



## Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator!

*Mo Willems*

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# **Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator!**

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**Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator!** Mo Willems

6½ stories about 2 surprising friends.

Having a stuffed alligator for a best friend can be surprising.

Sometimes Amanda surprises her alligator with books. Sometimes Alligator surprises Amanda by *eating them*.

But what happens when Amanda brings home a special—and not entirely welcome—surprise? The result might be unexpected indeed.

Beloved author-illustrator Mo Willems has created a funny and tender portrait of friendship that readers of any age will love.

## **Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator! Details**

Date : Published April 26th 2011 by Balzer + Bray

ISBN : 9780062004000

Author : Mo Willems

Format : Hardcover 69 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Humor, Fiction, Animals, Storytime, Fantasy, Funny, Kids, Juvenile

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## From Reader Review Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator! for online ebook

### Melissa says

If there was nothing else remarkable about this book, I would still give it five stars for this perfect line: "Amanda was reading her new library book You Can Make It Yourself: Jet Packs! when she noticed her alligator chewing on her head."

I would also give it five stars just for Alligator's "perfectly good, unused "BOO!"

Bill would give it five stars just for the library book titles.

So there you go.

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### Kathryn says

I love Mo Willems and I think Amanda and her Alligator are among my favorites of his creations. I don't want to spoil any of the surprises in this book (after all, wee chapters are: A Surprising Surprise, An Un-Surprising Surprise, (Chapter 2 1/2 is "An Extra Surprise" and oh, how I loved it!), A Surprising Tickle, A Surprising Value, A Surprising Solution, and A Surprising Discovery) but, as ever, I am at once found myself deeply touched and yet chuckling as I read this sweet, surprising story. The alligator is just so darling (the expressions are a hoot, and yet so easy to relate to!) and I love Amanda's wisdom and the great titles of the books she reads ;-) The story is a wonderful one, reassuring and affirming of the value of friendship and understanding. Highly recommended.

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### Ronyell says

#### 4.5 stars

After reading so many of Mo Willems' fantastic books like Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale and Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!, I was lucky to stumble upon this book called "Hooray for Amanda and her Alligator!" and I must admit that this book is probably one of Mo Willems' cutest books ever written!

Amanda and Alligator (who happens to be a stuffed toy) are best friends and they love to surprise each other! Whether Amanda surprises Alligator or Alligator surprises Amanda back, they are inseparable. But, one day Amanda brings home a surprise that Alligator does not seem to like.

#### ***Will Alligator love this new surprise?***

There are a total of six and a half stories that details the adventures of Amanda and her Alligator!

SO CUTE! Those are the two words that would most likely describe this book! Mo Willems has done it again in writing books for children and making them so intriguing and creative all at the same time! I loved the way that Mo Willems portrayed the friendship between Amanda and her Alligator as they truly care for each other and I love the little banters between them like this memorable exchange:

*“I have a surprise for you,” said Alligator. “Would you like it?”*

*He giggled some more.*

*“Is it you yelling ‘BOO!’?” asked Amanda.*

*“Uh,” said Alligator, “not anymore.”*

I really loved the personalities of both Amanda and Alligator as they are both snarky, but in a good way. I loved the fact that Amanda enjoys reading books and in each chapter, she is always seen reading something different whenever Alligator tries to surprise her.

I also loved Mo Willems’ artwork as the artwork is simplistic yet cute at the same time. I loved the images of Alligator himself as he is shown to be bubbly shaped and has a blue color which really makes him stand out in the story. I also loved the appearance of Amanda herself as she is shown as a small girl with short black hair, a pink t-shirt and green pants and I loved her facial expressions whenever she is mad or happy.

The reason why I took off half a star for this book is because I felt that the book lacked the witty banters that Mo Willems normally put into his children’s books, even though there were a few here and there. I do think that many children will enjoy this book, but any child who loved the usual snarky comments made by the characters in most of Mo Willems’ books might be a bit disappointed to not find much in this book.

Overall, “Hooray for Amanda and her Alligator” is a truly cute book from the creative mind of Mo Willems and children who loves reading about fantastic friendships and cute little alligators would definitely enjoy this book! I would recommend this book to children ages four and up since it is appropriate enough for small children.

**Review is also on: Rabbit Ears Book Blog**

*I like to thank my Goodreads buddy Kathryn for recommending me this title!*

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**Marcy says**

LOVE this book. So friggin cute! i also love that it features a girl as the main character (along with her alligator). And, at the start of each of the 6 short "chapters" Amanda is reading one of the many books she brought home from the library. And it's just funny and adorable. This may be my favorite of all of D's books.

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**Jaime Sanborn says**

Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator! by Mo Willems  
Review by J.F. Sanborn

Hooray for Mo Willems in yet another wonderful story! This is the tale of two best friends- Amanda and her toy Alligator. Alligator doesn't like it when Amanda leaves the house without him, as he demands a lot of her attention. Amanda loves her Alligator but is a very independent child. Throw in a third friend and some jealousy and you have yourself a great new Willems book! My 6 year old and I read this using the "you read a page, I read a page" technique and had a fabulous time. Alligator's expressions and Amanda's taste in reading material will have you laughing out loud! Willems divides the book up into sections which will make young readers feel as if they have accomplished a whole lot of reading. Look for more books about these characters as I suspect this will be a series! Interest Age: 3-8 Reading Level Age: 5-8

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### **Dolly says**

We just love Mo Willems's books and so when we saw that he had a new book out at our local library, we just had to get it. This is a terrific story (broken up into 6 1/2 short stories) and it seems perfect for the just-out-of-school, what-should-we-do crowd. The fact that Amanda reads a lot and gets lots of books from the library (on a wide range of topics, too) is wonderful. And I also love her imagination and the way she cares for her 'friends.' We see the characters experience boredom, jealousy, the agony of waiting, surprises, and tickles and children will easily empathize with them. We really enjoyed reading this book together and we are anxiously awaiting his next book!

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### **babyhippoface says**

Elephant & Piggie are the Lucy & Ethel of beginning readers. Cat the Cat has pre-readers covered, and now Amanda and Alligator slide next to the newly-completed Trixie and Knuffle Bunny trilogy on the shelf as Mo's best new read-aloud. There is no way I can *not* love a book with a line like this:

**Amanda was reading her library book *You Can Make It Yourself: Jet Packs!* when she noticed her alligator chewing on her head.**

Perfect. And there is no way a kid can not keep turning pages in a book that contains a line like that.

I have said it before, and apparently I will keep saying it: Mo Willems is a children's literature genius. I read this book to myself in the bookstore and laughed out loud. At least three times. I put it back on the shelf, because I knew I already had one copy on order for the school, and turned to leave. Then I turned around and pulled it back off the shelf because I knew I had to have my own copy. Because I had to share it with other people so I could watch them enjoy the genius that is Mo.

I took it home and handed it to my sixteen-year-old daughter. She laughed out loud. At least three times. Then she posted the line I typed above as her latest Facebook status. Proof positive that Mo knows how to appeal to all ages.

The words are funny (i.e., the titles of the books Amanda checks out from the library). The pictures are funny (i.e., pouncing alligator wearing his Old Thinking Cap; annoyed alligator staring down new panda with one word: "Whatever.").

I should've ordered three library-bound copies of this one, because kids will never let it sit on the shelf. I can hardly wait to share it with kids, and to see what's next for Amanda and her alligator. Long Live Mo....

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### **Laura says**

I don't know how Mo Willems does it - but I find all of his books simply enchanting and hilarious. This book was no exception. I loved the little stuffed alligator and his funky personality. I also loved Mo's trademark illustrations and how easily he captured my attention and actually made me laugh out loud as I was reading. I especially adored this book and would recommend it to anyone.

Update 7/12/11: When I attended ALA Conference I bought this book and had Mo Willems sign it! He's just as hilarious in person.

\*Taken from my book reviews blog: <http://reviewsatmse.blogspot.com/2011...>

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### **David says**

Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator! by Mo Willems has 6½ stories about 2 friends: Amanda & her stuffed Alligator. There is a definite Calvin and Hobbes vibe here as you follow the tender story of two friends as a third character enters the mix. It's in a picture book format but nearly a beginning reader too.

There is waiting, impatience, surprises, tickles, thinking caps, boredom, head chewing, silly songs, dressing up, discoveries, friendship and new friends in this very funny book. The dialog is clever, there is repetition, and some very funny action and words. The titles of Amanda's library books are hysterical: Climbing Things For Fun and Profit, and You Can Make it Yourself: Jet Packs are my favorites. "Books beat boredom" is a phrase to carve above libraries and schools across the land.

The illustrations are very expressive. Text and illustrations are surrounded by white space to focus the reader's or listener's attention. Among my favorite illustrations are Alligator scaring his reflection, Alligator chewing on Amanda's head, and the three pages of Alligator and Panda singing, dressing up, and discovering. The endpapers that show the characters dancing are excellent.

This should be a great read-aloud, although one on one reading will be fun too. Transitional readers will enjoy the antics.

Getting a copy of this autographed at BEA really made my day!

For ages 3 to 8, read-aloud, transitional readers, separation anxiety, humor, friendship, jealousy themes, and fans of Mo Willems.

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### **Alyson says**

A terrific cross between a picture book and an easy reader. Great for reading to a child but with simple language and stories for kids starting to read on their own. No one does simple stories and simple

illustrations like Mo Willems.

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### **Terri says**

There must be never a dull moment in the Mo Willems' household. I love the way his mind works. I love the way he can create a whole attitude with two dots and a line (witness the irritation in the eyes of Amanda's alligator). I love the depth of insight in his spare text. I love....

Willems hooked me with the Calvin and Hobbes relationship in this work and Amanda's eclectic (or should I say eccentric) choice of books. Then he totally sank the hook and reeled me in with "Books beat boredom." 'Nuff said.

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### **Lisa Vegan says**

4 ½ stars

I was tempted to put this book on my books-about-books shelf, but even though Amanda is almost constantly reading all sorts of books, they're not the core of this book, not really, though I particularly enjoyed those parts of the story.

This is a sweet and funny story, a 69-page picture book containing 6 ½ chapters, each chapter with the words surprising or surprise in their title.

What was delightfully amusing for me now would have had me laughing in stitches as a young kid, throughout much of the book.

I love how this story speaks so honestly to how children view their stuffed animals, regarding relating to them directly and imagining their lives when on their own.

The pictures are wonderful, particularly those illustrations of the alligator and its expressiveness, also that of another character. Priceless!

This is a terrific friendship story. I found it thanks to the Children's Books group.

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### **Anna says**

Hooray for Amanda & her alligator by Mo Willems | 2011

genre: fiction

format: picture books

plot summary: Amanda and her alligator have lots of fun playing together and surprising each other, but when Amanda's grandfather buys her a panda, Alligator must learn to make new friends.

red flags: none

selection source: school library journal

recommended ages: 4-8

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### **Beth says**

I have to admit, one of my favorite things about reading Mo Willems's books is seeking out the hidden pigeon (or Knuffle Bunny) somewhere in the story. That running gag has endlessly entertained me and my middle school students and has been a great way to build community in the classroom. Students feel like sophisticated readers because they're in on the joke.

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### **Crystal Bandel says**

*Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator!* by Mo Willems, published 2011.

Fiction.

Picture book.

Pre-K to grade 4.

Found via *Horn Book Magazine*, reviewed by Kitty Flynn.

Amanda and her alligator stuffed animal are the best of friends, doing everything together, from scaring each other to enjoying books. In a series of six-and-a-half short stories, this book contains various interactions between these two friends. Towards the end, a panda shows up and makes Alligator worry about losing Amanda, but eventually the two become friends and play together when Amanda's gone. Reviewer Flynn notes that the book is long for a picture book, but still fun: "Seventy-two pages is long for a picture book, but Willems knows how to keep things interesting and his audience engaged." Considering the humorous narratives and the simple, engaging illustrations, all readers should enjoy this book, and it could be used in bibliotherapy to help children cope with the threat of losing their friends.

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