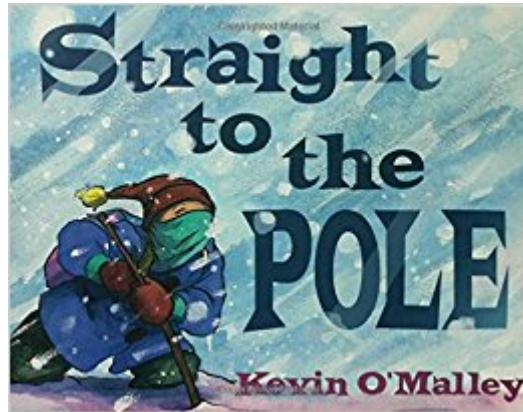




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Straight To The Pole



Synopsis

Freezing wind. Bone-chilling ice. Knee-deep snowdrifts. A lone figure struggles through a terrible storm. He's swaddled up to the eyes, leaning into the wailing wind, plodding through knee-high snowdrifts. Every step in this barren wilderness is a battle. Will he be able to reach the distant Pole? Not if his overactive imagination has anything to do with it.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Walker Childrens; Reprint edition (October 17, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802795706

ISBN-13: 978-0802795700

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 2.9 x 214.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #622,136 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Polar Regions](#) #5505 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Beginner Readers](#) #7398 in [Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Activity Books](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool and up

Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 3-Snuggly bundled from head to toe and carrying an oversized backpack, a young traveler sets out across a frozen landscape. The child bravely pushes on through swirling snowflakes, slipping and sliding through the knee-deep drifts, and finally falls to the ground with a theatrical, "Can't go on." When a floppy-eared dog appears on the horizon, the youngster calls it a wolf and thinks, "I'm doomed. Lost and alone-." After the beast is put at bay with a pat and a hug, two rescuers appear to announce that "school has been closed for the day!" The last page shows the backpack left leaning against the pole mentioned in the title, which holds up the sign for the bus stop. O'Malley maintains a humorous melodramatic tone throughout the brief text, but the real story is in his textured watercolors, which are presented on eye-catching spreads. Attention remains tightly focused on the brightly clothed main character, while the backgrounds glow with dense purples and grays. The blizzardlike conditions and lack of visibility make the protagonist's game of

pretend all the more believable. Dialogue balloons containing quips such as "I told Mom this would happen" add to the fun. The short text, simple language, and large print will encourage beginning readers, while the read-aloud crowd will be attracted to the vivid artwork and amusing situation. Joy Fleishhacker, School Library Journal Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

• Not only does O'Malley display complete mastery of tongue-in-cheek, he's got the martyred attitude of reluctant schoolgoers nailed, from the suffering slouch to the dire last words, "I told Mom this would happen." • The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review) • The read-aloud crowd will be attracted to the vivid artwork and amusing situation. • School Library Journal (starred review) • Young fans of irony-fortified humor will get a hoot out of O'Malley's snowy spoof. . . . Guaranteed to elicit giggles from any kid who has worn a snowsuit. • Publishers Weekly

A fun story to read to students and ask about predictions and direction in a story. Fun illustrations and great for a winter day story time.

Finding this book used and at a wonderful price made the addition of this mentor text a superb buy. It holds the interest of the readers for an out loud read but students asked for it to retread too.

What I needed for the right price.

Straight to the Pole is funny book about a boy with a very active imagination. He's all bundled up for the cold trip to school. As he goes he tells himself things like "I'm doomed" and "Must go on". He's almost ready to give up when he hears his friends in the distance. They tell him some good news! School has been called off due to the snow. Now he's free to go sledding. The book is a good read for all ages. I liked the illustrations in the book. I would recommend this book to others. It's a good winter time theme book. It can lead to discussions on weather and snow storms. It only has a few words per page making it easy to share with lots of age groups.

As a library media center assistant in an elementary school, I can't wait to read this book to my students every winter. It's such an overdramatic story, very few words and easily acted out. Highly recommended!

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