

The Boy with the Big Ear

by Taye Bela Corby / Illustrations by Leo Moralina

BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed by Shelly Lefkoe - Founder, Parenting the Lefkoe Way

The Boy With The Big Ear is a wonderful and sweet story about the importance of seeing past each other's differences. It touches on why kids bully when Tom admits The Boy's ear scared him. The Rhyming makes it fun for kids without being preachy.

This is a timely book with bullying being in the news as a rampant problem. It's a wonderful way to begin a discussion with young children about looking beyond appearances to discovering what's really inside a person. It is also an opportunity to talk about how Sophia was The Boy's friend and didn't care what people thought of her. This is a book I highly recommend.

Reviewed by M.L. 'Max' Roth

The school bully, Tom, picks on the boy with the big ear mercilessly. However, one afternoon Tom is in peril and it is the boy with the big ear who hears Tom's cries and rescues him. Tom perceives the boy with the big ear in a new light, and for the first time Tom asks, "What is your name?"

The concept of a common emergency bringing together strangers is not new, although in this story the author writes with freshness and a simple child-like openness that make accessible to adults and children alike the deeper theme concerning those emotions that simultaneously bind humanity, yet set us in opposition to one another.

The concept and its attending theme succeed completely. The reason for the success lies in the story's ability to demonstrate, without preaching, its subtext, which stirs the adult reader's memory, and causes the juvenile to question their own feelings as both victim and bully, and demonstrates the broad strokes that unite humanity creating successful relationships.

The plot is a simple three-act structure, which moves us seamlessly and with continued forward motion through the story to its conclusion.

In the first act, we open with the conflict, a physical malady making the boy with one big ear a natural victim.

In the second, we explore how the boy deals, or fails to deal with his challenge. In truth, it is revealed that he is a sweet child, not a fighter; he would rather have a friend.

The third act resolution succeeds when the higher nature in us all is demonstrated by his ability to change his perception of this strange boy and to pay attention to his own higher nature - his conscience.

What made the story quite beautiful for this adult reader is that the two boys actually heal each other's pain through opening up to their emotions, which leads them on a short journey into their higher selves. The reader found this story to be an important reminder for adults in today's world, as well as a first lesson for children.

Reviewed by Robert-Harry Rovin - W R I T E O N ! CEO

The violent entrance of the sun prefigures the effect of the world on this boy and its eventual rainbow benevolence. Wondering what is there about this ear creates suspense, immediately drawing this reader into the story. The “difference” about this boy and his gift of supersonic hearing speaks of the greater attunement of the artist or more spiritually advanced and what they must suffer because of it, until they ripen into understanding and self-acceptance.

Is his crooked smile merely an expression of distorted flesh or the bitter sweetness of his True Nature evidenced by his wider auditory perspective? Also included is his little boy ego craving acceptance, so sensitive to rejection by his peers—so cruel in their ignorance of their own frailties, not having had their own essential gifts mirrored by those who care for them.

And yet the boy has some inner strength born of an appreciation of his gifted difference to meet this jeering ignorance. It is this strength that allows him to imbibe the whizzing lightness of loving friendliness extended by Sophia,

offered with perfect timing by the Universe to cushion the severity of the onslaught of Tom, also part of Its teaching.

Sophia, making her intentions clear holds him in the light of Nature's feminine receptivity, as reflected in her name—Sophia the Beautiful Rose. In approaching the fallen adversarial Tom, she becomes not only an admirer but a compassionate ally. Tom, being unable to speak making eye contact with the boy (is it the wounded masculine in himself he cannot tolerate?) becomes vulnerable to one he's so adamantly rejected.

A compassionate force of Nature, Sophia generously brings rescue and healing to Tom as well. In the vulnerability afforded by pain and cessation of life's usual momentum, Tom is able to wake up to the truth of his interdependence and obvious need of the other; and remorse is made possible. Tom's turnaround is welcome to this reader in making a correction most of us would like to experience in our misperception of the "different" in its apparent ungainliness or distortion. My heart is deepened and expanded by Tom (the quintessential other) wanting to know the truth of the one he had rejected so thoroughly. Yes, to know the other...and to accept the rejected different in himself. This is story is a gift of profound wisdom on many levels for adults and children alike.

AStoryWeaver's Book Reviews highly recommends The Boy with the Big Ear.

Told as a modern poetic fable, The boy with the Big Ear is full of excitement and energy. This book would make a wonderful teaching tool for parents, day care providers and teachers for helping children learn to deal with differences, conflict and resolve matters, self-esteem issues, dealing with a bully, and much more.

This book of bravery, after learning about self-awareness, is the perfect ego boster for children. Immediately, they'll feel for the boy with the big ear and they'll cheer him on as they witness his act of bravery and forgiveness. My children, ages 10, 5, and 4 loved this story. The ending brought a smile to my face. Afterwards, it had my children thinking, as it brought up several questions that I enjoyed answering.

Reviewed by Jennifer LB - Weaver's Book Reviews

Highly Recommended Ravelings book review by Cindy Penn - Word Weaving

Rhyme brings the story about The Boy with the Big Ear to life. The author demonstrates a flair for word play as she captures the challenges and rewards of a boy whose ear has been “grotesquely shaped since birth.” His special ear allows the boy to hear things no one else can.

When children tease the boy about his deformity, the boy with the big ear cried. Then a new friend comes along. They ride bikes together until the boy hears a crash. Suddenly his ear becomes needed and important. As a result, The boy becomes a simple but powerful lesson about not fearing people who are different, and appreciating those differences. This wonderful story will encourage children to express their feelings about feeling different, and viewing others who are different. In a safe way, children will learn a gentle lesson in tolerance and open communication. This delightful read aloud story is highly recommended.

Review by Magdalena Ball - Preschool Entertainment

The real power of this story is not in its prose, or even the slightly submerged and attractive poetic quality of the writing: “the sun crashed through his window and made a giant rainbow appear.” What makes The Boy with the Big Ear a story worth reading to your children is its message - one which involves looking beyond people’s appearances and into their natures - a message children need to hear. It is a well-crafted look at dealing with such a sensitive issue.

It is informative without being heavy handed, educational without being simplistic, The Boy with the Big Ear is an exceptional work to read with your child. This story should serve as a great way for you to establish a dialogue with your children on the fair and equal treatment of others.

Reviewed by Eva Almeida - Book Reviews Weekly

The lovingly written poetic prose demonstrates how much it hurts to experience teasing and what a joy it is to have a fellow classmate look beyond our faults - to our inner self. The Boy with the Big Ear enables

children to accept the differences in others and teaches children about the importance of self-esteem and kindness.

Reviewed by J. Hartman - Know Better

I don't think it will come as any surprise when I say that kids can be cruel. Although we do our best to raise our kids to respect each other, share their toys and generally be good human beings, these are tough lessons to learn. If you look differently from other kids, this can be especially difficult.

Fortunately, the author has released a very short eBook for children that will hopefully help educate your little ones on the concept of equal treatment for everyone. The work, entitled, *The boy with the Big Ear* is highly recommended.

Recommended by: Jennifer LB Leese

Published by Mountain Mist Productions

THE BOY WITH THE BIG EAR is an endearing book about a little boy who was born with one ear larger than the other was.

Picked on at school, and on the baseball field by bully Tom, the boy with the big ear often dreamed of being just a regular kid. When asked to ride bikes by Sophia Bella Rose, the boy with the big ear heard lit up. After about fifteen minutes of riding, he heard groaning sounds and quickly he followed them to a nearby creek. Whom do you think the boy with the big ear found?

Told as a modern poetic fable THE BOY WITH THE BIG EAR is full of excitement and energy. This book would make a wonderful teaching tool for parents, day care providers, and teachers for helping children learn to deal with differences, conflict, and resolve matters, self-esteem issues, dealing with a bully, and much more.

This book of bravery, after learning about self-awareness, is the perfect ego booster for children. Immediately, they'll feel for the boy with the big ear and they'll cheer him on as they witness his act of bravery and forgiveness.

My children, ages 10, 5, and 4, loved this book. The ending brought a smile to my face. Afterwards, it had my children thinking, as it brought up several that I enjoyed answering.

The author, Taye Bela Corby was a Montessori teacher, and she believes that her writing style has been shaped by that experience. She is also a true believer in a child's "inner knowing", and her writing comes from life experience, interactive exploration, handling emotions, identifying, understanding and expressing. She wrote: "My intention and passion for writing THE BOY WITH THE BIG EAR was to bring emotional life to light and enable children to explore their emotions in the context of relationships."

Bravo! I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, and AStoryWeaver's Book Reviews highly recommends THE BOY WITH THE BIG EAR by Taye Bela Corby.