



Zella, Zack and Zodiac

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Zella the zebra helps Zack the ostrich when he is young and helpless. When he grows up Zack returns the favor by saving Zella's young offspring from a lion.

Zella, Zack and Zodiac Details

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Author : Bill Peet

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From Reader Review Zella, Zack and Zodiac for online ebook

Tina says

Theme: friendship/helping one another/rhyming

Summary: A story about a zebra who helps an ostrich when he is young and helpless and when the ostrich gets older he returns the favor by saving the zebra's baby from a lion.

Samantha wickedshizuku Tolleson says

What a great lesson this teaches! Never forget a debt, and your life will be richly rewarded. By either helping or receiving the help.

Julia says

Within this crazy world that we live in there is often a lot of misunderstood ideas of mothers, who they are and what part they should play. For those who are actually in the role and normally as a stand-in it can be a bristly situation while one that is full of worries such as whether or not you have raised them right, if they remember you and whether you have touched their lives. And Bill Peet confronts these issues with this particular book.

The story is wonderfully done in rhyme and that showcases the author's talents for not many people are able to rhyme umbrella or some of the other words that he throws around. At the same time within his rhymes he shows that natural personalities of his characters and the map of what it is like to take on the burden to raise one that isn't your own.

The illustrations are not classic Peet in as much sense as the animals have maintained more an animal-like appearance with a few human faces although the villainous animals seem to have been more humanized. Furthermore the reader is taken into the savannah and although there isn't a large showcase of the numerous animals one would find there the few characters that are mentioned and/or shown are typical of some of the more famous creatures that one thinks about when it comes to the African plains.

All in all a sweet and enjoyable story while one of those few heart-warming stories that would be great to share with your mother on Mother's Day.

Luann says

How fun to find a Bill Peet I hadn't read yet! This is a story about the love of mother to child and the good that can happen when you do a good turn. Classic Bill Peet with the awesome illustrations to match.

Audrey says

Bill Peet - This book is a great book to teach the about the golden rule. Everyone should look out for each other and help each other out.

Rachel says

I rather enjoyed this little story from Bill Peet, as did my son, who has become one of my favorite children's book writers this year. Zella the zebra discovers an abandoned ostrich chick and rescues him by letting him ride on her back. She adopts him and names him Zack. As he gets older and can no longer ride on her back, they become distant. Eventually she has her own child, an awkward colt named Zodiac who is always tripping over his own hooves, a real danger when predators are lurking all around. Zella believes she has lost Zack forever until he rescues Zodiac from a lion. From then on, he is Zodiac's protector. Recommended for ages 5-8, 3 stars.

Jo says

I absolutely love and adore the work of Bill Peet. His books are perfect in each and every way and with each book I read, I fall more and more in love with his stories. They're all beautifully illustrated and deliver gentle lessons using animals that are sure to win over even the most reluctant reader. *Zella, Zack and Zodiac* is definitely a new favourite!

Zella the zebra is passing by with her herd when she stumbles upon a lonely and scared baby ostrich who has been abandoned by his mother. She adopts the little ostrich, naming him Zach and allows him to ride on her back where he is kept safe from danger and predators. Eventually Zach becomes too big to ride on Zella's back and spends more and more time on his own and Zella fears that Zach has forgotten all about her and how she took him under her wing when he was very small.

They meet amongst the herd one day where Zella shares the news that she's expecting a baby of her own and soon little Zodiac is born. Zodiac is perfect in every way, except for his enormous feet that cause him to stumble and fall if he ever attempts to trot. This unfortunately puts him in danger of becoming prey for the lions that are lurking nearby...

I don't want to give anyway the entire story, but the ending is beautiful and lovely and perfect, just like all of the endings of Bill Peet's books. <3

A child's home library just isn't complete without Bill's books!

Simon Jongekryg says

Zack is an ostrich who was born without his mother to take care of him. One day Zella finds Zack and decides that she will raise this ostrich as her own until he grows up and can protect himself from the dangers all around. When Zack grows up he ends up staying with Zella. One day Zella has a baby boy zebra named

Zodiac. Now Zodiac is the one that needs to be taken care of. A lion almost captured Zodiac but thanks to Zack he was saved. This book was unique because it utilized rhyming throughout the entire story which made it flow really nicely. The story also had the underlying theme of friendship and helping each other which is a positive thing for students to learn at a young age.

Stephanie A. says

I'm usually not as fond of his rhyming books, but I make an exception for this one. The Z-names roll off the tongue, and the fierce loyalty between mother and funny-looking adopted son gets me right in the heart every time. Plus, who can forget Zodiac, the colt with the disproportionately giant hooves?

Umfaa says

Bonolo and I discovered this delightful author by browsing the shelves at the library. He recognized the Zebra on the cover and wanted to know what the other words were that started with Z. His Z vocabulary consisted of Zebra and Zoo before this book. It is a fun read. The author has a list of books that all teach lessons.

Ronyell says

I have read many of Bill Peet's works in the past, but I had never read a story from Bill Peet that dealt with family issues such as adopting a child and handle the issue with such care. "Zella, Zack and Zodiac" has proven to be one of Bill Peet's most heartwarming books that I had ever read!

The story starts off with a baby ostrich chick named Zack who had just hatched out of his egg and it was then that he discovered that his mother had left him when she heard a lion's roar in the distance and had taken the other chicks with her. Suddenly at that moment, a zebra herd came zooming by and Zack tried to yell up at them to help him, but none of the zebras took any notice of Zack. However, one zebra managed to hear Zack and came to his aid. The zebra was named Zella and she decided to raise Zack as if he was her own child and the two had so many dangerous and heartwarming adventures on the savanna together. But unfortunately, as Zack the ostrich chick got much older, he started to ignore Zella and Zella started to worry about whether or not Zack remembered how she raised him for all those years and if he still considers her his mother. Luckily, it turned out that Zack remembered Zella and how she raised him and he ended up greeting her after a few years apart from her. It turns out that Zella is pregnant and she is expecting a baby soon and she planned to call her child Zodiac. When Zodiac was finally born, Zella was overjoyed, but then she realized that there was something different about Zodiac...

What is so unique about Zodiac and are Zella and Zack still together?

Read this book to find out!

In all the times that I had read Bill Peet's books, I never would have thought that I would stumble upon a Bill

Peet book that would detail the importance of family while also discussing about adopting a child who is different from you. Bill Peet has done a splendid job at portraying the relationship between Zella the Zebra and Zack the Ostrich as they truly care for each other, despite their different appearances and I loved the way that Zella went to great lengths to protect Zack from any danger in the savanna as it shows how much of a good adopted mother she is towards Zack. I also loved the fact that Bill Peet made this book much more heartwarming than most of his works as it focuses on a zebra mother's love for both her adopted child and her real child and it made the book extremely touching to read through. Bill Peet's artwork is as beautiful as ever as we get to see the savanna in all its glory and I loved seeing the images of Zack riding on Zella's back as they run across the savanna as it makes it a truly iconic image for this book!

Overall, "Zella, Zack and Zodiac" is a truly heartwarming book about the importance of family and how two unlikely species managed to become a truly close and effective family. I would recommend this book to children ages five and up since there is nothing inappropriate in this book, unless the scenes of the various predators going after Zella, Zack and Zodiac might scare some children.

I would like to thank Wickedshizuku for recommending me this book!

Review is also on: Rabbit Ears Book Blog

Annburnett says

This is about an ostrich who grew up with a zebra.

Siskiyou-Suzy says

Zella, Zack and Zodiac might work in a preschool classroom for studying the letter Z or looking at African animals. It's a little long for a picture book. There's nothing wrong with the story, not really -- it's basically about adoption and repaying debts -- but it also isn't really my thing.

Lisa Vegan says

This book is yet another winner from Bill Peet.

Every time I looked at an animal in the illustrations, I smiled. That's the effect they had on me.

This is a lovely little story about parenthood, caretaking, dependence, independence, growing up, and love.

Ashley says

Such a precious story about helping each other.
