



I Don't Know What to Call My Cat

Simon Philip , Ella Bailey (Illustrations)

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Every cat needs a name. One name, one word, just a sound... It should be easy to choose one, right?

WRONG!!! I just don't know what to call my cat!

Choosing the right name for a new pet is very important! Find out just what this cat's name turns out to be.

I Don't Know What to Call My Cat Details

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From Reader Review I Don't Know What to Call My Cat for online ebook

Rebekah says

Engaging graphics but absolutely unnecessary gendering of names. Reinforces harmful stereotypes.

Carol - Reading Writing and Riesling says

A really fun book for children (and adults will smile as they read it too).

My View:

Cute, colourful and laugh out loud funny this little story and the images that accompany it are delightful. This book has a lot to offer the early reader - plenty of locations to spark discussions eg the Vet, the zoo, home, cafes, and activities to discuss. Colour and more colour floods the pages with plenty of opportunities for caregiver/reader and child to enjoy the silliness. A delight to read and share.

Debbie Smith says

The first half of this story is about a little girl adopting a hungry cat that comes to her door. She feeds him then proceeds to name him, but nothing seems to fit. But when she starts playing pretend instruments, the noise drives the cat away. She ends up at the zoo while looking for the cat. But alas, no cat. "So I gave up...Maybe he would have stayed if I'd thought of the right name." She misses the cat, (only indicated by three words: I missed my cat), but one wouldn't really suspect it since she is just fine with the naughty zoo animal that follows her home being her pet. Meanwhile, if you examine the illustrations, the cat sees what is happening. Cat obviously sends The Bureau For Naughty Animals to pick his pet replacement up, then throws off his disguise and the little girl is happy, yet not at all broken hearted to lose her zoo pet. But now the cat is sporting a name tag. And the little girl comes to the conclusion that one pet at a time is enough.

I'm fine with where the story started, just not thrilled with the second half of the book.

Melle says

The illustrations are pretty great and what makes this book worth picking up. What doesn't? Binary gender assumptions. The absurdities also seem kind of tacked on and superficial (cat turns up with violin case, gorilla named Steve, etc.). Apart from there being a black Minnie (spelled differently than my Minne but still -- black Minnes for the win!) on the back cover, there isn't much to grab me from this one.

Cat says

A cat picture book that I didn't absolutely love?? What's wrong with me?

This was a really sweet book following the story of a little girl who gets a cat and struggles with naming it. A big downfall for me was that some of the "girl" names that presented were tossed aside because the cat is a boy...but some of those presented "girl" names I've seen on male humans and cats before...

I don't know...maybe I'm just having an off day, but this didn't flow as well as I thought it would.

Jamie says

I really wanted to like this based on the title and terrific illustrations by Ella Bailey. However, the text completely lost me about 8 pages in where the young girl is trying out names for her cat:

"Pat. Lorraine. Tricia. Ethel. Tracey. Jane, Betty. They're all good names... [turn page] ... but not for a boy."

WOW. That sudden and harsh judgement on gendered names was hard to swallow. I'd be uncomfortable explaining the hows and whys of these naming conventions to kiddies. Then they try out some stereotypically masculine names: Butch, Rambo, Arnie, Rocky, after which the cat literally runs away from the latter half of the book (mirroring the readers' feelings?) and is replaced by a gorilla named Steve. The art is the only redeeming value here, hence the 2 stars. Disappointing.

Patricia McLaughlin says

Adorable illustrations depict the zany mishaps of a quirky girl's first experience with adopting and naming a pet (or two); detailed hide-and-seek illustrations are visually appealing for children and adults alike. The mysterious collar presents an unexpected moral dilemma that subtracts a fourth star.

Stacy Fetters says

I'm crushed. This was a super cute story of what to name your cat but the end fell flat. It wasn't as adorably exciting as the lead up.

The illustrations were phenomenal and a mystery cat appeared on each page. Kids will love the bright colors and the mystery named cat dressed in costume.

Samuel Tyler says

Getting a new pet is rife with things that you have to do. Where will they sleep? What will they eat? And, of

course, what on Earth are you going to call them? Giving a pet the right name when they are tiny can be an issue in itself – a cute fluffy dog can grow into a massive hound called Fluffy, or you could call your male cat Claire. Perhaps it would help if the animal itself could tell you what name they want?

When a new cat arrives at the door it is a tricky proposition to give them a name. Do they want to be called Catkins, Cutesy, Boots, Mittens? None of these names seem to fit so the new cat leaves home in a huff. Can the little girl entice the cat back with a new and even better name, or perhaps she should just visit the zoo and choose a new pet entirely?

“I Don’t Know What to Call My Cat” by Simon Philip and Ella Bailey is a very cute book that seems to be made up of two slightly different stories that don’t gel perfectly. One is a Seuss like story about a young girl naming her cat, she spends pages thinking about what to call it until she realises there is one major fact she had missed out – is it a he or a she? The second part of the book is when there is a Gorilla in the midst.

At its best the book is all about trying to find a name for a mysterious little cat. Philip has a very straight sense of humour that amuses the reader as the little girl tries her best to stoically name the cat. However, it is Bailey’s illustrations that really steal the show as she is able to portray what is happening wonderfully. Our heroine is a little chaotic so Bailey fills her house with objects that are great fun to explore. Some of the best pages are just a list of names with the type of cat that may be associated with them.

Where the book loses its way is towards the end. Our mysterious cat leaves and instead we are introduced to a Gorilla as a pet. Steve the Gorilla is an amiable enough chap, but his inclusion in the story just feels like it is from another book. There is no reason to have several pages given over to a side line, when the book is only 32 pages long.

What remains is a visually attractive book with some fun ideas that cat lovers in particular will adore. However, due to a significant chunk of the book being given over to a redundant storyline, it does not quite have the impact that it could have.

Hannah Higson says

As a cat lover I love this book.

But I think ultimately it is about a girl who steals a cat. A cat appears at her door and she doesn’t know what to call it. One day it disappears so the girl goes to the zoo to find it. She can only find a gorilla called Steve which she brings home. The B.N.A come to pick Steve up and the girl is on her own again. The cat comes back with a collar around its neck with the name tricky. Does this mean the cat belongs to someone else?? I think this would be fun to read with children.

Rebecca Ann says

I love the quirky, bright art in this book but it did get a little too busy at times. A little girl loves cats and is trying to find the right name for hers (a grumpy lil guy).

Sandy says

I tried to look at this book from the perspective of a child to see if they would enjoy it. I wasn't going to over-analyzing the book but I looked at the illustrations and what is occurring inside the pages and tried to see if a child would enjoy this book.

I thought the illustrations were fun and engaging. They weren't overly bright but they had a washed out tint to them. I liked the the personality of the little girl in the book, it seemed like she wanted someone to play with, someone to give attention to and someone she could love. I liked how the cats were drawn in this novel, they were fun yet not ridiculously absurd. The text was easy to read and the font was terrific.

The girl finds a cat by her door one day eating it's lunch yet the girl claims the cat was hungry. The little girl sets the cat in a high chair, ties a bonnet on its head and proceeds to try to feed it peas, broccoli, pears, apples and catsup. The girl takes the cat to her room where it is adorned with cat items. The girl doesn't know what to call her cat which causes some problems and eventually at the vets she finds out that the cat is a male. Now, she tries to find a male name but the cat has had enough of the little girl and he leaves her. With tears in her eyes, she searches for her cat, even at the zoo and has no luck. When one of the animals from the zoo follows the girl home, they have a good time together but it's just not the same. When the girl is left by herself again, a surprise awaits for the little girl. It is exactly what she wanted.

The story was cute and I think kids will like what happens in the story. I had some questions after reading the story, mysterious questions about what transpired in the story which I think kids could answer based on their own imagination.

Kalynda says

Naming can be so difficult, because it is so important. You want to select just the right name. This is a young girl's dilemma when a hungry looking grey cat shows up on her doorstep. She tries out many names, but none seem quite right. Follow her problem solving path to learn what name finally sticks.

Laine says

lol this is probably the longest i ever spent with a picture book. i kept getting interrupted! i started reading this thing last week! anyhow, it's a really fun and cute book. i lingered a lot over the illustrations - i especially enjoyed the little girl's delighted face at finding a cat on her doorstep, and the annoyed expression on steve the gorilla as he steals a cupcake from another cat. i'm glad the cat came back! 4 stars.

Clare Rossetter says

Fun text about the difficulties of finding just the right name for a loved pet. The little girl who found a cat at her front door one day immediately bonds with the cat but cant decide on a name, none seem to fit. When she discovers the cat is not a girl but a boy she has a whole list of new possible names. When she decides on one, the cat disappears and then the story takes a weird turn that for me detracts from the tale and then one day the

cat reappears complete with names. Great beginning that would be fun to read with all the names but the middle took away from the plot of the story and led to an okay ending.
