



Harry the Dirty Dog

Gene Zion , Margaret Bloy Graham (Illustrator)

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There's never been another dog as delightful—or dirty—as Harry.

This lovable white dog with black spots (or black dog with white spots) has charmed children for fifty years, and we are celebrating with an anniversary edition. This childhood favourite is perfect for reading aloud before going to bed or avoiding a bath.

Harry the Dirty Dog Details

Date : Published January 24th 2006 by HarperCollins (first published 1956)

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Author : Gene Zion , Margaret Bloy Graham (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Harry the Dirty Dog for online ebook

Michelle Knudsen says

I think this is a perfect picture book. I remember loving the story when I was little, and I love it just as much now, if not more. There's a clear initial problem: Harry likes everything, except getting a bath. So he buries the scrubbing brush and runs away and has a wonderful day getting dirty, but then when he goes back home (because of course he hasn't *really* run away), his family doesn't recognize him. And when all hope seems lost, he remembers the scrubbing brush and digs it up and runs into the house and jumps in the tub and begs for a bath. And so the thing he hates is the thing that saves him. And everyone is happy. And then the last page delivers a delicious last little kick, as Harry dreams of "how much fun it had been getting dirty" and he sleeps so soundly that he doesn't even feel the scrubbing brush he has hidden under his pillow. His attempt to solve his initial problem has led to a greater problem which he finally solves by accepting the thing he was trying to avoid in the first place. And then comes full circle, hiding the brush again. It's just so satisfying in every way.

Lisa Vegan says

I adored this book as a young child. It's written for very young children, but I still enjoy it as an adult. It's a very clever story and told with a lot of humor and warmth. I like all the Harry The Dirty Dog books but this one was the first I read and it remains my favorite. It holds up completely over time – a genuine classic.

Anna says

One of the few books my grandparents had at their house when I was little, so I grew to love this one.

Suzanne says

Read this as a child and almost know it by heart. For every child (who hates baths) and every dog owner whose dog hates baths. A true classic and a must for every childhood library.

Jordyn collins says

He dose not want to take
Sowers

Mosley Allen says

I remember ready this book as a child in elementary school, well now the time has come to read this book to my child as a after school reading assignment. It's a charming classic book that every child can enjoy.

?????????? says

★★★★★Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion

Cute story about a playful puppy who doesn't want a bath, but in the end is happy to be squeaky clean. My 9yo daughter loved this book.

Sharon Barrow Wilfong says

I love the Harry books. Harry is so cute and his facial features is so expressive, really making the cartoon come alive.

Harry does not want to take a bath so he grabs the scrub brush and runs away. On his little adventure, he finds that maybe there are worse things than taking a bath.

Benji Martin says

I've always wondered... does the family really not recognize Harry, or are they just pretending they don't so that he'll take a bath?

Rossy says

What a cute little face Harry has <3

Archit Ojha says

Pleasing little illustrations that woo your adult self to read it over and over again.

Harry, the dog, is not so fond of bathing and shoots away to the city for an adventure. Well, as the name suggests, he gets dirty from the coal engines, the dusts and the smoke.

Gene Zion packs a good tale of the dog who faces rejection by his owners as they fail to recognize his changed guise. Is that a black dog with white spot or a white dog with black spots?

How will Harry ever get them to know!

This short story never goes old with time. Made superb by the illustrator's dexterity with the pen.

The pictures are perennially etched to the word adorable in our psyche.

Lydia says

This was one of my favourite books as a kid and reading it again made me feel all warm and fuzzy.

It's about a little dog named Harry who gets so dirty his coat colour changes and his owners don't recognise him. My favourite and perhaps most beloved aspect is the illustration style -- it's super nostalgic and reminds me of old cartoons which probably adds to the nostalgia hit.

This book has all it needs to appeal to children. Dirt, a dog, and disobeying rules. What more do you need?

Andrea Blythe says

My review: Harry is a white dog with black spots, who hates taking baths. So one day, he steals the bath brush and buries it in the yard and runs away from home. Along the way he gets very dirty.

I remember reading this book as a kid. I loved it then and I loved it now. It's a fun book of innocent mischief and great illustrations that clearly reveal how much fun Harry has getting dirty.

I'm going to have to buy *No Roses for Harry* for my niece, because I remember loving that one, too. It was another childhood favorite.

My niece's review: She doesn't speak yet, so it's hard to say for sure. Plus, she was a bit fussy tonight. But when I started reading it, she quieted down and played with the pages, smacking them and helping me turn them and then looking up at me when I was particularly dramatic.

Towards the end, she started to whine and cry, but as I said, she was tired and fussy, so I wouldn't take that as a criticism of the book. Actually, I think she rather liked it until her hunger and exhaustion got the best of her.

Zuko Cornwell says

So delighted to see dogs these days represented how we truly are in major dramatic roles. I can't wait for more contemporary dog novels. We deserve more recognition for keeping the squirrel population at an all time minimum

Mark Lawrence says

Gene Zion cunningly disguised one of the great existential questions of our age in this Dirty Harry book.

Do you feel lucky?

This is a book about identity:

Am I white (*with black spots*)
or black (*with white spots*)

About change and transition:

Do I have to remain how I was born. Can I not re-imagine myself. If I identify as a black dog with white spots (or by extension the ying to any yang be it gender, sexuality, or some more esoteric quality) can I not change? Can the leopard (or Scotty dog) change its spots?

About civil liberties:

When can indignities (such as baths) be imposed upon the young or upon minorities (Scotties), and when is it time to stand up to authority and say "No!" (or "woof").

And about consequence:

Will your loved ones recognise your rights to make the choices you have? Will they even recognise you after the upheavals of your personal transition/journey.

Above all this book lets you know that running away from home can be kinda fun.

In short this modern classic of 20th century literature subsumes our bourgeois preconceptions in a tale of real drama and urgency, a creative maelstrom in which modern angst is conceptualised in canine form. For it is not a Scotty per se, rather it is a cypher for man's eternal (non)interconnectedness with the natural world, realised with Zion's characteristic perspicuity, its disingenuous indirectness a paradoxical signifier of its vital directness and its relevance, in real terms, to the anguished unreality of the modern - and yet forebodingly ancient - the disjunction of Man and his nearest (this terminology rapaciously encompassing Woman and her nearest) post-Jungian-evolutionary relation.

There can be no better education for a child. Or adult. I commend it to your attention. And to the ages.

Finis.

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Steph says

This was read by Betty white I found an online YouTube channel called storytime online great children stories read by famous people I absolutely loved it especially for the little ones

Jennifer says

gotta be the best book i've ever read. hands down. i was recently given a paperback copy for my 26th birthday. i miss all my crayon marks in the old one, but was never ever to recover the original.

Tyler Jones says

If you don't like *Harry the Dirty Dog*, then I don't want to be your friend.

Megan Boomgarden says

This book is great for young children because it is filled with ideas that children can relate to- the main character is a dog, the idea of not wanting to take a bath, and the comfort and love of a family. I think this book is also good because it hints slightly, without being "in your face blunt" at racial issues. It shows that just because Harry changed his appearance from a white dog to a black dog, doesnt mean that Harry himself actually changed. He was still the same dog, capable of doing the same tricks, and interested in the same things. It shows that physical appearance and color does not affect the person on the inside.

Matt says

Harry was a lovely white dog who sported a few black spots. He loved life to the fullest, but could not handle baths whatsoever. After disposing of his scrubbing brush, Harry set out to explore the world on his own, a very dirty world. Playing in the dirt and rolling in coal soon turned Harry into the blackest dog ever, with only a few white spots. After missing his family, Harry decided to return home, though things were not as easy as he might have hoped! Neo has never had a pet, but he quite enjoyed this piece, noticing how determined Harry was to get out and see the world, but still chose to come home at the end of the day.
