



I Am a Story

Dan Yaccarino

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Internationally acclaimed author-illustrator Dan Yaccarino presents a powerful picture book that celebrates storytelling—from the past to the present and beyond.

From cave drawings to the invention of the printing press to our digital age, discover how a story has been told in many different ways from the past to today. It's always been around, making us happy, sad, excited, or scared and bringing people together. With simple text and delightful illustrations, Dan Yaccarino reminds us of the power of story.

I Am a Story Details

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Author : Dan Yaccarino

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Storytime, History

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From Reader Review I Am a Story for online ebook

orangerful says

Deceptively simple, this book could lead to a lot of conversations with your child about the power of stories and the history of how humans have shared their stories.

And, of course, it mentions public libraries so it gets bonus points for that!

I think this would be a great book to take when visiting a classroom of 1st and 2nd graders.

David Schaafsma says

Thanks to Jason for the suggestion. It did not get nominated for the Goodreads picture book awards for 2016. Maybe it is nominated for the Caldecott? At any rate, it is a book about stories across the ages in a range of forms and media. Bold colors, strong line drawings, and a list of cool stuff: cave paintings, Hokusai's Great Wave, Hamlet, The Book Thief. Lots of historical references, but also intimate in connecting kids to this abstract concept.

Andy says

I read this book to two groups of parents/teachers at a Developing Lifelong Readers presentation I gave this past weekend. They LOVED this book! It celebrates the importance, power and love of reading in a way that's both simple and profound.

Sylvester says

4* art

3* story

Three stars because this just isn't Squirt's kind of book. But it's good.

Amanda Coppedge says

Beautiful, meaningful exploration. Five stars for a one-on-one or small group read with children ages 5+. Though the illustrations are expressive and large, and though the word count is low, I think the topic is too abstract to successfully share as a read-aloud with ages 3-4.

Donalyn says

A wonderful book about the power of stories to connect us across time and place.

Linda says

While I didn't include this as a young adult or adult book, I believe that every person should read it to realize and celebrate the power of a story. It is told from the point of view of a story. From cave people sharing stories around a fire to scribes "illuminating" their works and actors telling stories on-stage. It continues with the printing press bringing books to people previously not able to own one to the modern-day tech tablets, all Dan Vaccarino showing - page after page - people in love with stories. He has included a powerful double-page spread that shows the conflicts through history when stories have been "censored, banned, and burned, but did not die." One other page includes the amazing ways people are able to access books, from those who carry them via donkeys or camels, bookmobiles and little free libraries. Through each page, a small red bird flies, I believe to show the thread of story that has never broken. The end papers in blocks of sketches include all the ways stories are told, from scrolls to radio to television to tablets. It's a terrific book, one more to savor among so many wonderful STORIES!

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

The story of story telling is a story in and of itself! Dan Yaccarino tells a great story that kids and adults will enjoy.

Samantha says

The evolution of stories is presented here in poetic text. This book is amaaaaaaaazing and does such a fitting job of celebrating the power a story holds.

India ink on vellum was used to create the vibrant illustrations for this book. Great for sharing with PreK-2.

Jason says

THIS BOOK IS AMAZING. With a handful of words, Yaccarino captures the power of story through the ages perfectly. This is one of those high concept books that adults appreciate but can really speak to kids as well. I would call this a Caldecott contender, and I don't throw that around freely :).

The Reading Countess says

The illustrations beg to be lingered over, hopefully long enough to notice that something appears on each

page throughout the book. The history of how humans have told their story throughout the annals of time (a whopper of a tale) is imaginatively played out. My favorite illustration is "The Trip to the Moon" page because it's a nod to one of the first silent films, but also to Brian Selznick's Hugo Cabret. Don't underestimate this skinny picture book...I Am a Story is perfect for classrooms big and small. Highly recommended!

Cheryl says

Appallingly sexist. Every opportunity is taken to put men and women into the most stereotypical roles possible. Every storyteller is male, except for a modern pregnant mother, and just about the only active female is, you guessed it, a librarian. There aren't even any grannies, nannies, or nursemaids telling stories!

But even if it weren't flawed that way, I'd still only give it two stars. It panders. Of course we all are excited to read a story about stories. We're readers. But this doesn't enlighten or enrich us, it doesn't add anything of value to the collection of either a home or a library.

I do have to admit I liked the cave painting scene, as the children were behaving in such a timeless manner... they could have been yours. But then I saw how the woman was so servile & awed, looking very close to Neanderthal, and the man, the Creator Artist, looked much more Modern Human.

Too bad.

Sara says

I loved this! Assuming I return to elementary school next year, I'm so reading this book the first week!
♥?♥?♥?

Rebecca says

Love, love, love! Dan Yaccarino shows the history of story in simple first-person text from a story's point of view -- and all of its various forms and uses. His illustrations are simply drawn (with India ink on vellum!), expertly colored, and deceptively full of allusions. I wished for a key in the back, but here's what I spotted: cave paintings at Lascaux, Hokusai's Great Wave, The Lady and the Unicorn tapestry, Pangur Ban (the cat and the monk), Shakespeare's Hamlet, a trip to the moon by Georges Méliès, and The Book Thief. Not to mention the more general connections you could make from less-specific allusions: the Code of Hammurabi, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Gutenberg printing press. Yet this works simply as a picture book depicting diverse figures throughout the history of the told, written, drawn, and printed word. Bonus points for libraries from private to public to biblioburro to vending machine to Little Free Library!

Destinee Sutton says

I pretty much have to love this. It is the story of stories: they are ancient, they are important, they are

everywhere.
