



Clifford The Firehouse Dog

Norman Bridwell

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Emily Elizabeth and Clifford go to visit his brother, who is a firehouse dog. When an alarm goes off, Clifford comes to the rescue--he HELPS OTHERS by rescuing the people and putting out the fire!

The BE BIG campaign invites everyone, big and small, to take action and raise awareness for how CLIFFORD'S BIG IDEAS can make the world a better place.

Clifford The Firehouse Dog Details

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From Reader Review Clifford The Firehouse Dog for online ebook

Kirk says

Clifford is a friendly dog, one who supplies love and knowledge to the puny proletariat inhabitants of a small rural town. The more love he receives in payment, the larger he grows, until his owner, Emily Elizabeth, tells him simply to "stop."

But it is never that simple. One can't just halt growth for the sake of the motivation-lacking peasants because they feel like they're not getting their fair shake. It is market growth, symbolically depicted by a large dog, ironically colored red, which helps society flourish. The working class depends upon Clifford's growth and tutelage, and it is ultimately their incompetence which perpetuates this dynamic. They are to blame for his growth and they will bend to his will, because they need him. That's the message Norman Bridwell sends us in the timeless masterpiece, Clifford the Firehouse Dog.

Clifford begins his life in a previous installment. He is puny, but upon being fed by the city peasants he begins to grow to titanic proportions. He grows so large that he must be relocated to a small rural setting where he will no longer damage those around him. In Clifford the Firehouse Dog, Clifford returns to the city to engage the peasant class once more. He mingles with them, attempts to emulate them. But when he stops (working), drops (onto a couch and collects welfare) and rolls (with the pace of government assistance) like the apathetic peasantry, he destroys the paltry vendors upon the street and then pays them off so they'll keep their mouths shut. No, Clifford is too large to simply drop out of the rat race. He is a mechanism which cannot be stopped. Even when Emily demands he stop growing, just as the weak and downtrodden demand an end to monopoly, he simply spreads out, wreaking havoc on the small businesses surrounding.

In this respect Clifford is the Wal*Mart of loveable children's story characters. But he is so much more. When danger calls, Clifford outruns the peasantry to the scene of atrocity. He begins rescuing people before the others arrive. And when they do finally arrive, he kindly gives them their fair shake, allowing them to fail at each attempt to save their peers before he jumps in to save the day.

This is where a potential problem with Bridwell's metaphorical depiction of an idealized capitalist society begins. Bridwell's society is built upon the presupposition that the endeavors of the working class are fruitless. Every attempt they make to save others are met with failure. "The heavy hose was hard to unravel. Clifford gave the firefighters a hand." (Bridwell). This depiction of the working class as incompetent allows Clifford to jump in and save the day, as if these working class veterans have never successfully stopped a fire or successfully completed the tasks allotted to them. The emphasis on worker incompetence allows the glorification of Clifford as a necessary component of the social mechanism.

But is Bridwell's depiction really flawed, or is it a carefully veiled blueprint for capitalist control over the working class drones in society, one which transcends the shallow capitalist fantasies of shortsighted writers like Ayn Rand? I vouch for the latter. To control the masses, the upper class must make themselves a necessity. They must disempower and emphasize the futility of struggle against their authority. They must breed fear and danger that outweighs their own inherent fear the working class has for them . . . and then squelch the greater dangers they fabricate. Only then can they be lauded as heroes just as Clifford is at the end of the book. Essentially, the Mega Corporation becomes a part of the people by being a necessary superior force. Marx be damned.

Robert Owens says

Fritz selected this story as his bedtime story tonight. I've come to realize that Clifford isn't my kind of story. Nonetheless, it is important for the boy to be able to select what he wants to read. There was a time when he wouldn't even sit through a story.

We had a good time playing "hide and seek" with this story. When the text told us some people were in trouble, I asked Fritz where they were. When Emily Elizabeth was mentioned, I asked him where she was. Then we changed things up, and I asked him to explain things that were going on in the story. Fritz loved it and wanted to read it again and again.

As for the story, Clifford helps a firefighting squad put out a fire and rescue people. One wonders how they ever would have done it without a large red dog. Eh. But reading it with your son enhances the experience!

Mira P says

This is my favorite Clifford book. I love how Clifford saves everyone when they have a fire in their building. Also, I especially like how he helps the fire fighters. Read the book to find out!

Russell says

[Oh, the firemen need to get the smoke out of the building? So he makes a hole in the roof? Then he blows the smoke away? Unless the fire's already out, we've got this destructive canine acting like a massive furry bellows, fueling the deadly flames.

Oh, he's now grabbing them through open windows and carrying

Nyjol says

It's was a great book and I think that this book is a great kids book for kids of all ages. clifford was smart to brake a hole in the roof of the building that was on fire and grabing the water from the water tower and spraying it into the building to help the firefighters put the fire out. overall this book is a good lesson of helpfulness for kids. if you have kids your kids will love this book and they will learn that helping others that are having trouble taking care of somethings is ok to do but sometime being helpful can cause big problems for others so remember to teach your kids to be helpful, and caring for others like family and friends. also look into other great clifford books and video for the whole family to enjoy they will make kids want to read and watch them again and again.

written by: Nyjol A. Morrison

Penny says

It's never to early to start fire safety. Since even my 16 month old likes Clifford, it's a great way to introduce it. It's easier to remember stop, drop, and roll when picturing Clifford rolling a little too far. The Clifford stories are simplistic, but my kids all love them.

The end of the book comes with a good reminder of fire safety. The one about the phone is less useful in the U.S. since most areas now use 9-1-1 and cell phones have largely eliminated house phones, but the rest of the reminders are still valuable. It never hurts to review fire safety in any way possible, as frequently as you can.

Karen says

I like this book because it helps children learn about Fire Safety as they learn and/or review fire safety vocabulary. It can be best used during "Fire Prevention Week" in October. The color illustrations open the door for discussions about Fire Safety Rules and firefighters. Students can make inferences during a read-aloud. This engaging book can be used to help motivate students to speak and work on their vocabulary.

Salvador Zarate says

Norman Birdcall brings another addition to the famous children book series of Clifford, the big red dog. In this adventure, Clifford and I presume to be his owner, Emily Elizabeth go to the firehouse to visit Clifford's brother, Nero, the firehouse dog. The conflict of the story was when the building is in flames and many people are still stuck in the building so the firefighters and Clifford must rescue them and put out the fire. The moral of the story was learning what to do in case of a fire. I thought it was very smart to add a page talking about what to do if you are on fire, teaching the universal method of, "stop, drop and, roll" was good to teach kids who probably never thought about what to do in case of a fire. As far as the writing goes, I thought the book was a very simple book, I thought it relied heavily on the emotions brought on by the illustrations, like most children books. Another thing I wanted to add is seeing at the end of a PSA for kids about what can cause fires and how to protect yourself. I commend Norman Bridwell for the thoughtful addition of the last page.

Jc says

Having Clifford around in a firehouse would be a very good thing indeed.

Matthew Hocker says

On October 12 1654 the city of Delft experienced a tumultuous explosion which killed hundreds and severely injured thousands. The cacophony of cries oozed into the rebellious roars of an exploring gunpowder. The blast left nothing but a hungry fire with a stomach only quenched by ruination.

On October 13 1654 Clifford the Big Red Dog was on the scene, aiding Netherland firefighters in their efforts to quell the still fighting flames. This was a boxing match without gloves and without rules, and an audience that felt every punch along the way.

On October 11 1654 Clifford the Big Red Dog led Cornelis Soetens away from his Magazine to show him some "hella cool birds n' shit."

While Soetens was seeking out the "most gangster fuckin' bird tricks you could possibly imagine" Clifford laid a trap for Soetens' return. But it wasn't immediate. Cornelis wandered astray for twenty-four hours until returning to his place of business.

And twenty-four hours after that, Clifford would finally be accepted (out of desperation) as a true Firehouse Dog.

Let me champion the truth, here: Clifford's coat is red with the blood of his sins and soaked in the ash of whatever hollow pits remain behind him. Some say Dalmatians of future firehouses are dotted black by the burning coals of Clifford's hatred for man, but Bridwell unfortunately did not tap this important narrative in Clifford the Firehouse Dog (Library Binding edition).

Bridwell does however capture fire safety perfectly, and reminds us the importance of always having an escape plan that's both inclusive and an encapsulation of diversity through safety.

4/5 for progressive fire safety policy!

Skylar Burris says

Isn't it a little sadistic that Clifford's fireman relative is named Nero? These Clifford books bore me to tears...but the kids like them well enough.

Laura Gibbs says

This book definitely has some good aspects of it! The basic story line is that Clifford goes to visit his brother, who is much smaller than him, who is a firehouse dog and works at the firehouse. While his brother is teaching other children how to "stop, drop and roll" Clifford tries to do the same outside but ends up causing more trouble than it was worth! He ran over a vendor's food stand when he rolled! But shortly after, there is a fire and Clifford is quick to help! He is able to get there quickly by clearing traffic, saw people in trouble and helped them by unreeling the firefighters hose, then getting the fire hydrant working. He got smoke out, poured water into the building and helped the firemen all get out. Everyone was so grateful for what he had done that they named him honorary fire rescue dog, just like his brother!

I liked that this book teaches kids what to do in a fire, and gives them a little bit of a glimpse of what firemen do as part of their job. It showed them how they fought fires (to a certain extent) and I think that's definitely cool and beneficial! As far as I have ever seen, little kids love to learn about Clifford and read his books so it

shouldn't be too hard to get their attention! This could be used when talking about firemen's job is or good tips for fire safety.

Rosa Cline says

This is a fabulous 'classic' Clifford book, one I had forgotten about but as I read to my 3 year old granddaughter memories of sitting reading it myself as a child came to mind. Love these classic Clifford books that not only brings our love for Clifford the big red dog to mind but our special memories reading as a child too.

In this book Clifford goes and visits his brother the firehouse dog. A group of children is at the firehouse teaching them lessons in what to do if they get caught on fire "stop drop and roll" the fire alarm rings and Clifford goes and helps the firefighters save a building. A great teaching fire lesson book.

Amy Scott says

You can't go wrong with a Clifford book. He and Emily Elizabeth have been a favorite since I was a child and now I read them to my own kids. This particular Clifford story is about fire safety and the day Clifford helps the firefighters. It would be a great book to use in an early childhood classroom when talking about fire safety. The last page of the book also has some real fire safety tips you could discuss with students.

Modboy says

Emily Elizabeth and Clifford visit Clifford's brother Nero (yes that's really his name!) at the fire station. Children learn about fire safety with the ever helpful Clifford. I love the first fire safety tip at the back of the book: "Tape the number of your Fire Department to your phone."
