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# The Perfect Pet



## Synopsis

A funny book to share with kids who really, really, REALLY want a pet! Elizabeth really wants a pet. She'd like a horse, a dog, a cat, or even a turtle. But her parents do not want a pet. Instead they give her a cactus. Even though Elizabeth's new plant proves to be a good listener, Elizabeth still really wants a pet. While Elizabeth campaigns to find the right pet, her family imagines some hair-raising possibilities, until Doug comes along. Doug is, without a doubt, the most unusual, perfect pet of all. Doug is a bug! He's not big like a horse or loud like a dog. He doesn't scratch, or shed, or jump on furniture. And he hardly eats a thing. Margie Palatini and Bruce Whatley have created a hilarious picture book that handles a topic every parent and child will relate to - choosing that perfect pet. A

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD210L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Katherine Tegen Books; Reprint edition (January 27, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060001100

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #33,786 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets #191 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences #1533 in Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 2-Palatini adds her own brand of offbeat humor and an unexpected ending to the traditional story of a child trying to convince her parents that she should have a pet. Elizabeth accepts the substitute cactus plant ("it had quite a prickly sense of humor") and even names it, but she doesn't give up, surprising her parents in bed, in the bathroom ("Catch Them Off Guard"), and at the dinner table. While she enumerates the advantages of each animal, requesting everything from a horse to a rat, her parents counter with the negatives. Finally, the child finds her own

solution. She adopts a bug, names him Doug, and provides him with a perfect habitat, good food, and companionship. He is the perfect pet, and Elizabeth loves him for his differences and individuality. Mother, on the other hand, is not happy with the idea. There is a happy ending, though, as Doug joins the family on the couch with a bowl of popcorn. The finely crafted illustrations in both delicate pastel shades and bright colors combine realistic pictures of animals and people with cartoon elements and an engaging little bug. For storytimes, combine this winner with Liesel Moak Skorpen's *All the Lassies* (Dial, 1970; o.p.) and Judith Viorst's poem "Mother Doesn't Want a Dog." Good for individual or group sharing. Marlene Gawron, formerly at Orange County Library, Orlando, FL Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

PreS-Gr. 2. Elizabeth won't take no for an answer when her parents refuse to get her a pet. Although she likes her pet cactus, Carolyn, she really wants something that moves, so she hatches plan after plan, determined to get what she wants. She tries "Element of Surprise," waking her parents up at night to request a horse. "Father yawned, 'A horse is too big.' / Mother sighed, 'Our yard is too small.'" Elizabeth receives similar responses when she tries "Catch Them Off Guard" to request a dog, and the "Full Stomach" approach to ask for a cat while at the dinner table. Nothing works, but just as Elizabeth runs out of ideas, she discovers Doug, a bug, right on her rug. Then, she has to convince her mother that Doug is perfect. "Think we should have said 'yes' to the dog?" whispers Father to Mother. Whatley's bright, double-page spreads are hilarious, depicting the best- and the worst-case scenarios of pet ownership. Great for reading aloud; children will delight in Elizabeth's resourcefulness and persistence. Helen Rosenberg Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great story for kids!

Love it

Funny!

great purchase my students love it!

Bought this book to go along with writing an opinion paragraph with a second grade class. They

loved the book and it gave them ideas to go along with the assignment.

Great Book for persuasive writing!

I used this picture book to launch a unit on persuasive writing in grade 3. Students then wrote and illustrated their own "perfect pet" picture book.

Book was in good condition and arrived before the expected date. The book was not quite what I was looking for as a mentor text for writing but it will still make a nice addition to our classroom library.

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