



Oliver

Syd Hoff

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Oliver has always wanted to be a dancing elephant, but what will he do when he discovers the circus already has enough elephants? Beginning readers will laugh out loud as they follow Oliver's adventures and find out how this elephant of unique charm and talent finally achieves his dream. Now available in full color!

Oliver Details

Date : Published April 5th 2000 by HarperCollins (first published 1960)

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Author : Syd Hoff

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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From Reader Review Oliver for online ebook

Danette says

I love Syd Hoff

7/18/17 Read with Julia.

Michelle says

I bought this book based on its cover, as it looked like something I had read in my childhood. Plus it was about an elephant and I love elephants.

Elizabeth loved the story, but then again she isn't too picky.

The story is about Oliver the elephant who wants to be part of the circus. The circus man turns Oliver away because he only wanted 10 elephants, not 11. Oliver then wanders about the city, willing to be anything anyone wanted him to be (Thank heavens he wasn't a teenaged girl or this would have been an entirely different story.) He just can't fit in anywhere. Finally, by just being himself with the encouragement of some little friends he gets his wish.

Rosa Cline says

This is about an elephant named Oliver. He comes to join a circus but when they count all the elephants they only needed 10 not 11 so they send Oliver away. He tries to find where he belongs and at the end as he plays with children the circus man sees him and wants him to come back to the circus. That's his dream to join and so his dream comes true.

Joseph Lapierre says

Oliver was just 1 of 11 elephants that were coming to join a circus. The circus owner only needed 10 and told Oliver he was no longer needed and left him to fend for himself. Oliver tried the zoo to see if they needed an elephant, they said no. He then tried being a dog and horse both did not work. He then tried to become a piece of playground equipment but realized that it was not what he wanted. He met a few kids who had been talking about what they wanted to be when they grew up. One said a policeman, another said a nurse and the question was then passed to Oliver he wanted to be a dancing elephant in a circus. So Oliver started to dance and drew a very big crowd as the circus came marching down the street nobody noticed because everyone was fascinated by Oliver the dancing elephant. The circus owner came and had told Oliver he had made a mistake and gave him a spot in the circus. Oliver got his dream come true. This book I feel had a moral in which is don't be too quick to judge because just one day they might surprise you. Like in the classroom a child may have trouble but if you think that it's a lost cause that child will one day prove you wrong.

Luisa Knight says

I love Syd Hoff's illustrations and you can't really go wrong with his stories either. This one's fun and I got a chuckle or two out of it!

Reading Level: K - 3rd grades

Cleanliness: someone says "my goodness."

Alyssa Scherr says

Oliver, the talking elephant, dreamed he would always be in the circus but when that day arrives the circus is already full. Oliver, now stranded, begins his adventure to find a new purpose in life. He tries the zoo but they are full too. Oliver then finds himself asking people if they want a pet but this also doesn't work out. Finally Oliver decides to stop his search and just play with children at the playground when he discovers his real talent, dancing. After the circus conductor sees the crowd around Oliver he asks him to join the circus and Oliver gets to live out his dream.

The theme in this book is to never give up. Oliver doesn't let "no" stop him from chasing his dreams.

i would use this book to also help teach about science. Ask the students, how do real elephants act? Are they like Oliver? Divide children into small groups and have them use reference materials and books to find out how elephants behave in the wild. Each group can jot down notes and report on what they find to the rest of the class.

Luann says

I liked this one slightly more than Sammy the Seal, but not as much as Danny and the Dinosaur. Although to be fair, I need to reread Danny and the Dinosaur and see how I feel about it as an adult. The illustrations are fun and make me want to sit down and draw my own elephant!

TJ says

While shopping for Christmas gifts for the kids in my life I read this book to make sure it was going to be suitable. Very cute story about an elephant trying to figure out where he belongs and following his dreams.

jacky says

My mother picked this up because she thought it was on our buy list for Natalie (but it was Olivia on the list). We left it here and wound up using it as a bed time read. It was cuter than I expected, especially with the

illustrations. I knew right away that it was the same author as *Danny the Dinosaur*. My sister and I particularly liked the illustration of Oliver being walked with a lesh around his trunk. The story wasn't that exciting and the writing was simple. It was clear that this was meant as a primer for children learning to read. Some of the meaning of the text was derived from looking at the illustrations.

Taylor F. says

Personal Response:

My sister, Sydney, who is nine years old thought the book *Oliver* was a very good book. She thought that it was a good book for kids to chase their dreams, and never stop trying. I thought the book was super good. Syd Hoff, the author, taught kids to follow their dreams and never give up, because kids never know what will happen when people notice what their talents are.

Plot:

The book *Oliver* was about an elephant who wanted to be in the circus, but they already had 10 elephants. Oliver went out and about all over the city trying to find an owner or someone to be with. He asked a lady if he could be her dog, and asked the zoo if they wanted him. Both of the people denied him, and he was still a happy elephant. He went to a playground full of kids, and played with them. He made them so happy, and started dancing around. When he danced, tons of people started to watch him instead of the circus, so the director of the circus asked him to perform in the circus. Oliver then was very happy that his dream came true.

Recommendation:

I would recommend this book to both genders, because it is about a circus and friends. The book also has both boys, and girls in the book, so both genders will like it. I would recommend this book to ages three to ten years old, because it is an easy book to understand.

Kris says

Personally, I would have given this book 3 stars. My daughter, on the other hand could never get enough of this book! She wanted me to read it several times a day, EVERY DAY! This book is not a short book, even though it's an easy reader. This was the first book my daughter completely memorized and proclaimed "I CAN READ" at 3. While I knew she wasn't "reading" it was amazing that out of ALL of her books, this was the one she memorized first!! At 8 years old she still loves this book. She reads chapter books but always says, "Mom, can you read Oliver to me just like you use to." She enjoys most of Hoff's work, but this is by far her favorite-- therefore it deserved an extra star. :)

Elizabeth S says

A book just as fun as Syd Hoff's more famous Danny and the Dinosaur. Oliver the elephant isn't needed at the circus, so he has to find something else to do. Watching an elephant try out various other forms of employment is rather fun. Of course he has a blast playing with the kids (you can see that from the cover), and the kids help him find the perfect place to fit in.

Claudia Naranjo says

Oliver, a sweet elephant, arrives from overseas and he is ready to work in the circus, but the circus owner says he already has enough elephants. Oliver is now looking for a place where he can stay. He tries going to the zoo, but they already have an elephant. Later he tries to be a pet, but everybody has one already. What Oliver wants the most is to work in the circus, so he starts dancing. The circus owner is passing by and when he sees the elephant dancing he is pleased, and offers Oliver a place in the circus! Gr. Pk-K

george says

Oliver and his ten elephant friends have just traveled on a boat to work in the circus. But when they arrive, the circus man says that he only ordered ten elephants and cannot take any more. So Oliver is left to wander on his own, looking for a place to belong. He tries the zoo, but they are full. He attempts to become someone's pet, but that doesn't work out well either. He meets up with some school children and as they play they talk about what they want to be when they grow up. All poor Oliver wants to do is become a dancing elephant in the circus. Will his dream ever come true.

Really cute story that I vaguely remember from my childhood. Rereading it was fun and Oliver is so upbeat and positive. It's a good story with simple words for early readers.

Ashley says

Oliver the Elephant must search for a place to live and an occupation after he is turned away from the circus. Very cute illustrations and a good book to use when asking questions about the story from the pictures to engage a young reader!
