



Bridget's Beret

Tom Lichtenheld

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Bridget loves to draw, and she likes to wear a beret for inspiration. So when her beloved hat blows away, Bridget searches for it high and low. She files a Missing Beret Report. She even considers other hats, but none of them feel quite right. It's no use; without her beret, Bridget can't seem to draw. How will she overcome her artist's block?

Make sure to check out Bridget's notebook scribbles at the end of the book for her thoughts and facts on art!

Bridget's Beret is a 2011 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

Bridget's Beret Details

Date : Published April 27th 2010 by Christy Ottaviano Books-Henry Holt and Company

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Author : Tom Lichtenheld

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From Reader Review Bridget's Beret for online ebook

Kirsti Call says

What a clever, beautiful picture book!

Candice says

Excellent story. Beautiful illustrations. Bridget is a budding artist. Her favorite activity is drawing and painting and her favorite possession is her beret. Her beret gives her the inspiration for her paintings, so when it blows away one day, she suffers from artist's block. Miserable, she sulks, pouts and cries until she is asked to make a sign for her little sister's lemonade stand. The illustrations are colorful and descriptive and there is a sidebar explaining what artist's block is. A little bunny pops up in the corner of the page every once in a while, including on the last page of the story where it tells the reader to turn the page to check out Bridget's ideas for artistic inspiration. They include paintings by Rembrandt, van Gogh, O'Keeffe, and others. A book that will grow with the child. Read it to the very young for the beret story and to the older child for the mini art history lesson.

Beyond the Pages says

Absolutely charming!

This story was an explosive blend of colors, creativity, and personal expression. I loved the character and her dramatic presentation. When she created masterpieces, the world exploded and when she encountered challenges...

There are so many directions that I could go in with this one, as an educational resource.

Andrew Shumate says

Bridget's Beret might just be the one of the single most cleverly written books I've ever read.

Sometimes the humor in a children's book is like low hanging fruit. The younger reader might require a ladder in order to fully appreciate the humorous pickings in this book, which is okay, because an adult should be right next to or in front of them. Why? Because this book begs to be read aloud. In fact, while reading it I couldn't resist. I read the whole book aloud, to myself, and I laughed aloud, again, to myself. It was a lot of fun.

The story itself is fairly simple. Bridget, a girl artist loses her Beret. She thinks that the beret is what gives her her artistic abilities so she forsakes art completely until her little sister tricks her into drawing something. Pretty soon, Bridget is an artist again!

So there you have it! A simple, kid friendly story with humor funny enough to make a grumpy college

student laugh and a pleasant moral at the end. Does it get any better?

Amy says

Oh my goodness, I need to find this! Bridget is obsessed with wearing her beret while doing art. Thanks to the touch of the Masters hand school year. :)

Kathryn says

Bridget loves painting. She especially loves to paint outside. When she is painting outside, she feels that she is right where she belongs. Like many great painters, Bridget wears a beret while she paints. One day, a gust of wind takes her hat--and her inspiration! She couldn't possibly paint without her beret on! Could she?

What a neat book! I so enjoyed Bridget's story. I could so empathize with her feelings about the creative process (except, for me, it's writing instead of art) and thought the solution to her problem came about perfectly.

Lichtenheld is very clever with incorporating famous works of art (Bridget's work emulates some; I think my favorite was the "Starry Night" one--and the Mona Lisa!) I looked but didn't see where he mentioned the original works (except in the copyright page info) but hopefully parents will be familiar enough with the artwork they can share the originals with their kids. He also includes a section to help encourage creative art ideas by emulating some techniques of the masters--this is really cool and a great way to introduce children to famous artists and works of art.

Stephie Healy says

Bridget loves drawing. She is a talented girl who is passionate about art. She believes her big black beret is her lucky charm. Basically, she thinks without it her talent would not be there. One windy afternoon, while Bridget was in her natural habitat, painting, her beret got swept away by a breeze. Bridget felt helpless, sad, angry, and talentless. Bridget believed her touch had gone away along with her beret. Will Bridget be able to paint again without her beret? Was it really the beret what gave Bridget her talent?

I believe this is a very sweet children's book. It can help young kids see that they do not need any "lucky charm" or amulet to make them good at something. That if they are talented and passionate about something, they should not let anything stop them from doing what they love.

I remember how as a kid, my sister used to always use a lucky pencil when she had exams. She thought it helped her do well on test days. One day she lost it and was really disappointed. After she got back her test grade, she realized she did not need her lucky pencil to do good on exams, all she need was her own hard work.

Lisa Vegan says

Oh, I just love this book! It has so much to it. It's not really unique; I've read other children's picture books where the premise is also a child who feels as though they can no longer create art because they've lost some object. I can't remember the titles offhand. I do remember also liking those books.

This one is special.

It has wonderful illustrations, especially the pictures of the dog and the pictures of artists' famous pictures, and the whimsical takes on them, and then just the general expressiveness, colors, and art style are all terrific.

The main part of the book is a really cute fictional story about Bridget and her beret, and about her as an artist. I love that she isn't a perfect little girl, that's she's kindhearted and talented, but she can also sulk and feel sorry for herself too, and also be mistaken about where her abilities come from and what actually allows her to express herself.

I love the material toward the end of the story and the separate non-fiction section in the back that gives tips for artist block solutions and also a mini art history/artists' and artists' methods & styles lesson.

As someone who has had reader's block, writer's block, and yes occasionally artist's block, I really appreciate this book. Most kids have had or will have a "block" experience of some sort, and this is a wonderful book as both its fiction and non-fiction sections are both entertaining and helpful.

Wonderful for art classes (or classes for any creative pursuit), for art history and art appreciation classes, and just for fun too. Because the dog is so cute, I can recommend this to all dog lovers too, even though the dog has a "silent role" in this story. Actually, I can recommend this book to all children's picture book readers.

Hayley says

Audience: This book is perfect for all grade school kids. I could see it being read from Kindergarten up to 4th grade. It's a good story that kids could relate to.

Appeal: There are lots of ways to incorporate this story into the classroom. The first thing that came to mind was how perfect the book would be for an Art class or an art lesson. In the story, Bridget loves to draw and paint but she thinks she is only good at it because of her beret. She soon discovers that she is just as talented without her beret. This story would be a good way to get kids to be creative. There is also a part in the story where Bridget uses popular artwork and then incorporates it into a sign for a lemonade stand. This would be a great lesson for older kids. You could have the older students create an artwork based on a popular piece of art. It's also a good introduction into teaching students about popular artwork.

2012-2013 Golden Sower List

Christine says

Review of Nonprint: "Bridget's Beret" audiobook, narration by Ann Scobie

Suggested Grade Levels: K-2nd Grade

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Themes: Self-Discovery, Growing-Up

Awards: Kentucky Bluegrass Award 2012 Nominee, Georgia Children's Book Award 2012 Nominee, Booklist Top 10 Arts Books for Youth and several more.

This is a delightful picture book that is sure to bring out the artistic mind in both young and old readers. Bridget is a little girl that loves to create art from painting and drawing to sidewalk chalk. She has a special beret that she wears like the "great artists" to inspire her creative thinking. One day fate was not in Bridget's favor and the wind blows her beloved beret away. Bridget is left devastated and wondering how she will be able to create art again without her beret. With a request from Bridget's little sister creating lemonade signs might be just the trick to finding her artistic talent again.

The illustrations are especially detailed giving the reader various viewpoints from ground level and a mirror reflection to a bird eye's view as the beret flies high up into the air as it blows away. Each viewpoint helps to give the reader a different angle on Bridget and her beret. However, the real treat in this picture book is the subtle link to art appreciation through the illustrations. It starts with illustrations of famous artists in their authentic berets added in the background with their names allowing young readers to start to learn about the great artists of the past. Also as the reader reads along in the book some of Bridget's illustrations look very familiar to famous pieces of artwork such as Vincent van Gogh's *Starry Night*.

This book would be an appropriate book for primary students. Bridget must learn how to overcome her "artist block" from losing her beret. Eventually she learns that her beret isn't the reason she creates beautiful artwork; she is. Many children are finding their own talents and passions while growing up and would be able to relate to this story. Children could go on an art hunt in the book and see how many artists or illustrations they can find. Teachers could have information ready to teach about the various artists found in the book.

I listened to the book through the audiobook that was narrated by Ann Scobie. The audiobook was adapted for young readers with the option for a tone for page turning. The narration was read with fluency and appropriate phrasing with character voices added. I believe this text is better read on its own so that the reader can have time to stop and take in the various links to art application. When it is on audiobook, the reader must rush through the illustrations.

Mary Mayfield says

Audience: primary

Genre: realistic fiction

Pre-reading activity: For this book, I would use the "list, group, label" activity shown on www.readingrockets.org. In this activity, students improve and expand their vocabulary and comprehension by brainstorming words related to the topic of the book they are about to read. They then sort the words and, therefore, work on their categorization skills. Students also use critical thinking skills as they label their

categories and verbally justify these labels. As the website says, "categorizing listed words, through grouping and labeling, helps students organize new concepts in relation to previously learned concepts".

For this specific book, I would show the students the cover of the book and direct their attention to the paintbrushes in her hand. I would then have students brainstorm a list of words relating to art and artists. During their brainstorming I would, if needed, guide them to words that relate to the feelings/motivations from artists since this book is also about Bridget losing her confidence in her ability.

Next, I would place students into groups to sort the words. This is with the assumption that I had already modeled this skill.

Lastly, I would circulate and remind students that they need to label their sorts and be able to explain and justify the labels they choose. Before reading, I would have students share their sorts and label explanations. During reading, I would add the activity of highlighting words that are used in the story and adding any significant words that may not have been included in our original brainstorm. (I.e. exhibit, viewing)

David E says

I am going to say, from a adult point of view, that I really love this book. I am sure children would also love it, but I do treasure a finely made and illustrated book, and this is one. The story is quite simple yet clever. I am not sure why, but the ending brings me to tears, even after several readings. I think it is because Bridget finds her way and her true love (art). It is a very subtle ending. The dog is running to her ... oh I won't spoil it. I think Tom Lichtenheld deliberately set out to escape his boy-oriented books and create a sweet, lovable, determined girl character. This is a really fine book. For adults to enjoy, too.

Carrie Charley Brown says

Tom Lichtenheld knows exactly how to marry art and text, with clever puns/art throughout to make you smile and laugh out loud. The perfect plot is character-driven and relatable to kids (and adults) everywhere! I adore the way he brought art history into this book. I felt like I was holding hands with this book at the end, and I didn't want to let go!

Dolly says

This is an entertaining tale about a young artist who relies on her beret for inspiration. When she loses it, she fears that she can no longer make art. I thought it was humorous to see the pictures of the famous artists wearing berets, and I thought it was wonderful how her lemonade stand signs were designed in homage to famous works of art. I was even more impressed when our girls recognized them, too.

The narrative is fun to read aloud and the illustrations are terrific. We really enjoyed reading this book together. We loved the separate section in the back that depicts other famous artwork and the different techniques artists used in their creations. I really get excited about books like this that make learning about art fun.

Mary says

Bridget believes her artistic creativity is connected to her wearing her beret. When she loses it, she suffers from artist's block. This is a smart picture book that tells an engaging story about inspiration and imagination. Art lovers will especially appreciate the humorous illustrations and dog lovers will enjoy the dog's help in the resolution.
