area: none
  - o Multimedia connections available: none
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### **Lynn Davidson says**

Isabel wants a graduation balloon like the other animal students will receive, but since she is a porcupine her teacher says no - because her quills will pop it. Isabel tries different ideas to convince her teacher, but it's the day before graduation that she gets her best idea. This is an adorable story with delightfully charming illustrations.

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### **Meg McGregor says**

Isabel and her friends are graduating and she is so looking forward to the graduation balloons!

But porcupines aren't given balloons because of their sharp quills.! And Isabel has her heart set on getting a balloon!

How she accomplishes this is a delight to read. Well done and very cute illustrations!

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### **Luann says**

What a cute book! I love Isabel and her creative solution to her balloon problem. This makes me wish I taught kindergarten so I could read this aloud to them! :)

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## **Margaux Brink says**

Summary: Isabel the porcupine and her friend Walter are excited, but they have one problem: they do not get to receive balloons like all the other students because their spikes are too dangerous. Every year porcupines get bookmarks for every celebration while all the other students receive a fun balloon. Her porcupine teacher Ms. Quill discourages Isabel from wanting a balloon by showing a problem with all of her possible solutions to getting a balloon despite her spikes. Isabel is determined to have one so she tries dressing her and Walter in all kinds of outfits to attempt at hiding the spikes such as pillows, bubble wrap, and even wearing a box stopper, all of which failed. Finally the day before graduation, Isabel comes up with the idea of using the jelly beans at Walter's house to cover up each spike on her. She shows up to school and even Ms. Quill is impressed. Isabel, Walter, and Ms. Quill all get a balloon to hold at graduation finally.

Theme: The theme of this book is to never give up even if others tell you there is no possible way. Perseverance can be seen through Isabel when she finally comes up with a solution to her problem.

Personal Response: This book is such a great example that no one should ever give up whether it is in school, sports, friendships, or even things that would take a miracle. When I was in 4th grade, I had a staph infection that ate apart my lower spine and the doctors told me I would never be able to do any type of intense physical activity much less do the one thing I truly had a passion for—dance. Because I loved dance so much, I did everything I could to rehabilitate my body in order to do it again. After 6 months of lots of physical therapy, ballet retraining, back braces, home care visits, and pic lines, I was able to dance all the way through high school and even in my first year of college. Because I did not give up, I was able to overcome an obstacle that seemed impossible, just like Isabel did.

### Recommendations:

I recommend this book to read to children in early elementary school as a parent. This is an important life lesson that every child needs to hear: never give up on anything because there is always a solution. This book would also be great in classrooms to teach the lesson from a teacher's perspective.

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## **Mary Ann says**

Do your children ever feel doomed by impossible rules? Or are they the sort who will do anything to come up with a creative solution? Isabel is a determined optimist. A Balloon for Isabel brought a smile to my face and brightened my day. This is perfect for a birthday or end-of-year treat, either for a sunny optimist or a little kid who needs some encouragement. It will bring sweet laughter, reminding us all that a little creative thinking will solve the prickliest of problems.

Isabel's school has a special celebration at the end of the year. Every child receives a special balloon on graduation day – everyone, except the porcupines. Isabel's teacher tells her that the porcupine's quills would pop their balloon, scaring the children. Instead, they'll get a a lovely graduation bookmark.

In Isabel's eyes, that's "No fair." Isabel is angry and disappointed, but she's also determined to figure out a way to get a balloon on graduation day. Isabel and her friend Walter, a fellow porcupine, try all sorts of solutions so their quills won't pop the balloons: wearing giant boxes, strapping pillows onto each other, and wrapping themselves in packing bubbles. Isabel finds the perfect solution when she sees a bowl of gumdrops. They're perfect to top her quills and make them pop-proof! Isabel is happy as can be, as is her

teacher.

Deborah Underwood's writing flows naturally and smoothly, as she leads us through Isabel's plans to solve her problems. Laura Rankin's illustrations are a joy. They are bright and expressive. She makes the most of the children's emotions, ranging from frustration and disappointment to determination and excitement.

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### **Taylor says**

this book is about two porcupines, there about to graduate with all of their class mates. for graduation all of the kids except them get balloons. Isabel tries to persuade her teacher to get balloons instead of bookmarks but she wouldn't budge. the teacher is also a porcupine. she and Walter try to come up with ideas to cover up their quills but none of it works. until Isabel put gumdrops on their quill. so the next day she got a balloon. including her teacher who also used her idea.

I really enjoyed this book because of the adversity the porcupines over come.

I could use this book in my class to show the students that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. it is a great text that you could relate a discussion to also.

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### **Kathryn says**

Very cute. I love Isabell's ingenuity and tenacity. If only this was about hedgehogs instead--but porcupines here are cute, too ;-)

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### **Anina says**

Cute story about negotiating rules in a healthy way, fun for 3-5's story times.

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### **Sheri says**

This story about a porcupine child wanting a balloon for her graduation and not being allowed because of her quills and the chance of popping hers. She finds a way to get her balloon and not a paper substitute. All the other woodland animals will get balloons but she and her friend are denied one due to their quills. Discover her great ideas to protect the balloons from her quills. Fun story and creative porcupine with time running out. See how she surprises someone else.

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### **Stephanie says**

This book made me feel injustice and then joy. Wonderful illustrations!

