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When Harold, a large green alligator with a big mouth and an even bigger appetite, shows up at Irene's door seeking shelter, everyone hides. Except Max. Max persuades the other critters that this particular runaway needs their help. So while everyone keeps busy seeing that Harold remains well fed, Max cooks up a clever plan. But is a room filled with fake alligators enough to keep the zoo detective away?

Duck and Cover Details

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Author : Jackie Urbanovic

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From Reader Review Duck and Cover for online ebook

Stephanie Crowther says

A misunderstanding results in an alligator escaping from the zoo and convincing some new friends to hide him to keep him safe.

Kenson and kirra says

This book was ok. it shows how a little misunderstanding can get way blown up into a big problem. i am glad max the duck took a chance and helped the alligator. suprise ending too.

Zequoia Hyche says

I really enjoyed reading the book Duck and Cover and how it focuses on the actually hiding an alligator lol. I read this book today to my students and they really enjoyed it, because I asked them questions about where we could hide an alligator if we were to put him in the classroom. And they responded thoughtfully. Not only that, but this book can teach children about using their imagination, because these types of situations do not happen in real life. Also, this book speaks to the topic of thankfulness and truthfulness; both good qualities to have. It's a silly story, but a really great book!

Cassie says

I've decided that it doesn't matter what I think - it only matters if kids will read a book, and let me just say, that they loved Max the duck. I chuckled; the kids laughed out loud. Max's adventures begin with Duck at the Door. Instead of flying south one Winter, he wants to see if he'll love it as much as he does Spring. All of his feathered friends leave him behind and he is left in a winter blizzard. Max is accepted into Irene's house of many pets and settles right in, much to the dismay of the other animals! When Winter comes again, all the other animals miss Max, but does he miss them?!? The adventures continue with Duck Soup, another book accepted by the kids, and finally with the latest book, Duck and Cover. Go quackers! Check out Max :) There are some fun downloadables on Urbanovic's website too.

Claudia Naranjo says

When Harold, a large green alligator with a big mouth and an even bigger appetite, shows up at Irene's door seeking shelter, everyone hides. Except Max. Max persuades the other critters that this particular runaway needs their help. So while everyone keeps busy seeing that Harold remains well fed, Max cooks up a clever plan. But is a room filled with fake alligators enough to keep the zoo detective away?

April says

1. Rating: 4
2. A book review from Children's Literature says, "Max the duck, hero of Duck at the Door and Duck Soup, is at Irene's house playing with his animal friends when Harold, a large alligator, arrives. He begs them to hide him from the zoo detectives, since he has mistakenly eaten someone's dog. Although the other animals fear his appetite, Max remembers when he needed help and asks Irene and the others to hide Harold. And so begins a series of absurd and unworkable suggestions, until the detective arrives. Irene says she hasn't seen the alligator, while the others manage to conceal him. Harold spends the night. The next day they try to fool the returning detective. But he tells them that Harold only ate a hot dog, not a pet dog. The zoo wants him back, to the relief of the others whom Harold's appetite has made a bit nervous. The farce-like actions have the quality of an elaborate cartoon, with side comments without speech balloons and above all the exaggerated gestures of the characters. Full-page scenes, in sequence, use only enough detail to carry the plot with comic interactions. The double-page assemblage of all the animals in homemade alligator costumes makes a fitting, amusing highlight."
3. Harold, a large green alligator showed up at a young girl named, Irene's, house. Everyone hid because he had big teeth except for Max, the duck because even though he was scared, he remembered what it was like to be in trouble and alone and he persuaded the other critters to help try to keep the zoo detective from finding the alligator. This would be a great one for second and third graders to pick up and get into!

Mrs. Downs says

When someone comes knocking at the door Irene isn't sure if she should let him in, after all, it is an alligator named Harold. When the Zoo detective shows up the crew does their best to take care of Harold until he's ready to head back home to the zoo.

Kelly says

A 'giggle out loud' kind of book.

Melissa says

Genre: Fantasy

Review: From Barnes & Noble

When Harold the alligator runs away from the zoo after being wrongfully accused of eating a dog, Max the Duck comes to his rescue. He convinces Brody, Dakota, Bebe, and the rest of the menagerie to hide their toothy friend, regardless of their worries about Harold's bottomless appetite. So much fun you'll quack with laughter.

Recommendation: 3-5 Years

Notes: Talks about acceptance of others in a way students can relate to and understand

Mackenzie says

it was a very good book

Erica says

When someone comes knocking at the door Irene isn't sure if she should let him in, after all, it is an alligator named Harold. When the Zoo detective shows up the crew does their best to take care of Harold until he's ready to head back home to the zoo.

Shel says

Urbanovic, J. (2009). Duck and Cover. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.

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Peoples of the Earths, I present to you my first review of a book published in 2009. Yay! Just as I had suspected, it is the future!

Duck and Cover is a part of a larger series featuring Max the duck, who, among other anthropomorphized animals, was adopted by a human adult named Irene. This story features a new animal seeking shelter with Max and Irene. An alligator named Harold has escaped from the zoo after being accused of eating a pet dog and is desperate for help.

As the zoo inspector visits Irene in search of the missing alligator, Max and the other animals must balance finding the perfect place to hide Harold the alligator while overcoming their fear of him.

The illustrations show more of the animals' dialogue than what is presented in the main text. Some of their comments are typical of young children's questions or comments, others are cute and still others are subtle jokes. (My personal favorite is the dog that asks "under-wear???" while searching for a place to hide Harold)

Activities to do with the book:

This book is best used with preschoolers or kindergartners. It can help with discussions of adoption, fostering children, having a new baby join a family or accepting a new student into a class.

If a teacher or babysitter does not want to use this book as a part of a larger discussion, the narrative can be used for fun to encourage a game of hide-and-seek. Students could also create their own illustrations of disguises or hiding spots for Harold.

Also, if props are available, the students could pretend to be Harold and disguise themselves with objects around the classroom or house.

Favorite Quotes:

“Max was afraid too, but he remembered what it was like to be in trouble and alone. Now it was his turn to help someone else.”

“My mouth is big and my appetite is bigger, but I’m not dangerous.”

“I love you all so much, I could eat you up.”

For more of my children's literature reviews, visit sjkessel.blogspot.com

Elizabeth S says

A very useful book if you want some ideas about how to hide something big and green. Another title for this book might be "101 Ways to Hide an Alligator". Of course some are more effective than others, and one in particular is extremely out-of-the-box clever. This book has the charm and character of the others in the series. Despite being a series of short picture books, all the characters somehow have depth as if we really knew them.

SaraKat says

Okay. I didn't find this enjoyable. I am not the target audience, of course, but I usually enjoy the picture books I read. This one just felt wrong. The poor animals in the house were living in terror and rushing to wait on the alligator hand and foot to make sure he wouldn't eat them. No one should feel unsafe in their home. And the reptile is demonized for being a predator and says he is not dangerous like it is a choice. I guess a science teacher can't put aside the food chain long enough to get into this one. :)

Amy says

The kids liked this book. They laughed in the right spots, etc. It was a little hard to read out-loud, though. The characters in the story often contribute little one-liners in the form of bubble-clouds over their heads, and that's kind of hard to convey in an out-loud situation!

My nephew liked the book, and stayed relatively engaged, although not as engaged as I thought he'd be. Eh. It's not a book he's likely to request again. My niece was able to read this one to herself, and I think she got more enjoyment out of it that way. I'd probably give this one 2.5 stars if I could.
