

Fred Stays with Me!
By Nancy Coffelt
Illustrated by Tricia Tusa
Copyright date 2007
Little, Brown and Company

About the author:

Nancy Coffelt has been an illustrator for many years, and she usually uses animals as her subject matter. She currently resides in Oregon with her husband and son. Nancy often uses black paper and oil pastels as her medium. She has written several books, and usually illustrates them as well.

Author's Homepage: <http://www.jacketflap.com/profile.asp?member=dutch>

Publisher's webpage: http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/kids_index.aspx

Publisher's webpage for the author or author's books:

http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/kids_books_9780316882699.htm

Other Web Resources:

More information on Nancy Coffelt

<http://blog.nancycoffelt.com/>

Awards:

Boston Globe/Horn Book Honor

Kirkus Starred Review

Horn Book Starred Review

School Library Journal Starred Review

School Library Journal Best of 2007

Kirkus Best of 2007

Miami Herald Best of 2007

ALA Notable Book

2008 Moonbeams Award Silver Medal

2008 Mom's Choice Award

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Donna Norvell Oklahoma Book Award

About the Illustrator:

Tricia Tusa has illustrated many children's books and currently resides in Houston, Texas. She also has authored some children's books as well.

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=163702>

Annotation:

The author uses a boisterous little girl who knows what she wants. Although her parents are divorced she has one constant, Fred her dog, in her life. Sometimes she lives with mom, sometimes she lives with dad, BUT Fred is always there.

Genre:

This book is written is realistic fiction.

Point of View:

The book is written in the first person point of view.

Theme:

The theme from the story is asserting what you need and making sure that people understand what that is.

Conflict:

Fred stays with the main character, but at her mom's house Fred causes trouble by barking at the poodle next door. At dad's he eats everyone's socks! Neither parent wants Fred around anymore.

Conflict Resolution:

The main character (she remains nameless in the story) tells her parents that Fred stays with her. So, mom helps Fred make friends with the poodle next door and dad puts the socks up where Fred cannot get to them.

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Characters:

Main character: child of a divorced couple

Mom: where Fred and the main character spend some of the time

Dad: where Fred and the main character spend some of their time

Fred: An energetic dog who likes to bark at other dogs and eat socks.

Setting:

There are two settings.

The main character spends equal time at her mom's and at her dad's.

Interest level/Reading Level:

RL 1.8 Interest Level: P-2

Booktalk:

Did you ever have a blanket or a bear that you could not sleep without? The main character in the book *Fred Stays with Me* has Fred, her dog. When her mother gets tired of Fred barking at the poodle next door, and when Fred has eaten all the socks in the house they both decide that Fred can't live with them. But, the main character insists that Fred stay with her. To find out whether or not Fred gets to stay, check out the book *Fred Stays with Me* by Nancy Coffelt.

Definitions:

- Bunk bed: a bed with two beds attached, one on top, one on bottom (pg.5)
- Regular: plain (pg.6)
- Crumbs: bits of food (pg.7)
- Searching: looking for (pg. 9)

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Indiana Academic Standards:

English/Language Arts:

K.2.1, K.2.2, K.2.3,

Anticipation Statements:

- Having a dog is easy.
- Moms and dads always know best.
- You shouldn't always say what you think.
- Sometimes you have to tell adults what you need, whether they will like it or not.

Art Medium used:

The pictures in Fred Stays with Me are done in warm reds and browns, and it adds to the warmth of the book. The artwork is done in watercolors.

Watercolors are excellent mediums to help students with. They are accessible and easy to clean up. The medium was chosen because of the warmth it conveys, which goes right along with the book's subject.