



The Best Seat in Second Grade

Katharine Kenah , Abby Carter (Illustrator)

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Sam has the best seat in second grade—right next to George Washington, the class pet!

Sam brings his hamster buddy on the class field trip to the science museum...but disaster strikes when George jumps from Sam's pocket into the museum's Hamster Habitat.

“Carter's expressive watercolor illustrations help bring the kids in room 75 and their furry pet to life,” commented *Kirkus*.

This Level Two I Can Read is geared toward kids who read on their own but still need a little help.

The Best Seat in Second Grade Details

Date : Published August 1st 2006 by HarperCollins (first published 2005)

ISBN : 9780060007362

Author : Katharine Kenah , Abby Carter (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 48 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction, Academic, School

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From Reader Review The Best Seat in Second Grade for online ebook

Melanie Berthiaume says

The Best Seat in the Second Grade
By Katharine Kenah
Illustrated by Abby Carter

Categories/Genres for this class fulfilled by this resource: Easy -

Estimate of age level of interest: 4-8

Estimate of reading level: Grades PreK-2 - An I Can Read Book – Level 2 –
Guided Reading Level L

Brief description: Sam has the best seat in class – right next to George Washington, the class pet. Sam decides George needs to go along on the class field trip to the science museum.

Identify at least 2 characteristics of this genre(s) and subgenre and discuss how they appear:
This early reader is very appropriate in that it is easy, but still enjoyable. The language flows well and will help build fluency too. There is a male protagonist who gets in a bit of mischief, which will make it even more appealing to boys who may struggle with reading up through second grade. As a picture book, the illustrations and text match well together to tell the story.

In what ways and how well does this resource as a whole serve its intended audience?
This book serves its audience well by being an easy read with simple sentences, but also a funny story with engaging illustrations.

Awards if any:
None

Links to published reviews from professional sources e.g. ALA, Booklist, Kirkus, SLJ, etc. if any:
<http://sharingsoda.blogspot.com/2011/...>

Alexis Munk says

This is a great book when you are transitioning from picture books to chapter books. The chapters are not long and the words are very big. The words are also very easy to pronounce. I would not read this book to a child who was not in second grade since it is about second graders. I also really like how Sam took George Washington and put him in his pocket for the day.

Duke2026 says

I thought the best seat in second grade was funny because the part about the mirrors said " gorge washton looked like a furry beach ball" .When Sam brought him to the animal zone thay look at the boa constrictors and the boas wanted to eat gorge washington.Sam brought gorge washton to the hamsters that look like him.
[Esai]

Sara Kay says

Sam sits in the back of the classroom, right next to the class hamster, George Washington. Each week, his teacher draws a name from a bowl to determine who that weeks hamster helper is. Sam gets impatient, feeling like he will never get a turn, right around the time his class takes a field trip. Sam decides to take things into his own hands and sneaks George Washington on the trip. Things work out until he accidentally loses the hamster in a cage full of hamsters! With the help of his class, they are able to find the right hamster and take it back to the classroom safely. Once there, Sam moves his desk to the front of the room, then the class moves George Washington up next to him as well.

This was a cute book, I liked it.

This would be a good way to teach responsibility and consequences in a classroom. Would also be good if there was a class pet.

Melissa Mcavoy says

Sam's favorite part of second grade is sitting next to George Washington, the class hamster. When the class goes on a field trip to the natural history museum Sam can't resist bringing George along. Full of specifics and humor, this is a cut above the average early reader and will delight kids. (On the downside I couldn't help fearing for George's organs or wincing as George sneezed, risking transmission of some dread hamster flu. Maybe it's my own checkered childhood past with hamster cannibalism and a guinea pigs that died after a runny nose *and sneezes!* .)

Christina says

Title: The Best Seat in Second Grade

Author: Katharine Kenah; Pictures by Abby Carter

Categories/Genres: Easy Reader/Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Copyright date: 2010

Estimate of age level of interest: Age 6-8

Estimate of reading level: Level 2, Reading With Help

Brief description: Sam loves his seat in 2nd Grade because it is right next to the hamster named George Washington. Sam decides to bring George Washington with a field trip and things do not go as planned.

Identify at least 2 characteristics of this genre and subgenre and discuss how they appear in your book.

This is a humorous, school, contemporary realistic fiction story that is perfect for students in the 2nd grade. The characters are very credible and convincing to readers. Students will relate to the frustration of having to wait to do things, just as Sam has to wait to be the Hamster Helper. The illustrations in the story can help the readers work through some of the text they may struggle with.

In what ways and how well does the book as a whole serve its intended audience?

This book is great book for students going into 2nd grade. The book will get them excited about the start of the new school year. Students reading this book will be excited because they can relate to being the same age and how exciting it is to go on school field trips.

Denesha Allen says

This book is a great for students that are entering or just starting second grade. I found this book on the shelf in my second grade placement. Because it's a chapter book, it's not the best book to read aloud. However, its great to have in the classroom library for students to read during free time.

Tam says

This is a "Reading with help Level 2" book. It has 4 short chapters: Hamster Helper, Pocket Rider, The Animal Zone, and Sam's Favorite Subject.

Excerpt from the book:

Sam had the best seat in second grade.

He sat at the back of Room 75.

He did not sit near the globe,

or the dinosaur models,

or the paper pioneer fort.

Sam sat beside George Washington.

George Washington was small and round

and the color of honey, and he sneezed.

George Washington was a hamster.

Pam says

Great book in the series. Sam learns the hard way that the class hamster should stay in his own habitat.

Sharon says

Cute and creative story about a student who sneaks the class hamster into his pocket and takes him on the class field trip!!

Steve Holden says

I have my early read alouds ready to go and on display! Our year begins on Wednesday, and this will be one I share. I teach second grade, so naturally, there's a strong connection to my students and myself for this Second Grade Series. I love that the teacher in this book, class, is a male. There's also a class pet. All strong connections and make this one a must for sharing to my class!

Katie Fitzgerald says

Sam has the best seat in the entire classroom because he sits right beside the hamster, George Washington. He has yet to be chosen as the hamster helper, but he desperately wants to be, and can barely stand it when someone else is picked instead. Unable to resist the temptation, he hides George Washington in his pocket and brings him on the class trip to the science museum. Naturally, the hamster gets lost, and winds up stuck in the hamster exhibit! Thankfully, because George is Sam's favorite subject, Sam is able to identify him as the one honey-colored hamster in the cage who sneezes, and he brings him back out to safety before any harm is done. Mr. Hopper is very forgiving, but he makes sure to move both Sam and the hamster closer to the front of the room.

Each of the three books in this series demonstrates the importance of both class unity and individual pride. The children in these books make mistakes and have fears that are common to the average second grader, but they sort out their problems and each book ends on a positive note. The illustrations of the class are warm and inviting, filled with varying faces, whose actions and reactions help to set the mood in each story. These stories are very gentle, and they deal with real-life school situations that any child could face. I also really like the way each book exposes the reader to new vocabulary on a particular subject - hamsters, or space, or cooking - while embedding the lessons in a greater story. The short chapters divide the book into nice, manageable passages, and also prepare the reader for the chapter books he or she will soon read.

Janice says

Sam has the best seat in the room...next to the hamster cage. The second graders go on a field trip to a children's museum and Sam has to bring the class hamster who happens to have a cold(George Washington)along--it's a secret! The museum has an animal room and Sam introduces GW to all the other creatures...including a boa constrictor. The snake doesn't get GW but GW does get lost in the hamster cage he's quickly found because he's the only one sneezing.

Abby Wheaton says

Personal Response: When I read this book to a five year old boy on the bus, I was very surprised by how intrigued he was by the book. He seemed to be very concerned about the pictures in the book more than the story itself. He also seemed to really enjoy how I read the book to him. When I read the book with more detail, he seemed to pay attention more to me than the pictures. I felt that this helped him understand the book more. Overall, I thought the book was a cute book that helped to show responsibility.

Plot: Sam was in second grade and sat in the back of the classroom next to the class pet, George Washington. George Washington was a round, blonde hamster. Sam was very distracted by George Washington and really wanted to be chosen by his teacher as the class pet helper. When he wasn't chosen as the helper Sam was very sad. Instead he decided to take George Washington on their field trip. He found out how difficult it was to keep the hamster hidden. When it was time for Sam to eat he couldn't eat, because he didn't want the hamster to smell the food and come out of his pocket. Sam decided it was a good idea to go visit the animal zone. He showed George Washington all the animals. Then all his friends went over by him and scared him. They didn't know he snuck George Washington with them on the field trip. They were very surprised by this. Then while the kids were all fighting George Washington jumped out of Sam's hands and into a giant hamster tank. In this hamster tank there was a bunch of hamsters that all looked like George. Sam knew he was in big trouble then. When Sam finally found George Washington he told his teacher and decided it was a good idea for the hamster to sit next to the teacher in class. Everyone then voted Sam to sit in the front next to the hamster.

Recommendations: I recommend this book to boys and girls at the age of five to seven. I think at this age the book will be intriguing to the child as they progress in their reading. I also think it will get too easy for anyone older than seven so from five to seven is the perfect age.

Misty Stehle says

This is a story about a young boy who gets to take care of the class hamster. Not only does he take care of the hamster, he brings him on a field trip without telling the teacher or his classmates. When the hamster decides to jump in a cage full of other hamsters the boy must ask for help from his teacher and his classmates to figure out which one belongs to them. It is a cute story about responsibility and discovery.
