



Storm Boy Picture Book

Colin Thiele , Robert Ingpen (Illustrations)

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Storm Boy likes to wander alone along the fierce deserted coast among the dunes that face out into the Southern Ocean. After a pelican mother is shot, Storm Boy rescues the three chicks, and nurses them back to health. He names them Mr Proud, Mr Ponder and Mr Percival. After he releases them, his favourite, Mr Percival, returns. The story then concentrates on the conflict between his lifestyle and the externally imposed requirement for him to attend a school, and the fate of the pelican.

Storm Boy Picture Book Details

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Author : Colin Thiele , Robert Ingpen (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Storm Boy Picture Book for online ebook

Lucy says

Was not expecting to cry at a children's book this morning

Malvina says

Rereading a childhood Australian classic, soon to be released as a film (again). I remember being devastated reading it as a child, and it didn't get much better when my children read it, and then again this time. What did surprise me, however, was the advanced level of language for a child's book. A heartstring tugger.

Saturday's Child says

Finally got my hands on a copy of this little classic. For such a little novel it left me with such a big impression.

Meags says

4 Stars

The bond between boy and bird is strong in this Australian classic. It's such a powerful and moving story considering the limited page count.

R.J. Rodda says

I cried over this book as a child. On rereading it as an adult to my kids I marvelled at how perfectly written it is - what a beautiful, heart-wrenching story set in an area I know well.

Cruth says

I don't know if I read "Storm Boy" when I was child, but I did see the movie, and grew up visiting Mr Percival at Marineland (well, the pelican who played him). Colin Thiele (who died in 2006 at 85) is a South Australian Icon, and his books are a part of our social history. It was a joy to read this story with my daughter, so evocative, so sad, so beautiful.

First published in 1963, "Storm Boy" explores the relationship between a boy and his friend, even when the friend is a pelican, as well as touching on hunting, conservation, and the isolation, remoteness, and hardships

of parts of Australia. But his poetic narrative also imbues the reader with a *feeling* of the place - you can smell the sea, feel the wind, and hear the birds.

Just beautiful.

It does have a difficult ending, but it's sad / not sad. Heartwarming even as you tear up.

We cried.

This book is ahead of it's time. The Indigenous character, Fingerbone, is woven intelligently through the story as an equal without stereotyping or infantilising. Thiele's approach to conservation and the environment speaks to the nature lover, but he takes a realistic, adult approach. But mostly his love of the land speaks to every reader.

Note there are parts of the book parents may not approve.
(view spoiler)

I loved it. Maybe in part because it is part of my heritage, my personal history. It tells of my place. I believed.

Did my daughter feel the same way? I think she did. Maybe she doesn't understand the importance of the work, doesn't hear as I do the lyricism and descriptives in the words, but this is a book she *should* know. And she was a part of the reading. She enjoyed, she listened, she remained focussed, and she cried.

It's a winner for us.

Robert Ingpen

Illustrated by Robert Ingpen in 1974, the stunning pictures embrace the feel of the Coorong. While they do not portray events from the narrative as such, they are of the place, capturing the imaginations of the readers and placing them back on that beach. Illustrations to hang on a wall.
He talks about illustrating Storm Boy here.

Colin Thiele

South Australian born and raised, Colin Thiele celebrated South Australia in over 100 books, as well as teaching in high schools and lecturing in English until his retirement. His first major work, "Sun on the Stubble" was published in 1963 and centred around Eudunda. His last work, "Mr Dumby's Duck", was published 2006.

The Coorong

As much as character of the book as Storm Boy, Thiele makes the reader feel like a part of the landscape. Storm Boy does. He lives and breathes it. And he hurts when it does.
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Cons...>

The Movie

Available on aso.gov.au, clips from the movie and curator's notes as part of Australia's Living Archives. Released in 1976, the movie is as much a part of our history as the book.

Age (taking into account comprehension, concentration, language):

Read aloud - 5+

Read yourself - 8+

Anna Davidson says

I can't believe I've never read this book! It's incredible. A compelling story that is beautifully written, it creates rich visual imagery. A wonderful story about the relationship between humans and animals.

Mish says

Storm Boy is an Australian childhood classic that takes place along the South Australian coast of Coorong. It's a heartwarming tale of a bond between a young boy, Storm Boy and a pelican, Mr. Percival, whom the boy saves from a group of thugs that threatened their sanctuary, killing off wildlife for their own amusement.

I never read Storm Boy as a child but I do recall watching the movie several times. When my girl brought it home to read for her literary circle, I thought I'd take the opportunity to read it for myself. While I enjoyed the detailed description of scenery in this book, my girl didn't appreciate it so much. And I can understand her frustration. For a 60-page book, the scenery took up nearly half. Some words she's never come across before, and this broke her concentration when she was required to look it up. But when it came to Storm Boy and Mr. Percival coming together and their interaction, she was in her element. A lover of animals and wildlife of all kinds, she found their relationship endearing and humorous, especially when it came to Storm Boy training Mr. Percival to fetch. In my opinion, this is a morally important book for kids, showing the bad side of human behaviour and disrespect towards our wildlife and animals. Sad at times, touched on death in a respectable manner for tween readers.

Edwina says

Currently reading, but I had read it as a child. My brother sent it to me when he visited Australia. I was eleven, or so.

I am rereading to see why I loved it so, and why some of the story has stayed with me after all these years. And I do still love it. I love the quietness of it, the feel of the salt air on my face as I read. I can hear the birds, I swear I can.

Yes, I still love this book, and still want to visit this rugged coast, just maybe not in the Winter.

Ruby Tombstone [With A Vengeance] says

The reason I'm giving this 3 stars is not so much because I liked it, but because the author was kind to me as 9yr old. Our class read this in primary school and then Colin Thiele came to our school for a Q&A session. We were asked to write a thank you letter to him and, remembering that he had arthritis, I mentioned this in

my letter. His response to the class came back with the line, "And yes, Ruby, my AUTHORITUS is much better now, thank you. Haha!" Yes. Let's all pretend I did that on purpose....

Yvette Adams says

A lovely classic Australian short story about a boy and his pelican.

Joanne says

This is a lovely read about the power of friendship and the strange places you find it.

David says

Having previously lived not far from Goolwa and The Coorong, and also having been entertained by Mr Percival (from the movie) at the Adelaide Zoo as a youngster, I felt quite sentimental re-reading this book after so many years. The book was standard fare to South Australian (and Australian) schoolchildren in the 1970s and early 1980s, and upon re-reading, I was surprised how little the book had dated over the years.

For me, the book still evoked the same raw emotions as they did 30 years ago when I first read the story. I have always loved the indigenous Fingerbone Bill character (played by David Gulpilil in the movie) and the empathy and bond he shared with the young Storm Boy. They both shared an instinctive and protective love of their environment which is as relevant today as the day Storm Boy was written.

A powerful YA story packed into a short 60ish pages that is still valid today and can be read in conjunction with the equally powerful SA Film Corporation movie of the same name (and some tissues).

Reb says

The nostalgic toastiness of a much loved childhood book.

Faye says

Classic - had to read this to help a child I teach. Love this book.
