



Stevie

John Steptoe , Teresa Mlawer (Translator)

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One day my momma told me, "You know you're gonna have a little friend come stay with you." And I said, "Who is it?" and "For how long?" That's when Stevie moved in with his crybaby self. He played with my toys and broke them, and he left dirty footprints all over my bed. But then Stevie left again, and I missed him. I missed playing Cowboys and Indians on the stoop and watching cartoons in the morning. Maybe... just maybe, Stevie wasn't so bad after all.

Stevie Details

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Author : John Steptoe , Teresa Mlawer (Translator)

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From Reader Review Stevie for online ebook

Jenn says

The illustrations in this book capture the emotions of the characters very well, even though they don't have much detail. The simple shapes used convey the love of the mother and the shyness and curiosity of children. I thought it was funny how he kept referring to Steve as "Stupid," and even though that's just what kids do, I'm not sure it has a place in today's culture where namecalling is taken a little more seriously because of "bullying." The moral was sweet, that even though a younger kid can be annoying, they still worm their way into our hearts and routines, and we miss them when they're gone.

Amanda Day says

This story is about a boy that has to live with a little boy that his mother is watching for a friend. At first he does not like the little boy, but after he leaves he learns that he really did like having him around. This story is great for learning to like new people and family dynamics. Also the characters are African American so you can create a class library that is more diverse.

Jana says

This is a great book about friendship. At the beginning of the story, Robert finds out that Stevie is going to be staying with his family for a while. He's a little kid and his mother has to work during the week, so Robert's parents are watching him. Robert is very annoyed with Stevie all the time. Watch how things begin to change. I'm looking forward to sharing this book with my students, because those with younger children around (siblings, relatives, friends) will be able to relate to this story.

Jesse McMorris says

Bobby is an only child but one day his mom has a friend come stay with them for a week named Stevie. Stevie breaks his toys, gets his bed dirty, and doesn't even go to school yet. Bobby feels like he always gets yelled at for things that Stevie gets away with and things that Bobby didn't even do. But one day Stevie moved away and only then did Bobby realize he loved Stevie like a brother and how lonely he was going to be. The book is about friendship and how you should cherish the people in your life before they leave. Stevie also proves the point that sometimes the older brother job is hard but it feels rewarding. This was John Steptoe's first book that he wrote so it was kind of a big deal and a stepping stone for his quite successful career.

George says

There is a lot of unexplained background to the story. The story is shown through the perspective of a boy whose mother tells him they will be babysitting Stevie. It is obvious that Stevie had some very unfortunate difficulties going on with his family for him to be away from his mother for such long stretches. I wanted the

babysitting mother to be more helpful to her own son in teaching him to be compassionate towards Stevie. He was not at all.

Kate Buechler says

Loved Jacqueline Woodson's poem about this book/representation/the importance of kids having the opportunity to chose what they read in Brown Girl Dreaming.

Cara Byrne says

A landmark book in African American children's literature, Steptoe's *_Stevie_* both takes on a child's perspective with wit and grace and includes beautiful illustrations that evoke so much emotion in a few bold brushstrokes. Robert is forced to take Stevie under his wing, even though this little boy annoys him with his footprints on his bedspread and his insistence to join him when he would rather play with his friends at the park. However, when Stevie's family moves away, Robert realizes how much he misses him.

Tiffany says

This is a story about two boys who don't get along at first, but then realize just how much fun they have together. Think this is a really great book for kids because many of them have younger siblings or are a younger sibling themselves. It can relate to their real life experiences and helps them see and feel the emotions of others, not just themselves.

Steve Denyer says

This book left a lasting impression on me as a child, and still moves me today. Steptoe does an incredible job of telling a story about making a connection, one child to another, through a reluctant narrator too proud to admit he has been touched. PLEASE find this book, read it, and share it with someone special!

Sheridan says

Bobby is an only child but one day his mom has a friend come stay with them for a week named Stevie. Stevie breaks his toys, gets his bed dirty, and doesn't even go to school yet. Bobby feels like he always gets yelled at for things that Stevie gets away with and things that Bobby didn't even do. But one day Stevie moved away and only then did Bobby realize he loved Stevie like a brother and how lonely he was going to be. This book teaches a lesson of appreciating what you have while you still have it. It made me think of the times when I may have taken one of my friends for granted without even realizing it and then next thing I know they're out of my life. I would read this to children because sometimes children aren't the best at sharing because they're so possessive of their things. It also is a good way to get children to be more friendly to the new students, even though Stevie is a friend from home not school.

Gala says

Stevie came to stay with a family while his mother worked. Robert an older boy was upset about this because when he went to school Stevie would play with his toys and sometimes break them. When Stevie's family moved away Robert began to miss the boy he called stupid. Children should learn to make the best of every situation from this book. Good to read if students are having trouble with changes in family routines.

Rachel Aranda says

I ended up reading this story out loud to some children. For its time period, I could see how this book would be a nice story for a hopeful author's first book. It touches on compassion towards those less fortunate than us, understanding those younger than ourselves, children needing to understand sharing, and even informal foster care. All of these are good points but I just did not greatly like this book. Stevie is by no means a bad book but it is not something I would read unless asked by those wanting to hear it read to them.

Rakisha says

Robert is forced to share his life with Stevie, a young boy his mother is taking care off for a friend. Robert resents having to share with Stevie, and often calls him "stupid." In the end, when Stevie's family moves away, Robert realizes he liked Stevie and misses him. Robert says thoughtfully at the end "He was a nice little guy. He was kinda like a little brother." A beautiful, sweet, and realistic picture book told in the voice of a child.

Debbie Hoskins says

I'm so glad we still have a copy of this in our library. Steptoe's style has a thick black line and brighter colors than the style he used for *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*. The story is easy to ready, told in the first person. A boy doesn't like Stevie staying with them, but then when Stevie can go to live with his own parents, the boy misses him.

Margaret Chind says

This was awful for a variety of reasons but I can see how it cold have value for culture both in the age and community of the book telling the story. However I feel strongly that the word "stupid" has no purpose in a children's book much less multiple times. We read this one in the *The 20th Century Children's Book Treasury: Celebrated Picture Books and Stories to Read Aloud* on recommendation from Sonlight P 3/4, and a poor recommendation it is.
