



The PS Brothers

Maribeth Boelts

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Russell and Shawn call themselves the PS Brothers: P is for *poop*, S is for *scoop*, and *Brothers* is because they're best friends. Scooping poop is the fastest way to earn money to buy a puppy. These two are *crazy* about dogs. And they're sure that once their puppy grows into a tough dog, no one will ever pick on them for being weak or poor again. Unfortunately, getting a puppy is not that easy. Russell and Shawn don't count on uncovering a dog-fighting ring—and that can bust apart a dream faster than a dog can sniff out a bone.

But doing the right thing might still get them what they want—and maybe even more.

The PS Brothers Details

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Author : Maribeth Boelts

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From Reader Review The PS Brothers for online ebook

Aden says

The ps brothers by Maribeth Boelts. Is about two very good friends Shawn and Rusell that make a poop scooping business. They do that to make money to buy a bike. When they get enough money to buy a buy Shawn takes it and ride of.

Jennybeast says

Don't let the cover fool you, this is a pretty heartwarming book, about 2 independent, dog-crazy boys who've been in a hard, hungry spot for a long time. Russell's dad is in prison and he's staying with an uncle. Sean's the youngest of 5. They manage to bust a dog-fighting ring, find a steady source of income, and find a path back to trusting their adults.

Heather says

Great book for the kids (and I enjoyed it too). You'll fall in love with the main character who is willing to do anything (work hard) to save up some money. Along the way he stumbles on an illegal dog fighting operation.

Diane says

"It started with a pooper-scooper."

Shawn and Russ have a lot to overcome and I like their spirit of "can do" and determination to try to make life a little better for themselves. This one touched my heart.

Nick Hyde says

it was okay

Teresa Sambrook says

My daughter (9 years old) was assigned this book in school. She read the first chapter which contained a lot of details in it and caused several discussions. I wasn't sure where this book was going so I look at a few reviews that said the book takes a dark turn. I decided to read the book on my own first, so I can see for myself. I loved this book. I fell in love with the characters. This book will introduce my daughter to topics she doesn't have deal with in her own life, but other children around her may. This book will cause a

discussion. It doesn't go into deep details of these "dark turns" other reviewers describe. If she asks questions I can fill in as much as she's ready to know. But a book with a happy ending and that makes children think is a good book.

Elizabeth Lucas says

Reading this group with my fifth grade reading group as been interesting. I sent it home with them to finish over the weekend and am eager to hear what they think.

It's about to boys who work together to achieve a goal. Their living circumstances are not ideal and the story takes a twist. It has opened the door to conversations which I think has expanded their thinking.

Michelle says

Very clever book that deals with serious issues such as bullying, poverty, and dogfighting. The ending was a little abrupt, but overall I think this is a great book.

Mr. Steve says

While I enjoyed this book, my biggest issue with it is definitely how misleading the cover and jacket description is. I was expecting a light and fun read about two boys making money by picking up dog poop, which it was in parts. But it also dealt with serious issues such as bullying, poverty and (most disturbingly) dog fighting. I think those issues were dealt with tastefully and the two main characters are likable. However, I just wish the cover gave the reader a little better idea of what to expect.

At times, this book was a combination of the poverty stricken characters in *Also Known as Harper* and the dog fighting aspect of *Dog Lost* - and I liked it better than them both.

Jeff Raymond says

Ever see a book and think it's an absolutely brilliant premise, and set your expectations really high, just to find out that the book takes a really weird turn and ends up being the last thing you ever wanted to read?

Welcome to *The PS Brothers*.

It's the story of two kids who really want a dog, so they find someone who's selling puppies. How will they get the money? By scooping poop. Too bad that the guy who's selling the dogs is running a *dogfighting ring*.

Really? In a kiddie book?

There was a lot wrong with it, and, yeah, dogfighting is a reality for a lot of communities, I'm sure. That doesn't mean this book was the right one to address it, or did it properly to begin with. And a book with such potential and with such a cover going to such a dark place? Yikes.

Not a fan.

Libby says

Talks about church and some what of a christian feel to it. Happy ending but not really cause they don't resolve what happens to the rottweiler puppies and the other dogs at the shelter. They just offer up cute other puppies and the boys go for that without staying loyal to the dog they were going to buy. Overall, not a book I would recommend to anyone.

Amara says

The PS Brothers

Author: Maribeth Boelts

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Copyright: 2010

Number of pages: 137

Genre: Fiction

Grade(s): 3-5

Lexile level: 810L

Guided Reading level: N

Summary: The tale of two boys who are left to pretty much fend for themselves. Growing up in a rough neighborhood and extreme times of hardness, two best friends yearn for a dog of their own to protect them. They come across a man named Nick who just happens to have a whole litter of Rottweiler puppies. The two friends figure out a way to earn enough money to buy one of their dream dogs, starting their own business, PS Brothers. Working with Nick, the two friends realize there is something not right about him and the types of activities that go on in his shed. The two friends have to decide to make the right decision or a decision that will support what they have wanted for so long.

Teaching Ideas: Shawn and Russell ultimately make the right decision at the end of the story, but what if they hadn't? What if they chose to fall into the cycle of which they currently live? I would encourage the students to rewrite an alternate ending, the one they perhaps thought was going to happen, or what could have happened if the boys did not make the right choice (W.5.3). What would have happened if Russell and Shawn did not make the right decision? The text is crafted in a very peculiar way, I would encourage the writer's at hand to model the same kind of language used by the author, to keep it authentic.

Christiane says

This is a rare book that I actually wish was longer. At only 137 pages, the feel-good ending is too abrupt and leaves some big questions unanswered (what happens to the Rottweiler puppies?). The cover also makes the book look like it will be a fun, jokey story of two boys who scoop dog poop to earn the money to buy a dog, which it is, but it's more than that since the boys are really poor (one has a dead mom and a dad in jail) and the guy they want to buy the dog from is running a dog-fighting ring. I really did like this; I just wish it was more substantial.

Emily Ross says

This was another great book for my reading groups. The funny idea of a poop scoop business draws them in, but the suspense about the dogs and the boys keeps them riveted. They love the ending too!

Rhonda says

I have students in mind for this one. They're going to love it! This sweet story about friendship, family, and doing the right thing even when it's not easy reminded me a lot of Gary Schmidt's work (especially "Okay for Now").
