

I Wanna Iguana

Karen Kaufman Orloff

2004

Putnam/Penguin.

Author:

Karen Kaufman

Address:

Karma Wilson

Simon and Schuster, Margaret K. McElderry Books

1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020

“Official” Webpage:

<http://www.karenkaufmanorloff.com/>

Email Address

orloff@bestweb.net



Della Ross Ferreri and Karen Kaufman Orloff

When Karen was a little girl, she dreamed of writing the great American Novel. Now she writes for children. She loves writing for kids. When not writing she spend time with her husband and two kids. They have and iguana.

She is a graduate of Hofstra University where she majored in English. After graduating, she worked full time as an Editor of trade magazines. She left that career to become a mom. While raising her children she did freelance work. She currently writes articles for the Poughkeepsie Journal.

I Wanna Iguana is her first picture book.

Other books include: The Little Book of Names for adults, and If Mom Had Three Arms for kids

Illustrator

David Catrow



Address:
Springfield News-Sun
202 Limestone St
Springfield IL 45503

Cartoonist and book illustrator David J. Catrow was born in Richmond, Virginia. As a boy, his favorite subject in school was drawing... in math class! Even though he intended to pursue a “sensible” profession, drawing silly pictures turned out to be Catrow’s destiny.

He attended Kent State University, where he started out in pre-med. Although he didn’t go on to medical school, Catrow *did* work as a paramedic for 10 years. And when he wasn’t wearing his stethoscope, Catrow explored work as a cartoonist by freelancing for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and the *Akron Beacon-Journal*. Art finally emerged as his permanent – and highly acclaimed – career.

His success as an illustrator came several years after Catrow took a job as editorial cartoonist with the *Springfield News-Sun*. He’s been at the paper since 1984, and continues to live in Springfield with his wife, Deborah and their two children. Catrow’s eccentric, darkly comedic cartoons were syndicated in 1988. They now appear in more than 900 newspapers.

David Catrow is the national bestselling illustrator of *I Ain't Gonna Paint No More* by Karen Beaumont. He and Mike Reiss have collaborated before with the unforgettable books *How Murray Saved Christmas*, *Santa Claustrophobia*, and *The Boy Who Looked Like Lincoln*. David Catrow lives in Springfield, Ohio, where he is still waiting for Santa to deliver the wildebeest he's had on his Christmas list since 1964.

Other Books:

Don't Say That Word! By Alan Katz

Are You Quite Polite?: Silly Dilly Manners Songs By Alan Katz

Plantzillia Goes to Camp By Jerdine Nolen

Awards for book:

2008 Golden Sower Award nominee

Arkansas Diamond Primary Honor Book Award

Annotation:

I Wanna Iguana is a story about a set of letters between a boy, named Alex, and his mother. Alex is trying to convince his mother to let him have an iguana. He comes up with reasons to counter his mother's protest against him getting the iguana. This is a nice set of letters. This is a nice change to the normal story. The pictures help to bring the letters to life. They also bring in some humor to the book.

Book talk:

Have you ever tried to convince your mother to let you have something? Alex takes a different approach. He writes letters to his mom asking her for an iguana. Every time his mom writes back she comes up with a reason why he can't have this pet. He follows each letter with reasons to try to change her mind. Do you think he should have the pet or not?

Characters:

Main- Alex 6year old- wants an iguana

Mom- agrees that Alex is not ready for a pet

Conflict:

Alex wants a pet Iguana. This is an external conflict that Alex has with his mother.

Conflict Resolution:

Mom decides to let Alex have the iguana on a trial basis.

Genre:

Family Fiction

Setting:

Alex's House

Present day

Point of View:

First Person

Art Medium:

The illustrator uses a cartoon look for this book. He adds humor to the story through his drawing. The characters are fun and you want to turn the page to see what is going to happen next. He uses bright colors that add to the warm feelings of the book.

Theme:

Alex tries to convince his seemingly unshakable mother that he should be allowed to adopt a friend's baby iguana. The title lets the reader know that is that he wants and have they ever wanted something then they will want to read this book.

If you like I Wanna Iguana, you'll love: The Little Book of Names by Karen Kaufman Orloff, If Mom Had Three Arms by Karen Kaufman Orloff, I Don't Like Gloria by Kaye Umansky, A Promise is a promise by Florence Parry Heide, and Moi and Marie Antoinette by Lynn Cullen.

Reading Level:

2.7

Interest Level:

P-3

Across the Curriculum Connections

Science K.4.1.

Items needed: Chart paper and markers

Talk about different types of animals. Come up with animals that can be pets like the iguana. Then come up with animals that are not pets. This would be a group project.

Art K.7.2.

Items needed: paper bags, tape, markers, crayons, newspaper, yarn, paper, scissors, paint, paint brushes, and glue

After reading the story, talk about different pets. Discuss what they look like. Then have them create their own pet using the art supplies. This would be an activity for them to do on their own.

Writing K.5.2.

Items needed: paper, pencils, and crayons

Have the students draw a picture of an animal that they would like to have for a pet. Then have them write to their parents why they think that they should have that pet. This would be an individual project that they could get help on writing what they would say.

Reading K.2.2

Items needed: paper, pencil, and crayons

Have the students draw a picture of how they think Alex's room is going to look now that he has the iguana. Remember to include the iguana's cage in their drawings. Then they need to write about their picture. This is a individual project that can be shared with the whole class.

Discussion Questions:

Before: What do you think this story is going to be about? Have you ever wanted something really bad and your parents told you No!? What did you do about it?

During: Do you think he is going to get to the iguana? How would you respond to your Mother? Do you think that his mom was being unfair?

After: Do you think that he will keep to his promises? What do you think will happen to the iguana? What would you do if you were Alex?

Language:

Compassionate-having feelings for others feelings

Reptile-animal that is cold blooded (example snake)

Financial-dealing with money

Indiana Academic Standards

Kindergarten

Art K.7.1, K.7.2 Social Studies K.4.4, K.5.2 Science K.3.2d, K.4.1

Language K.1.22, K.2.1, K.2.2, K.2.5, K.3.1, K.3.3

First Grade

Social Studies 1.5.8 Science 1.2.7, 1.4.3

Language 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.6, 1.2.7, 1.3.1, 1.3.3, 1.3.5, 1.3.4, 1.7.1

Second Grade

Social Studies 2.5.1 Science 2.4.3, 2.4.4, 2.4.8

Language 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.2.6, 2.2.9, 2.2.10, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.5, 2.3.6, 2.3.7

Third Grade

Social Studies 3.4.6

Language 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.2.5, 3.2.6, 3.2.8, 3.3.1, 3.3.4, 3.3.6, 3.3.8

Biography

David J. Catrow III Biography

<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/676/Catrow-David-J-III.html>

Harper Collins

<http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/HarperChildrens/Teachers/AuthorsAndIllustrators/ContributorDetail.aspx?CID=21058>

Karen Kaufman Orloff

<http://www.karenkaufmanorloff.com/>

SCBWI Of eastern Pennsylvania

<http://www.scbwiepa.org/newsletter/winter20067.pdf>

SCBWI Upstate New York Conferences

www.scbwi-upny.org/confer.htm

SimonSays.com

<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?tab=1&pid=355116>