



Best Friends

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Kathy feels lonely and betrayed when her best friend goes away for the summer and has a wonderful time.

Best Friends Details

Date : Published April 14th 1986 by Dial (first published 1975)

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Author : Steven Kellogg

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Ally Copper says

Louise Jenkins and Kathy Cotski are best friends. They share everything, even their daydreams about owning a horse. When Louise goes away on vacation and leaves Kathy behind, Kathy starts to get jealous. When her new next door neighbor, Mr. Jode, promises Kathy one of the puppies from his dog's litter, she daydreams about getting the puppy and not letting Louise play with it. When a twist of fate makes it so that Louise actually gets the one and only puppy that Mr. Jode's dog gives birth to, Kathy is incensed. Louise, however, reaches out a hand of friendship and says they can share the puppy. With that act of kindness, their friendship is saved. Friendship, jealousy, separation, forgiveness, and compromise are all covered in this endearing picture book that will appeal to girls in 1st through 3rd grade. The detailed, colorful illustrations done in ink and watercolor by the author/illustrator Steven Kellogg are imaginative and capture the inner-workings of little girls' daydreams.

Kim says

This book almost everyone can relate to, having their friend go away to camp or on vacation, and how much you miss them while they are away. A very well written story that could be used as mentor text to show that most children feel the same way. I could see using it to discuss feelings such as anger and jealousy. The illustrations are wonderful, and the ending is great. This book could also be used for predicting, because I was surprised at a couple of things that happened. A definite for my classroom library.

Ashten Wolff says

Best friends fight and then they get back together.

Diane says

Kathy and Louise are best friends — but Louise goes away for the summer. She is camping and making new friends, while Kathy is home and lonely. Thankfully, Mr. Jode moves in next door to provide a distraction. His dog is going to have puppies. Kathy reserves the first spotted one. What will happen when Louise returns from camp? Will she and Kathy be friends again?

Volkert says

Picture book. Kathy's best friend, next-door-neighbor Louise, leaves for the summer and Kathy gets lonely.

Liane says

Genre: Picture book

Reading Level: Early

Topics & Themes: Friendship. Jealousy. Sharing. Abandonment. Imagination.

Curricular Use: Shared reading

Social: Girl leaving for summer camp, best friend left behind

Literary Elements: Alliteration. Imagery. Different genre:postcard

Text & Pictures: Interaction. Pictures demonstrate the girls imagination, did not always show reality, but girls thoughts on reality

Chloe says

This book made me want a puppy. And a horse. And to be best friends with LeVar Burton.

Tahya Bruce says

I think this would be a perfect book to read to younger kids. I feel like it could totally relate to the younger kids and how they are with their best friends. It definitely shows how frustrated friends can get with each other when the other friend does something without them, but at the end of the day they will always be your best friend. I think this book could be a good teaching lesson like if a teacher noticed tension in the room with her students he/she could read it. Or even a parent if their child was having conflicts with a best friend.

Ms Threlkeld says

Good for talking with kids about friendship and how it can change and evolve.

Alissa says

Kathy and Louise are best friends and share everything. Louise goes away for the summer and Kathy can't believe that Louise could have fun without her! Kathy makes friends with the new neighbor Mr. Jode across the street. When Louise returns from summer camp, Kathy has a surprise waiting for her. Through twists and turns the girls resolve the strained emotions from the summer and again learn to share everything. As always, the illustrations are phenomenal.

Nelson Holmes says

Topics this story can be used for:

Friendship, dealing with emotions, new friends, sharing, broken friendships

*Accessible via reading rainbow

Amanda Warkentin says

My kids and I loved this book. Awesome pics, great morale and lessons to be learned.

Megan says

Summary: Kathy and Louise are best friends and do everything together. When Louise goes with her aunt and uncle to the mountains all summer, Kathy is afraid that she has lost her friend Louise. She becomes very angry with her, but at the end of the story their friendship remains solid.

Genre: Picture Book

Audience: K-3

Reading Level: Late Early/Transitional Readers

Topic: Friendship

Theme: Distance can not break apart true friends

Literary Elements: Dialogue, Sequential plot

Illustrations: The illustrations in this book are beautiful! There are intricate details that really bring the characters and the situation to life. They support the text and help the reader decipher the words in the text.

Additional Comments: While this may not be the best book about friendship, it conveys a great message of friendship to the reader. It also teaches students to avoid jumping to conclusions about situations before they understand the facts. I think children will be able to relate to this story and will enjoy it. I would use this for primary grades.

Taylor Miller says

"Best Friends" is a book that can relate to many people. I feel like it's accurate to say that we all had a best friend at a young age that we did everything with, even fought. Kellogg writes from a young girl's perspective of her best friend and their difficulties, and it seemed so real to me. It made me reminisce back on my own childhood and it funny to feel like I went through a similar situation. The ending ends a little odd, which is nothing too surprising coming from Kellogg , and that is why I took one of the stars away. Other than that, great read!

Brenna says

This book is about two best friends, Kathy and Louise. Louise and Kathy like to play pretend. Louise goes to camp and leaves Kathy lonely. Kathy thinks Louise made new friends and she didn't like that. They liked to pretend that they had a horse named Golden Silverwind and that they had magic witch hats.

Somebody moves in next door whose dog is pregnant with puppies. Kathy and Louise must decide who gets one. I like that these girls are two best friends just like me and my best friend, Addie.
