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Sled Dog School



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Synopsis

Eleven-year-old Matt is struggling in school and he has to set up his own business to save his failing math grade. But what is he even good at? The only thing he truly loves is his team of dogs, and so Matt's Sled Dog School is born. Teaching dogsledding should be easy, right? But people, just like dogs, can be unpredictable. And sometimes the bravest thing a person can do is admit they need help. Like Terry Lynn Johnson's popular Ice Dogs, Sled Dog School is about overcoming adversity, finding your strengths, and your friends, and following your passions.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 660 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (October 3, 2017)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

"Themes of friendship and problem-solving are slipped effortlessly into the funny and fresh plot, and authentic off-the-grid details bring the story to life . . . A tale of loyalty and friendship with a strong dose of validation for readers who learn from doing rather than books that hits all the right notes." —Kirkus

Terry Lynn Johnson, author of ICE DOGS and the SURVIVOR DIARIES series, lives in Whitefish Falls, Ontario where for ten years she owned a team of eighteen Alaskan Huskies. Visit

Terry at terrylynnjohnson.com and on Twitter at @TerryLynnJ.

Matt and his family live off the grid with few modern day conveniences. His parents believe in Free Range kids. Matt gets a lot of taunting in school and has even been called Smoky because of his aroma of the family's wood burning stove. Matt tends to learn by doing rather than book learning so math class is getting difficult for him. His teacher gives the class a chance to earn some extra math credit by starting a business and reporting the profit/loss to the class. Matt's family raises sled dogs so he decides to start a school to teach Mushing. He ends up having two students. Tubbs is a bit clunky but loveable. He takes immediately to Matt's family lifestyle but not so much to the physical effort of dog sledding. Alex is an overachiever who seems to know everything and takes immediately to the challenge of running the dogs. The theme of friendship and problem solving are at the root of this fun book but on the surface it's just a fun story of kids and dogs.

I got this book for my 7 year old grandson who is in the second grade. According to the description on the page it is for grades 2 to 5 so I thought my second grader would be able to read it since he is an avid reader and is in advanced reading in school. Well this book is for probably a second semester third grader and above. It is much too difficult to read for my grandson. We are reading it at night a few pages at a time but I am doing most of the reading. He will catch up but for now if you are expecting something a second grader can read, this may be a bit difficult for them. I've read the book and it's really cute. It teaches problem solving, getting along with each other and diversity. It's a nice story too about dogs too. It's put into words that make kids think and relate to. Nice story. The reason for the 4 stars is in my opinion the grade levels that can read this book. It should be higher than second grade.

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