



Moses Goes to a Concert

Isaac Millman

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Moses and his school friends are deaf, but like most children, they have a lot to say. They communicate in American Sign Language, using visual signs and facial expressions. This is called signing. And even though they can't hear, they can enjoy many activities through their other senses. Today, Moses and his classmates are going to a concert. Their teacher, Mr. Samuels, has two surprises in store for them, to make this particular concert a special event.

Isaac Millman tells Moses's story in pictures and written English, and in American Sign Language (ASL), introducing hearing children to the signs for some of the key words and ideas. At the end of the book are two full conversations in sign language and a page showing the hand alphabet.

You can learn sign language, too.

Moses Goes to a Concert Details

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From Reader Review Moses Goes to a Concert for online ebook

Jenna Elliott says

What can I write about Moses Goes to a Concert? It's such a wonderfully written realistic fiction book that teaches the reader words and phrases in American Sign Language. There is also the alphabet in the back of the book as well. Moses and his classmates are deaf, and they go to an orchestra concert for a field trip, but seeing as the children are deaf, there is a problem that can be fixed when the children can hold balloons to 'hear' the orchestra play through the vibrations of the balloon that they can feel. The reader can experience different ways of applauding too. When the rest of the crowd is clapping their hands, Moses and his classmates, wave their hands at the orchestra. Even the percussionist is deaf too, and the woman can play the instruments through feeling the vibrations of socks on her feet. The illustrations are lovely, and each person in Moses' class looks different and has a different ethnicity, but they are brought together because of them are deaf. The pictures do a great job of teaching the reader how to sign the words and phrases on each page. There are arrows and hand motions on the pages to help the reader accurately be able to sign. By having these pictures, it adds to the story and allows the reader to be able to learn American Sign Language (ASL) while reading. The illustrations are colorful and do an excellent job of relating to the text because sometimes the illustrations are done in correlation with the wording of the story. The percussionist did a good job of allowing the students to play some instruments. The percussionist lost her hearing at the age of seven due to an illness and explained how she was able to overcome her deafness, by being able to do something that most people believe that a hearing person can only do. This book did a great job letting the reader that they can do anything they wish as long as they set their mind on the goal to achieve it.

Karen says

Moses Goes to a Concert is a book about a boy, Moses, who is deaf. He likes playing his drum because he can feel the vibrations. Moses and his class is going to a concert today. This is an interesting field trip because all of the students are deaf. The teacher gives them all a balloon when they get to the concert because it can help them feel the vibrations even more. They also get to meet the percussionist, which is very special to them, and they learn the lesson that no matter what your difficulties, with hard work, you can be anything you want to be when you grow up.

Besides telling the story, I really like how this book also has pictures that teach us how do American Sign Language. I think many students would find it interesting to learn a new language at the same time as learning about people with hearing problems. The pictures are very bright and colorful, and they just look like fun.

I would strongly recommend this book to students aged 5-8. I think they can learn a good lesson about how people are different but can still grow up to be whatever they want to be and they can still enjoy many of the same things as other people, but they just might have to do it in a different way.

Manybooks says

Moses attends a school for the deaf and Isaac Millman's Moses Goes to a Concert> (one of four picture books about Moses and his classmates) describes a class field trip to a music event for children. At the concert, Moses and his classmates are given balloons to hold on their laps (to feel the vibrations of the music, to listen to the concert with their bodies). After the concert, the children are invited backstage to meet the percussionist. She is deaf herself and follows the orchestra by feeling the vibrations of the music through her stocking feet.

Both informative and entertaining, the narrative, the story emphasises that the appreciation of music does not just occur through sound, that one can also appreciate music through vibrations, through touch. Like many other children, Moses and his classmates enjoy music; they just use their sense of touch, as they are not able to use their sense of hearing. An even more essential message, however, is that through perseverance and hard work, one can accomplish much. Ms. Elwyn is deaf, but that did not prevent her from pursuing and accomplishing her dream of becoming a percussionist.

Although I had a bit of trouble figuring out many of the ASL (American Sign Language) signs (I have never been good at deciphering visual signs, graphs and the like), I am glad that Isaac Millman has decided to incorporate ASL into his text and illustrations. Not only is this a wonderful teaching and learning tool and moment, it also provides a strong sense of acceptance and inclusion. Moses Goes to a Concert without the ASL signs could give the impression of not really appreciating ASL and the fact that many deaf individuals communicate through it and with it. As to the illustrations themselves, although I would not call them personal favourites, they do work well with enough with the text. They are bright and cheerful, and I like how their comparative lack of intricate detail emphasises the ASL parts (very detailed or lush illustrations might have made the signs fade into the background a bit).

That being all said, while I do find the text of Moses Goes to a Concert informative and appreciate the messages it provides, I also do tend to find the general narrative flow rather plodding and dragging at times. And thus, while I enjoy reading about Moses and his classmates, I also do not feel that much of an emotional connection to either them or the story. Still, I highly recommend Moses Goes to a Concert. It is a wonderful introduction to ASL and shows that music is for everyone, can be enjoyed by everyone, and can also be learned and performed by everyone (challenges need not be in the way of one's dreams).

Kendra says

Even without my emotional bias slanting my affections towards this book, it was super good. It's got lots of ASL signing in it, and shows how Deaf/HOH people can still appreciate music in full! Its positive message about not limiting yourself was lovely, and I never knew that thing about balloons, but it totally makes sense! Ten out of ten, will be looking to buy.

Eastofoz says

This is an excellent story for young children. Moses is deaf and attends a school for deaf children. His teacher organizes a class trip to see a concert. The reader/listener learns how deaf children can appreciate and even learn to play music.

What I really liked about the story is that it's focus wasn't just "these children are deaf" but it was also the

story of a class trip where children learn about percussion instruments making the deaf part seem like just another regular aspect of the story. There is also some American Sign Language that's shown and the ASL alphabet. My kids had a good time trying to sign some sentences in ASL as they followed the easy hand gesture guidelines.

The pictures are bright and fun with an interesting story for a bedtime read. I'd highly recommend this book as a means to show children that there are different kinds of people who can still do the same things as everyone else. What's perceived by many as a disability is really not. Great message to send.

Lisa Vegan says

Despite what I put in the "recommended to" field, I think this is a fine book for many children, including for showing all children it's important to not put limitations on their goals just because of any limitations they might have.

I read this book because it's one of the June books for the Picture Books Club at the Children's Books group, the June theme being persons who have physical disabilities.

In this book, the main character, Moses, and his schoolmates, are deaf, as is someone they meet on their field trip to a concert. Moses has been given drums of his own and cannot hear the sounds but can feel them and he enjoys playing them.

So, I'm glad the kids met who they did at the concert, (view spoiler), because honestly up until that point I did think for a field trip an art museum and so many other better places exist for deaf children than a concert (Please don't yell at me; I know they can feel the music, and can get other benefits from such an experience. I truly know.)

I loved how ASL (and it is American Sign Language; it's not made clear people not in the United States speak using different sign languages) is used along with text words to tell the story, and in such a way that readers who learn languages easier than I do might actually be able to learn from what is shown, especially since the ASL alphabet is given in the back of the book.

I used to know a bit of ASL. I was in a school program a quarter century ago and one of my classmates was fluent, and she taught several of us, and I learned it, not fluently but well enough to communicate with others in a very basic way. However, after the 12-month program I had very few opportunities to use the language so I've forgotten virtually all of it, though I remember my name, a few words, and some of the alphabet. Much in this book looked familiar though, and some were words I never knew. I have a difficult time learning foreign languages and this book wouldn't be that useful for me but I think for some it would work. And the story is enjoyable. The illustrations fit the story well and it works well as a picture book.

3 ½ stars

(This is the first time I've used the partial, or any, spoiler alert in a review.)

Rosie says

Moses and his classmates are excited about their field trip to see a concert. At the concert, they learn that the percussionist is deaf like they are. She follows the orchestra in a unique way by feeling the vibrations of the instruments through her feet. During the concert, Moses is able to feel the music through a balloon. Afterwards, the children experiment with the different percussion instruments such as the cymbals, drums, and bells. Moses learns that he is able to become anything he wants to be when he grows up. The illustrations feature Moses demonstrating several signs in American Sign Language (ASL). The author's note at the beginning of the story explains how to copy the movement of each sign. The final pages of the story feature Moses' conversation with his parents in ASL. The ASL alphabet is included on the final page.

This picture book is a great way to introduce children to the idea of people having disabilities, but also as a reminder that a disability does not define a person.

A Allen says

In this book a group of deaf children enjoy music through vibrations and meet a deaf musician. This book encourages children to be pursue whatever career they want as they grow up. I also enjoy that this book teaches short ASL sentences on almost every page.

Dolly says

This is an interesting and informative tale about how deaf people can "feel" music, enjoy a concert, and even make music themselves. There are four books that feature the little boy named Moses and from what I can tell, they all describe the activities of a hearing-impaired person and explain how they can still enjoy the same things we do.

I like that different words (as well as the ASL alphabet) are included in the story, although I will admit that we had a bit of a difficult time trying to recreate them ourselves. I've found with the few ASL words I've learned, that I understood how to make the sign much easier from watching a person than from reading an illustration in a book.

This book was featured as one of the selections for the June 2011: Persons Facing Physical Challenges discussion at the Picture-Book Club in the Children's Books group here at Goodreads. I'm glad that we had the opportunity to read this book!

Jenny Kwon says

Moses Goes to a Concert is about a little boy named Moses who is deaf. Moses attends a school where many of his peers also have difficulty hearing. This book talks about Moses' trip to attending a musical concert where the performers are also deaf. The book is appropriate for all kids in elementary school and uses age-appropriate language. It offers children questions to think about and consider how they would handle situations if they were deaf. The illustrations are also very accurate in terms of setting, plot and characters.

They correspond directly to the text and enhance the story. The illustrations also teach sign language in which children could follow that would keep children engaged the whole time. This book also has no negative stereotypes of deaf people making it a great book for children to read. The children are also exposed to a new perspective of people who are deaf which will teach them a lesson that deaf people are capable of doing the things that everyone else can do.

Kathryn says

Moses loves playing his new drum. Even though he is deaf, he can feel the vibrations in his hands and through the floorboards. So, he is very excited when his teacher announces that their (Deaf) class will be visiting a concert. And it's a wonderful surprise when the students discover that the percussionist in the orchestra is deaf, too! She teaches them that they can become anything they set their minds to.

I really admire what Millman created in this picture book. While I'm not sure the story is as strong as many others out there and it takes some patience to read, his inclusion of ASL (American Sign Language) signs is absolutely marvelous and I think many Deaf children will delight in reading a picture book with their language reflected so beautifully and accurately. I speak as someone who took three semesters of ASL in college when I say that the diagrams and illustrations of the ASL words are excellent, down to including the facial expressions that also play such a large role in communication among and with the Deaf. That said, it may be challenging for the average reader to pick up the signs (as with any language, ASL is difficult to learn from a book compared to real life conversations and interactions) but I do think this is a fine introduction to ASL for young people. The fact that the deaf children enjoy an activity, like playing musical instruments and going to a concert, just as hearing children do is a great way to show connectedness. All seem very proud of their culture and language and that is great to see.

Jasmine says

Moses and his class go to a concert, where they use Balloons to feel the music, and meet the percussionist, who is also Deaf! The art shows that this one was an early entry in the series, but it's still fun.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

I like this book because it shows that deaf children can enjoy music even if they don't hear it. The story describes how Moses and his classmates from the deaf school go to a concert and feel the vibrations of the different instruments. This is my favorite of all the Moses books. Recommended!

(NS) Brea M says

Moses Goes to a Concert is about a boy named Moses, who is deaf. The story begins with Moses playing his new drum in his bedroom. The interesting part is that Moses plays with his shoes off so he can feel the vibrations of the drum through his feet. One day, Mr. Samuel, the teacher at Moses' school for deaf children, plans a surprise field trip. The class ends up at an orchestra concert, positioned right in front of the

percussionist. Mr. Samuel gives each child a balloon to hold during the concert. The balloon allows the children to feel the music. As the concert begins, Moses notices that the percussionist is not wearing shoes. She is deaf too and uses her own feet to feel the vibrations of the music. After the concert, Moses and his classmates meet the percussionist. They hear her inspiring story of hard work and following your dreams no matter what challenges life may give you.

This is a very simple story told through the eyes of a child. It gives a small view into the life of a deaf person. The focus is music, which is something those that hear may take for granted. Children and adults who read this book may have never realized that deaf individuals are able to enjoy music through feeling rather than hearing. This could spark a discussion about the different senses and how they can make up for one another. It also could make readers analyze their misconceptions of what those with disabilities can and cannot do. The general message of working hard to achieve your dreams is one that any child can connect to. Ages 4-8.

Leane says

I read this book back in college and I completely forgot how great it is! The author's note in the beginning about American Sign Language and the use of it in the book is very helpful for teachers and students unfamiliar with the language and signing. It also tells you how to interpret certain symbols like arrows which makes the book more accessible to teachers who want to practice sharing some of the signs with their students.

The story describes Moses's field trip to a concert. Moses, along with his teacher and classmates, is deaf, and shares his thoughts about the trip along the way with readers at the bottom of the page through ASL. Readers can easily interpret the signs and practice them too, which I loved. My favorite part of the book is the way in which Moses and even the percussionist in the concert can "hear music" through vibrations in their feet and their hands. This book takes an ordinary outing, something that most people who think deaf people wouldn't be able to enjoy, and shows us how it can become a great experience for everyone, deaf or not.

Be sure to check out the other stories about Moses: "Moses Goes to the Circus" and "Moses Goes to School."
