



Poe Won't Go

Kelly DiPucchio , Zachariah OHora (Illustrator)

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When an elephant plants himself in the road and refuses to move, the people of Prickly Valley try all sorts of methods to get him to go-but one thoughtful little girl works up the courage to do what no one else has done: ask him.

Balancing both hilarity and sensitivity, *Poe Won't Go* has the feel of a contemporary classic, reminding readers that there is power in one, power in listening, and power in being a friend.

Poe Won't Go Details

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Author : Kelly DiPucchio , Zachariah OHora (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Poe Won't Go for online ebook

Kenna Coffee says

Cute book about an elephant who just wont go. He is missing his friend and just wont leave till he is found. A story of a community coming together in positive and negative ways to work together to help this elephant get on his way.

Lindsey says

Absolutely adorable. I love DiPucchio's books. This one is quite silly, and should have the preschool crowd (and grown-ups) laughing. My favorite line: "'Well, anyone can speak elephant if they just listen hard enough,' said Marigold, who was fluent in both kitten and hedgehog." I also really like the bold lines and bright colors in Ohora's illustrations.

Kate says

The illustrations are delightful and pretty much follow and support the text (until the ending). The people of Prickly Valley are a diverse bunch. The story has some silliness kids would like (there's an elephant sitting in the road!), but I've been pondering who the audience would be. I don't think it's preschoolers with the longer text and some unknowns such as motivational speaker. Sometimes there's something to keep adults interested that I don't think most kids would get (the pastor saying 'get thee behind me, Poe, the mayor forming committees and councils). The resolution of asking and listening to Poe is good, but the rest of the ending is perplexing. I went back through the illustrations to see if there were a hint of polka-dot tie. Nope, nothing. An odd ending when there's nothing to lead you there.

Bean says

A premise worth sharing with children and adults alike: when an elephant (in the room? Or, in DiPucchio's story, in the middle of a town) won't budge, most people's response is to use force, coercion, insistence, and the power of some authority. The elephant named Poe is a problem that needs fixing.

But a young, brown-skinned child named Marigold has a different, transformative approach. "Has anyone asked Poe why he won't go?" With listening, compassion, and curiosity, Marigold comes to understand that Poe's refusal to move is based on a simple need -- that the townspeople can help meet. Instead of treating Poe's behavior as a disciplinary issue, Marigold relates to Poe as a being whose needs deserve to be heard and addressed.

This book lost a star because of a spread featuring "the Amazing Carl", a magician wearing a racist stereotype (turban, pointy beard, olive skin; the hallmarks of the "ethnic mystic" that so often is a caricature of non-white people).

Selena says

A wonderful lesson in how we can over complicate things. Sometimes what appears to be a difficult problem has a very simple solution.

Nicole says

Another great one by these two! While it is not my favorite, it is a good book for story time. The kids can keep guessing what's going to happen, where Poe's friend is, and also a great way to talk about feelings (how is poe feeling, how is the community feeling, etc.). Also, I love Ohora's illustrations!!

Paul Hankins says

I asked Kelly if I could have an F&G of this book for the sole purpose of cutting it up. Zachariah Ohora provides really neat visuals in the books he has done with other authors (yes, we have cut up Ohora before with Wolfie Bunny).

But, DiPucchio's story here is just plain fun! Okay. . .an elephant named Poe shows up in the middle of traffic one day. And he won't move. And DiPucchio brings in a whole cast of characters and a host of techniques and strategies to get Poe to move on. Younger readers will delight in the attempts and the folly. Older readers sharing the book with younger readers will find the sight and linguistic gags that are peppered through the story.

Essentially, this picture book is about the power of suggesting that we simply ask why someone is doing something or behaving in a particular manner. And then. . .listen.

That person. . .or elephant. . .may be just waiting for a friend.

Oh. . .and we are totally cutting up this book.

Amber Webb says

DiPucchio is a family and classroom favorite and Poe Won't Go is definitely going to be a new staple in both places. Poe is an elephant that has planted himself in the middle of a town causing HUGE problems, but he doesn't talk and no one can get him to move. When finally, one caring little girl listens to Poe and the problem is solved. The kids loved Poe and Moe and wanted to help Poe throughout the story. Very sweet. We love it!

Benji Martin says

Kelly DiPucchio is the best.

Anne says

I love both the author and illustrator and I kind of liked this story until the very end. However, there were absolutely no visual clues to the ending; no clues as to how the reporter noticed Poe's friend. I understand that the emphasis was supposed to be on the little girl asking Poe why he wouldn't move and listening to Poe for an answer, but the resolution came out of nowhere without any redeeming qualities. I just didn't get it.

Jillian says

I liked it, but the ending was..... hmmm.

I could tell it was steering towards the "have you just asked?" resolution, but the mayor's antagonism seemed out of place. Also, there was zero foreshadowing about the polka-dot tie, so that came absolutely out of nowhere.

Kirsti Call says

Poe Won't Go arrives in stores on October 16th and I can't wait for the world to read it!

I adore both Kelly DiPucchio and Zachariah Ohora, and wow! Poe Won't Go's hysterical story will resonate with everyone!

No matter how many tactics or techniques the townspeople use on Poe the elephant, he won't leave.

"As the day wore on, the townspeople grew more clever. They brought in mice...and magnets...and motivational speakers. Copters...and cranes...and clowns with horn squeakers. But there wasn't a pastor or a plow in town who knew how to get Poe to go."

Filled with hilarious attempts to move Poe and illustrations that enhance the humor, this book is the kind of book kids will want to read over and over again. And the solution? A kid who is willing to listen. Poe is the kind of elephant a kid will root for and that's what reading is all about.

What makes Poe Won't Go work?

1. The Rule of Three.

Kelly DiPucchio uses the rule of 3 throughout the book. For example: "People begged. And booed. And bribed." and "Horns honked. People yelled from their cars. A policeman wrote his a ticket."

2.A Repeated Phrase

In this case: "But Poe wouldn't go." is repeated and slightly varied throughout the book. It's a perfect line for kids to repeat with the reader.

3. Playful language

"We do not tolerate parked pachyderms in Princkly Valley!" She proclaimed.'

4. Perfect Marriage of Text and Illustrations

"Seriously? Catch me if you can, POE! The townspeople were fresh out of ideas. And Poe? Well...you know." (illustration of a rollerskating girl in a peanut costume!)

You'll have to check out the book to really appreciate this one!

5. An Unexpected Ending

Something for you to look forward to when you read it...

Pam says

Poe the elephant sits down in the middle of the town and refuses to get up. The town people try everything to get him to move - everything except talking with him. A young girl talks with him and solves the problem with the help of a reporter who knows where Poe's friend might be.
Use for predictions.

Eleanor W says

very odd ending. It was nice to see a girl nice enough to ask why the elephant wont leave

also worth mentioning that there is a very diverse group of people are in this book.

but the ending...it left us meh.

Liz says

When Poe the elephant appears one day, he disrupts traffic because he won't go (move). Everyone tries a different way to get Poe to move, but none of them work. Then, a little girl suggests that someone ask why Poe won't go. Communication is important to understanding others' perspectives.
