



My Dog Is As Smelly As Dirty Socks: And Other Funny Family Portraits

Hanoch Piven

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How do you draw your smelly dog? Your playful daddy? Your yummy mommy? See how one girl does it in this simple, clever picture book that's comprised of family portraits made out of objects. For example, her baby brother is *so* noisy—he's as loud as a whistle, a horn, and even a fire truck!—that she creates a picture of him with whistles for eyes, a horn mouth, and holding a fire truck. After the girl has described everyone in her family (including herself, in great detail), she asks, "What does *your* special family look like?" encouraging readers to create their own portraits. With a list of objects at the end of the book to use as a guide, this is the ideal choice for budding artists everywhere.

Here's a wonderful exploration of simile and metaphor for young readers. And don't miss the companion book *My Best Friend is as Sharp as a Pencil!*

Book Details: Format: Hardcover Publication Date: 5/8/2007 Pages: 40 Reading Level: Age 4 and Up

My Dog Is As Smelly As Dirty Socks: And Other Funny Family Portraits Details

Date : Published May 8th 2007 by Schwartz & Wade

ISBN : 9780375840524

Author : Hanoch Piven

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Family, Art, Humor

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From Reader Review My Dog Is As Smelly As Dirty Socks: And Other Funny Family Portraits for online ebook

Elizabeth McDonough says

A young girl draw a stick figure representation of her family. Then she realizes that this picture doesn't do a good job of really representing her family. She uses similes to describe her family members and then she make their drawing from using the objects she compares them to. For example, her baby brother is so loud. He's as loud as a whistle, a horn, and even a fire truck! She creates a picture of her baby brother using these objects (whistles for his eyes, a horn for his mouth, and he is holding a fire truck). This book is great for teaching figurative language: similes.

Corrina says

Read my full review at [wadingthroughbooks.wordpress.com!](http://wadingthroughbooks.wordpress.com)

This is a great, very creative story that integrates narrative and visual art and encourages kids to connect physical objects to symbolism. For example, the narrator says her daddy is as playful as a spinning top, and that her mommy is as bright as the brightest light, and shows items like tops and lightbulbs beside the words, and then uses those objects to create the picture of the whole person. It's a very positive story about self-image, since the narrator describes herself last, using all kinds of words like sharp, majestic, colorful, lovely, strong, funny, curious, and with a big heart to love her special family. The book has some words in a larger font, usually the object names beside their picture, so an older reader can point to the words and to their accompanying picture for a beginning reader. The last two pages give examples of adjectives and items which can represent the word, such as using a ruler, numbers, or an owl to show 'smart', or a teddy bear, a cotton ball, or a slipper to show 'soft'.

The Author's Note says that he got the idea for the book from an art workshop with children and teenagers, where they created family portraits using everyday found objects. This could make a creative, interesting, cheap, and easy art project for all ages, to be done after reading the book.

Cosette says

This is genius. Such an artistic idea!

(NS) Lauren says

Grade Level: K-5

I loved this book for its celebration of creativity and imagination! The story is told from the perspective of a little girl who is not quite satisfied with the simple family portrait she has drawn for her teacher with a pen on a piece of plain notebook paper. Her original drawing fails to capture her family members' true personalities, and so she sets about describing each of them through common household objects that she glues on top of watercolor bodies to create a new set of portraits. For example, she incorporates a knotted rope as her dad's mouth because "sometimes he's as stubborn as a knot in a rope," and springs for eyebrows because "My daddy is as jumpy as a spring".

This book could be used in many different ways in the classroom. There are countless examples of similes throughout the text that could be used as examples during a poetry unit. The book could also be read by first taking a "picture walk" through the illustrations. Students could share ideas about what the objects incorporated into each portrait might tell us about each family member. Predictions could be confirmed with a second read-through, including the text. This would also be a great "back-to-school" activity for building classroom community. Students could create their own self-portraits using common objects, and then write a series of "simile clues" following the format of the book to share with their classmates.

Ashley says

Absolutely love his book!

Rebecca says

What an unusual book! The narrator, a little girl, takes a drawn family portrait and expands it to present each member of her family "drawn" with objects that represent the way they are (as strong as a baseball bat, as loud as a whistle). Good for thinking about characteristics, symbols, similes, and what makes art. Pair with something like Look-Alikes and I Spy, then make your own for a really fun library program.

babyhippoface says

If you're teaching similes, you NEED this book. Collaborate with your art teacher and have kids bring objects from home to create portraits of themselves!

Emily Anderson says

Super cute, Sparks the imagination

Although it starts out selling simplistic, this clever book is flooded with amazing descriptors and would make a wonderful prompt to inspire creativity and colorful vocabulary.

Mark says

When it comes to really nailing the essence of a loved one, argues the girl who narrates Piven's latest collage confection, the truly committed artist must eschew paper and pencil and turn instead to the found object. Thus, the full stinky-ness of Schmutz, the girl's dog, comes alive in an assemblage that includes real socks for ears, garlic for eyes, an onion for the tail and pepperoni for a nose. "Yucky-Boo!" announces the girl as the dachshund-like doggie is revealed, "I warned you."

The girl's self-portrait is a veritable catalog of objects, from the obligatory crown to a magnifying glass (for curiosity). Some of the rationales for objects don't sound very kid-like — dad's mouth, the girl explains, was inspired by his tendency to be "as stubborn as a KNOT in a ROPE."

But Piven astutely captures the restless imagination and unsparing self-criticism that defines the budding artist; the girl dismisses her own drawing of her mother with a curt, "Sorry, but it doesn't tell the whole story."

This invitation for readers to create portraits of "your special family" — Piven even throws in a few suggestions for things that suggest qualities like 'smart' and 'funny' — is certain to get a prompt RSVP.

Preview above was taken from Publishers Weekly website

Carol says

This book is so fun! It's about a little girl who has to make a portrait of her family for school. She is not impressed with her drawing because she doesn't feel it describes them well enough. She takes everyday objects and uses them to describe her family and herself. Very cute, I would love to use this at story time or as a family program and have the kids make their own portraits at the end with different objects. It would also be a great way to teach older kids about similes.

Stacey Mulholland says

What a fun book! I picked this gem up at a library book sale and I'm so glad I did. I am going to use it this year in my poetry unit with 3rd graders.

Autumn says

The dog is a very small part of this book. The title and the cover are misleading.

Huda says

loved the idea of this book.

what materials will "make" your own family?

Linda says

I had a recent conversation about the growth needed for young primary students to learn to use figurative language, that it was a big step for them to use comparisons that can be abstract. Here is a book that will be one answer, filled with descriptions of a young girl's family using simple objects that both create visual portraits and tell why! For example, the girl says her brother is as "strong as a baseball bat" and (in hide-and-seek) "as sneaky as a snake". Hanoch Piven then uses representations of these things to create the picture. It would be a useful book for many ages, but particularly primary students.

The collages are so clever. I imagine this artist has boxes of small, interesting objects to use in his work.

Karla Winick-Ford says

BUY THIS BOOK!

It's wonderful!

Illustrations are unique and funny. This is an amazing story to share with young children to build their vocabularies and introduce descriptive writing. It's very well done. I can't sing the author's praises enough! (Maybe as loud as a whistle, or maybe a horn...)

The ending is especially wonderful- tell me about your special family. "What do they look like" challenge spins an activity- love that!
