



Clara and Asha

Eric Rohmann

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In *Clara and Asha* -- as in Eric Rohmann's Caldecott Medal-winning *My Friend Rabbit*--a simple storyline becomes the basis for fun and sophistication. Clara's friend Asha is an enormous fish, which means that hide-and-seek, Halloween, snow days, and afternoons in the park offer surprising opportunities for adventure. With oil paintings that playfully suggest stories within stories and convey great emotional range, this is a captivating book about the special world of a child's imagination--where a giant fish might come to visit, and the things you do and the things you feel with an imaginary friend are intensely real.

Clara and Asha Details

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Author : Eric Rohmann

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy, Animals, Storytime, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy

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From Reader Review Clara and Asha for online ebook

Michelle Ty says

This book was about an girl having a hard time to sleep at night, and her mind is up and is being creative throughout the whole night, with imaginary friend Ash, who is a fish.

Clara and Asha was all over the place. I think that went along with how the book was about, which was a girl being imaginative and open minded. She used a lot of her creativity and believe in the adventures she went on with her imaginary friend.

Genre was realism. I believe this has happened to many of us when we were really creative and had imaginary friends when we were really young.

I picked this book to read because to be hones I thought the front was really interesting and different from other books, yet it seemed creepy. I read this to my younger sisters and they also thought it was creepy. I have mixed feelings after reading the book and I think I forever will because in a way, this author took a lot of thought and made it very creative, but I think some people may find it creepy to read especially to kids or many can relate to it. It depends on the person.

A lot of the colors were dark because her imaginative mind was at its peak at night when she was nearing to go to bed. The illustrations for this book took up most of the page, while the text was usually at the corner of the page or sometimes not there at all, because the author wanted some part of the illustrations to tell the story too.

Rilee says

“Clara and Asha” is a story about a little girl named Clara who uses her wild imagination to create many of her friends. One of her most special friends is Asha who is a giant fish. From tea parties to floating on bubbles in the night sky, Clara and Asha experience many exciting adventures together. The illustrations in this book capture the genuine and deep friendship between Clara and her friends.

This would be a great book to use for a creative writing assignment. Each student will have a turn to take their own “Asha” home with them for the day. The teacher will provide the stuffed fish toy. When the student returns with the toy, they will write and illustrate their own story about the adventures they had. The students will share their stories with the class. This is an excellent lesson for building students’ comprehension of story structure and creative writing.

Sofia Davis says

I thought the picture book "Clara and Asha" by Eric Roshman was a very creative and fun book for children to read and even relate to. It begin with a young girl named Clara who has to get ready for bed but had trouble because of an imaginary fish friend she has, and whose name is Asha. Clara begins telling how her and Asha first met in the park (Asha was a statue fish on a fountain) and how from there she took Asha home and introduced her to all her other imaginary animal friends. Clara and Asha become close friends in the book and Clara even based her halloween costume of being a fisher off of Asha. As well, her and Asha have fun playing in the snow and spending time together. She then shows how when it's almost time for her bed time, her and Asha will play and swim in the sky. But then when Clara's mom tells her that it is time for bed, Asha leaves and Clara is then greeted by her other imaginary alligator friend. The book ends with Clara

saying how she can't help it that she has so many friends.

This picture book is a fun, imaginative, and creative book for young children to read and to have read to them. It can allow children to use their imaginations and closely relate to Clara with having imaginary friends. The book's words and story line was simple and easy enough for a child to read and understand, as well the pictures were colorful and mostly took up the entire page with little words. There were some pages that were entirely pictures and no words showing how Clara and her imaginary friend Asha would play. These pictures often showed more than just one scene of Clara and Asha playing together, but rather showed several pictures of them playing and swimming in the sky together. This allows children to understand and interpret the book through looking at the pictures rather than just reading the text. What I thought was the best about this book was how Roshman used simple text yet had elaborate and colorful pictures which told the story better than just reading it.

Whitney Leanhart says

I liked this book and all the adventures it takes the reader on. This little girl Clara has all these friends she hangs out with. Asha being one of them. Before bed Clara goes to many places with Asha.

Rebecca Gomez says

I love Eric Rohmann's art, but I wasn't impressed with the story in this book.

Kaitlin Heaton says

picture book

Fun story about a child with an imagination.

Seema Rao says

Sweet book about a child's many imaginary animal friends, told in text and painted illustrations.

mary dewley says

I loved Rohmann's beautiful and lush illustrations that invoke a wonderful dreamy quality and take us back to when we were children playing with our imaginary friends!

Tiffany Fox says

Title: Clara and Asha

Author: Eric Rohmann
Illustrator: Eric Rohmann
Publisher/Date: Roaring Brook Press (Holtzbrinck)/ 8/1/2005
Pages/Format: 40/ Hardcover
ISBN: 9781596430310

In Clara and Asha -- as in Eric Rohmann's Caldecott Medal-winning My Friend Rabbit -- a simple storyline becomes the basis for fun and sophistication. Clara's friend Asha is an enormous fish, which means that hide-and-seek, Halloween, snow days, and afternoons in the park offer surprising opportunities for adventure. With oil paintings that playfully suggest stories with stories and convey great emotional range, this is a captivating book about the special world of a child's imagination - where a giant fish might come to visit, and the things you do and the things you feel with an imaginary friend are intensely real.

Told to you by Clara, she speaks of her awaiting her Asha, a giant blue fish who comes to her when she leaves her window open. She says they met in the park, where she saw a huge water fountain with blue fish spouting out the water.

This isn't just an adventure with her Asha, although that is the main theme. Clara tries to go to sleep but she has so many imaginary friends that come visit her before bed, that she must go on adventures with them. I love her imagination, turning all her stuffed animals and things she sees around her, and out of her house to life.

The artwork is wonderfully done. The shadows are amazing, and the play with bubbles and fish are a fun connection. All the details on each really make you linger on the pages longer and longer the more intertwined Clara's story becomes. I specially liked when Clara, on Halloween, gets help from Asha with her costume. She went as a fisherman.

Not only does Eric Rohmann write Clara and Asha but also painted it. I truly believe there is a special bond that takes place between writing and illustrating. Sometimes, bringing in an illustrator isn't the best for the story. There is a protectiveness that occurs. I love the detail that Rohmann placed through the title. From the combination of bubbles when Asha appears to small additions of stuffed animals and other minor details that is slowly revealed through the book. My first reading through I didn't put together that the alligator was one of Clara's stuffed animals, and then you see him in her imaginary form shortly before she is to fall asleep again. Everything about this book makes it a must add to any one's library.

I recommend for anyone who has an imagination, loves animals, adventures, stuffed animals, and not going to bed when told too.

originally posted: <http://tiffanyfoxbooks.blogspot.com/2...>

Tamara says

What a lovely, lovely book.

I have a theory that you can often judge a book based on the names of the characters. If that is true, this one is no exception. Clara and Asha rock.

Favorite page:

And tonight? Tonight we play in the sky.

N_kellie says

Clara and Asha is an imaginative, fantasy that's gorgeous oil paintings hooked me from the first page (well, the cover actually!) Eric Rohmann, author of *My Friend Rabbit*, has written and illustrated this story of a friendship between Clara and her enormous fish friend, Asha. Young protagonist Clara, who is probably 5 or 6, explains that she met Asha in the park. Asha is a fountain fish, made of stone. Asha becomes Clara's new imaginary friend, who she shares many adventures with. They play in the tub, have tea with her other friends (imaginary of course), go out on Halloween, play in the snow and play in the sky. The detailed, painted illustrations allow the readers imagination to let loose as it is captivated by Clara's imagination. My favorite pages are the wordless ones where Clara is lifted out her bedroom window and into the sky by a bubble she has blown. She drifts along, and when the bubble pops. she is caught by Asha, then she flies down to her house when her mother calls, "Clara, time for bed."

Although this story is for perfect bedtime, it definitely has its place in the classroom. I always think a book with wordless pages goes very well with inferring, because the reader needs to make sense of what the author is telling them through illustrations. It is also a great story of friendship and allows for text to self connections with the idea of an imaginary friend.

Katy says

Sweet and short. I love the art. Definitely a future storytime option.

Lisa says

Imaginative

Alexandria says

Clara and Asha is a story about a young girl who uses her wild imagination to create many of her friends. One of her most special friends, Asha, is a giant fish whom she thinks up after seeing a fish fountain at the park. From tea parties to snow days to floating on bubbles in the night sky, Clara and Asha experience many exciting adventures together.

The beautiful oil painting pictures within this story help captivate reader's into feeling the joy and excitement that is having an imaginary friend. Although centered on a pretend concept, Rohmann does an amazing job bringing the unreal to life. Personally I never had an imaginary friend growing up, but after reading this story this is how I would have liked it to be!

Uses in the Classroom:

•Creative writing assignment: Teacher brings in a stuffed animal that represents the imaginary friend, Asha, from the story. Each student takes it home for a day. When students return with the toy, they will write and illustrate their own story about the adventures they had and share it with the class.

Amanda says

Summary:

This is a story about friendship that won the Caldecott medal in 2003. The friendship is between the little girl Clara, and the very large fish named Asha. This story is about imagination and the pictures do a great job of representing that. There is very little text on the page and the pictures speak for themselves. The story begins with Asha coming to Clara before bedtime through the window. The fish and girl met in the park when Asha was a part of a fountain. They then played together, bathed together, went out on Halloween together, and many more fun things friends like to do with each other. Asha then takes Clara out in the sky flying on bubbles before she has to go to sleep. The book ends with Clara then going to bed, but being awoken by a new friend... Alligator.

Reflection:

I was so excited when reading this book about friendship for a few different reasons. Currently I am doing a literacy unit on friends with my students and they were having a hard time understanding who can be a friend. I was trying to teach them that more than just kids can be either friends. This book is such a beautiful representation of friendship and it is friendship of the imagination. The book is very simple in the text, but the pictures really speak for themselves. I loved that the girl valued this large fish as her friend and that she let her imagination run wild during all parts of the day. Not only was this book well written and at a very basic level, but I feel that deeper discussions could come from this book to really have students dive into the text and the meaning of it. This was a great fantasy book for young readers because it was something they could all relate too. Each student has a time each night to go to bed and they are all just starting to come to school. I would love to somehow integrate this book into my friendship unit when I get the chance to teach it again. I think it would be a perfect way to get in a new genre that my students have not been exposed to much within the literacy series and curriculum.
