

Ralph Tells a Story

By Abby Hanlon

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Nothing ever happens to Ralph. So every day when it's time to write stories, Ralph thinks really hard. He stares at his paper. He stares at the ceiling. But he has no stories! With the help of his classmates, Ralph realizes that a great story can be about something very little . . . and that maybe he really does have some stories to tell. Debut author/illustrator Abby Hanlon's endearing text and charming watercolor and colored pencil illustrations prove that writing can be fun! This story works nicely with Lucy Calkins' Writer's Workshop model of teaching.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

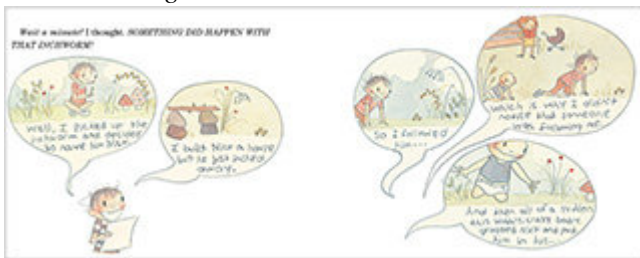
A Look Inside *Ralph Tells a Story*



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From Publishers Weekly

"Stories are everywhere!" exclaims Ralph's teacher, and Hanlon proves it in her debut picture book. While Ralph's classmates eagerly scribble stories, he displays his creativity by finding excuses to leave the room. When Ralph complains that he can't write a story because "NOTHING happens to me," his friend Daisy replies, "Are you kidding?... I've written a ton of stories about you!" (one describes Ralph's nail-painting adventure: "then the teechr sed oooo no its prmanent marker!"). Eventually, Ralph finds inspiration in a memory of an encounter with an inchworm, and when it comes time to share his story, Ralph's classmates' questions prompt him to wildly embellish it, emphasizing the value of oral storytelling. Hanlon's loose, rudimentary watercolor and colored pencil cartoons are as authentically childlike as Ralph's voice; literary lions like Olivia and Babar decorate the walls of Ralph's classroom, speech bubbles provide humorous asides, and Ralph's wide, craggy line of a mouth easily conveys frustration, anger, nervousness, and confidence. A closing lineup of staple-bound books, among them *When Milk Came Out of My Nose* and *The Smelly Band-Aid*, prove that Ralph has left his writer's block behind. Ages 5–9. (Sept.)

From School Library Journal

K-Gr 3–Ralph’s teacher says that stories are everywhere. His fellow students have no trouble finding them, telling them, and writing them down. However, Ralph’s paper stays blank. Great storytelling examples surround him. Enticing bits of the other children’s stories appear in speech bubbles around the room, while pieces of paper display their invented spelling. These are everyday occurrences, told and received enthusiastically. “Then Grandma gave me a cup of coffee and said, ‘Don’t tell your mother.’” “After that, I decided to hide my Halloween candy in my bed.” Ralph’s struggle comes to a climax when he’s asked to tell the whole class his story. He drags himself to the front of the rug. His heart thumps. What happens next restores his self-confidence and introduces him to his own abundance of adventures. The watercolor and colored-pencil pictures are engaging, varied, and beautifully suited to the text. Ralph’s tips and numerous book titles, found at the end of this story, are an inspiration. Pair this book with Tad Hills’s *Rocket Writes a Story* (Random, 2012) for an excellent introduction to writing. A splendid debut. —Susan Weitz, formerly at Spencer-Van Etten School District, Spencer, NY

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lena Drew:

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Kayla Wilson:

Often the book Ralph Tells a Story will bring you to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to see, this book very ideal to you. The book Ralph Tells a Story is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Bernice King:

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Mildred Vang:

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