



If Dogs Run Free

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WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

Music icon Bob Dylan and acclaimed illustrator Scott Campbell team up in this delightful interpretation of Dylan's 1970 song, "If Dogs Run Free"!

*If dogs run free,
Why not we?*

In this quirky, spirited interpretation of Bob Dylan's 1970 song, "If Dogs Run Free," illustrator Scott Campbell brings Dylan's lyrics to life as a celebration of the freedom and creativity of childhood. Children of all ages will delight in the message, "Just do your thing!"

If Dogs Run Free Details

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Author : Bob Dylan , Scott Campbell (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review If Dogs Run Free for online ebook

Amber says

Of all the songs and all the amazing lyrics Bob Dylan has written, I'm not sure why someone would choose to illustrate this particular one. But "to each his own, it's all unknown, if dogs run free." It's not my favorite set of lyrics, and I'm not big on the artwork either, personally. But it's interesting to see Bob's lyrics being illustrated for children.

Baby Bookworm says

This review was originally written for The Baby Bookworm. Visit us for new picture books reviews daily!

Hello, friends! Today, we read *If Dogs Run Free*, written by Bob Dylan and illustrated by Scott Campbell, a picture book inspired by the lyrics of Dylan's 1970 song of the same name.

Accompanied by darling and joyful illustrations, the lyrics unfold across the pages as the story follows two children and their dog, asking the question, "If dogs run free, then why not we?" The rhymes are simple and fun to read, and the book has a great flow to it (plus, if you're a fan of the song, it can be sung all the way through).

Our favorite part were the illustrations, which are playful, colorful, and really bring Dylan's sometimes-abstract lyrics to life. The adventures of the children and their dog, and the many sights and friends that greet them along the way, are thoroughly detailed and filled with whimsy.

Otherwise, the length is great for baby bookworms, and we had a lot of fun reading this one together. Baby Bookworm approved!

Be sure to check out The Baby Bookworm for more reviews!

Abby Ratliff says

This is a fun poetry book for younger readers. I think this would be a great way to introduce poetry. This book would also be great as a read aloud for emergent readers.

Genre: poetry

Alice says

Bob Dylans voice is in my head..it sounds like an engine that won't start or an engine that is dying. However, even though he can't sing, he is a poet, no doubt about that, but this book doesn't thrill me at all. The pictures are messy looking with kids with large unnatural upsetting eyes with even bigger head.... The dogs are just

blobs that could be dogs, could be rocks with legs, could be large tree limbs could be mice...

BUT... the idea "The best is always yet to come, That's what they explain to me Just do your thing, you'll be king If dogs run free" I can live with that!

Julian says

I am a casual Dylan listener and enjoy some of his songs. "If Dogs Run Free" is OK for me, but it just doesn't work in a book, where it is evident the lyrics are meaningless without music and voice to make up for the nonsense, Nobel Prizes aside.

"If dogs run free, then what must be
Must be, and that is all"

That is a quick example.

The artwork is barely OK, with lots of dogs, some of them looking like sheep or just deformed, doing all sorts of things.

Acceptable for a library choice, but I wouldn't spend money on it.

Sean Harding says

Another picture book which brings one of Dylan's songs to life in a different way, presenting the lyrics with some pictures. It appears that this might now be a thing I wonder how many songs will get this treatment?

Ryan says

The fourth out of four Bob Dylan books that have been interpreted as children's books is perhaps the most children-centered of the four. The title of the song, "If Dogs Run Free," conjured up images of running around, throwing tennis balls, and swimming in ponds. All of that is in this book.

The song (CD not included) is one of the strangest Dylan songs I've heard. It's jazzy, free-form, and even somewhat hard to listen to.

The book itself contains very childish and carefree illustrations. It becomes sort of a Where's Waldo as you see what the scores of canines are doing. And they are doing a lot. My son didn't like it at first. The text isn't as musical as the other Dylan books (all of which he adores), and it actually contains some difficult words. It's extremely poetic, though, and the busyness of the pictures will grow with him as we search for more dogs.

I can't wait for the next Dylan-inspired children's book, and hope it's either "When the Ship Comes In" or "Lay Down Your Weary Tune."

Emily says

The reason I didn't like this book was that it doesn't make sense, but It rhymes. I would rather books that don't rhyme that make sense than books that rhyme, and don't make sense. So that is why I didn't like this book.

Margaux says

I saw a Yoshidog.

Barbara says

Although I wouldn't necessarily have dreamed of using the lyrics of Bob Dylan for a picture book, that choice seems to work here as children and canines frolic through fields, roll down hills, race through the streets. and celebrate freedom. Ah, the wonderfully carefree days of childhood! The watercolor illustrations are filled with dogs of all size, shape, color, and breed. Young children may enjoy this one as a read-aloud especially since they can relate to the dogs' enjoyment of the daily pleasures that come their way. Musical accompaniment is needed here.

Gwen Ayler says

I feel like I probably would have liked this one better if I knew the song the words are from. It would probably have read better if I could have read it as I sang the song in my head.

Robin Raines-Bond says

I was not familiar with this Bob Dylan song, but this book made me google it and listen to it. Enjoyed all the frolicking dogs.

Greg says

This is my favourite Bob Dylan song! The illustrations are delightful. I wish there were more song books like this. How many great songs were written in The 20th century?

Chinook says

The story was lyrical and a bit odd at Rome's but the illustrations really make this book.

Alexander says

Not my favorite Dylan children's book words-wise, but the pictures might be my favorite. The illustrations are fun and cute and full of things to explore. If you've heard the song, you know that it's not your prototypical song, which makes it actually a little difficult to read.

But the message is a good, and my daddy has found that if he reads it quicker I'm more apt to enjoy it.
