



Fred Stays With Me!

Nancy Coffelt , Tricia Tusa (Illustrator)

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Told from the point of view of a young child whose parents are divorced, *Fred Stays with Me!* follows a girl and her dog, Fred, from one parent's house to the other's, giving her a sense of continuity and stability. With a simple text and childlike language, the story expresses and addresses a child's concerns, highlights the friendship between child and pet, presents a common ground for the parents, and resolves conflict in a positive way. Tricia Tusa's charming and whimsical artwork adds a light, happy feel to this poignant--but not overly sentimental--story.

Fred Stays With Me! Details

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Author : Nancy Coffelt , Tricia Tusa (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Fred Stays With Me! for online ebook

Susan says

A solid read about a young girl whose dog helps her work through her parents' divorce. I really enjoyed the almost monochromatic pictures.

Kathryn says

4.5 STARS A thoughtful and sensitive look at how divorce affects one little girl. Thought it's clear that she loves both her parents, and both her homes, and that she is well loved by each we can also sense the difficulties and frustrations of having two separate but related lives. Fred, her dog, is the one constant as, no matter where she goes, Fred stays with her. I think this is a smart and delicate book on a difficult subject. The illustrations are wonderful!

RLL22018_ Delashay says

Fred stays with me, is a simply beautiful illustrated book. The illustrators take on the authors words, added just enough details, to make the story believable. The life of a little girl and her best friend Fred was a bit complicated. Sometime the little girl lives with her mom, and sometimes she lives with her dad. Fred her playful dog, creates a ruckus, at both of her residents. When neither parent wants to keep the dog, she comes up with a solution, but the main point was Fred stays with her.

I think this book is great for children K-2. It's an easy read that teaches the lesson of compromising, to solve problems. I would use this book in a class setting to discuss finding solutions. It can also be used as a social discussion on family issues such as divorce, and shared custody. It's the type of book you never know, when you may need. The kind of book that lets a child know, that they are not alone.

Natalie says

Contemporary Fiction

This is a light-hearted approach to a lifestyle that many children in the US are accustomed. The little girl in the story sometimes lives with her mom and sometimes with her dad after her parents are divorced. Throughout the story, the girl's dog, Fred stays with her. I think that it touches on the loss of control that children feel over the changes in their world and how the child in the book has her dog as constant companion not matter which house she in.

Joelisa Aparicio says

I like my dog and if my dog stay with me forever but not, because I have a work or in future to the world! I love my dogs!

Amie says

Fred Stays With Me! is a cute story about a girl who sometimes stays with her dad and sometimes stays with her mom, but her dog, Fred, always stays with her! While her stays with her parents are different, bunk bed vs. single bed and pizza vs. peanut butter sandwiches, the one thing that stays the same is that Fred gets in trouble. He barks at dogs and chews up socks to the point where the little girl's parents exclaim, "Fred can't stay with me!" The little girl quickly makes her feelings clear by letting them know that Fred doesn't stay with them, he stays with her!

I really enjoyed this picture book. The author deals with the subject of divorce in a realistic and honest way without going into all of the sadness that it sometimes entails. Kids don't always want to have to think about the negative effects divorce has on them, and some kids' parents have been divorced as long as they can remember so it is a natural part of life to take turns staying with one then the other. Also, this book lets children know that divorce doesn't change everything in your life. School, friends and pets can still stay the same. This story has predictable text with something first happening at mom's house and then happening at dad's house. The soft and muted cartoon illustrations complement the words and make you fall in love with this little troublemaker of a dog! The story is from the girl's point of view, and the illustrations add to the viewpoint by not showing full pictures of the mom or dad. Grades PreK-3

Molly says

A little girl who shares one home with her mother and another home with her father, seems to live two separate lives. One thing stays the same, however, and that is her dog Fred. This is a cute story for children who are struggling to understand what a divorce will mean for them, and for parents who sometimes need a wake up call!

Amy Forrester says

Sometimes the little girl in this book stays with her mother and sometimes she stays with her father. But it doesn't matter if she sleeps in the bunk bed at one house or the regular bed at the other, Fred stays with her. In a matter-of-fact fashion, the girl explains how her life works with her separated parents. Although she points out the differences in her two homes, she also points out the things that stay the same. She has the same friends, goes to the same school, and both her parents are fed up with Fred! When each of her parents say, "Fred can't stay with me!" the girl puts her foot down, "Excuse me, Fred doesn't stay with either of you. Fred stays with ME!"

The text is written from the little girl's perspective and the tone perfectly captures a child's manner of describing events. Although the book is clearly about divorce, this word is never mentioned. It's refreshing to read a book about the topic that doesn't feature a character struggling to accept the situation or trying to get their parents back together. All the characters seem to accept the separated status quo; this is just the way life is for them. The humorous mostly sepia-toned illustrations remind me of candid photographs. They seem

to capture moments in the girl's life in mid-motion.

Full Review at Picture-Book-a-Day: <http://picturebookaday.blogspot.com/2013/03/fred-stays-with-me.html>

Randie D. Camp, M.S. says

The nameless main character of this story has divorced parents. Sometimes she lives with mom and sometimes she lives with dad--but her dog, Fred always stays with her. While coping with divorce is not the main intention of this book, it does shed light on an important aspect. Children need consistency and Fred was able to offer a sense of consistency for this character. The brown, red, sepia tones of the illustrations contributed to the calm feel of the book.

Great story that is sure to offer comfort to those that can relate.

Kate says

A sweet story about a young girl and her dog, Fred. The girl's parents are divorced, and although things are different with the two sides of her family, the one constant is her dog.

Alia says

Amid the confusion of living with divorced parents, a pet dog provides consistency for a little girl. The book is reassuring without being overbearing.

529_Amalia says

Fred Stays with Me by Nancy Coffelt and illustrated by Tricia Tusa is a story of a girl, who is never named, that has two homes but her dog Fred stays with her. "Sometimes I live with my mom. Sometimes I live with my dad." The girl always has Fred by her side, but Fred is causing trouble, barking at the neighbor's poodle or stealing all of dad's socks. Both mom and dad have had enough with Fred and say "Fred can't stay with me!" The girl responds with "Excuse me ... Fred doesn't stay with either of you. Fred stays with ME!" So the girl and her mom and dad come up with a plan that makes everybody happy, even the neighbor's poodle. A Kirkus starred review, recommends ages 4-8. Coffelt does an excellent job in making the story from the girl's point of view and having Fred, her trusty companion, there through everything. Coffelt never uses the word divorce, just "Sometimes I live with my mom. Sometimes I live with my dad." She lives it to the reader to decide. Tusa does an excellent job in the soft edged watercolor illustrations. I really enjoyed Tusa's illustration of the girl, in a spotlight, explaining to her mom and dad that Fred doesn't stay with either of them, he stays with her!

This is a great book to show the diversity of families. I am not sure how else I would use this book in the classroom.

Maricor says

Fred Stays with Me by Nancy Coffelt and illustrated by Trica Tusa (2007)

Picture Book, 32 pages

Living at each parent's respective home, the protagonist in *Fred Stays with Me* gets picked up and dropped off between divorced parents. Her adjustment to the lifestyle and separation seems to be going well because of Fred, her constant dog companion who shares her travels, while creating a disaster in his wake at both parents' homes. As parents fight over who has to take Fred, the main character confidently interrupts her parents to remind them, "Excuse me! Fred stays with ME!" This book can work as an aid for children with newly separated parents but is also a reminder for parents, reinforcing consistency during this often difficult change in a child's life. In a book more about regularity and companionship, Coffelt introduces another type of family in a matter-of-fact manner, while Tusa uses warm colors and welcoming illustrations to help young readers adjust to the concept. With its design and careful wording, *Fred Stays with Me* would be a great book to share with a group.

Marjorie says

lovely story about a girl, her dog and divorce. I love the sepia toned illustrations in this book.

Tatiana says

Summary: Divorce isn't easy, but it helps when you have a friend like Fred. But Fred likes to steal socks and make a mess, and Mom and Dad are mad that Fred is such a troublemaker! If Fred can't stay with Mom or Dad, who will he stay with?

Of course, the answer is "with me!" meaning the young narrator of this cute picture book. This is a good concept book and the letterbox-style, autumn color-tinted illustrations give the story a cozy feel.
