



Don't Laugh at Giraffe

By *Rebecca Bender*

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Giraffe and Bird make the oddest pair. All they do is spat, squabble, and get on each other's nerves. In the morning, Bird uses his loudest outdoor voice, so Giraffe makes a disgusting noise as he clears his phlegmy throat, so Bird tickles his neck, and . . . well, you get the picture. There's nothing Bird likes more than to have a laugh at the expense of his lanky friend, and one dry day at the pond, he gets his chance. Giraffe's awkward attempt to reach the water without getting his hooves wet raises a cackle from a flamingo, a chortle from the zebra, then a howl from the hippo. Soon everyone is having a good laugh . . . especially Bird. In fact, Bird is having a ball until he realizes that his mortified friend has left the pond without quenching his thirst. Now Bird is sorry. How will he get Giraffe back?

Author/illustrator Rebecca Bender's hilarious illustrations accompany a story about empathy and the trials of friendship that will persuade young readers that it's okay to look goofy and laugh at yourself once in a while, especially when you are not alone.

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Don't Laugh at Giraffe By Rebecca Bender Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreS-Gr 1-In this sequel to *Giraffe and Bird* (Dancing Cat Bks., 2010), the sparring duo continue their unlikely friendship. Rowdy Bird instigates trouble by waking Giraffe with his loudest, chirpiest song. This results in a race that causes them to stumble over one another, making them thirsty. Bird has no trouble joining the zebra, hippo, and flamingo in the pond to cool off, but the low water level makes it difficult for the giraffe to reach down for a drink. His attempts to squat by the edge of the pond without getting his hooves wet elicit guffaws and cackles from the others. When he falls in, their mocking laughter embarrasses the giraffe so much that he slinks away and drinks from a mud puddle. Feeling sorry, the bird comes up with an idea. When they return to the pond, Bird acts so silly that the other animals laugh along—even Giraffe, who is no longer upset. Although the friends reconcile, it is unclear how this helps Giraffe overcome his fear of getting wet. The bright illustrations of acrylic on texturized illustration board are inset with small, square pictures that aptly convey the animals' expressions. The text includes lots of action words and sound effects to move the story along, but the lack of apology from the animals who tease the giraffe and the inexplicable resolution to his fear leave the story lacking.—Martha Simpson, Stratford Library Association, CT α (c)

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Review

In this book, Rebecca examines the delicate nature of embarrassment and friendship . . . [C]hildren will go through many situations with their friends that they will have to grapple with and find solutions for. Having books on hand that show this as a normal process in friendships will support them in these journeys, and open the conversations with thinking about how to solve their own problems in a creative and positive way. (*Toronto Public Library*)

The relationships in *Don't Laugh at Giraffe* cleverly reflect the often-confusing relationships kids have with other kids. Figuring out how to be with others is tricky for children, and they will likely welcome the conversation the book can inspire. Bender's illustrations are gorgeous, colourful and lively. (*Open Book Canada*)

The artwork is so expressive and appealing to the book's young audience . . . the author makes some sparkling decisions about word choice, encouraging an expressive and engaging shared reading. (*Sal's Fiction Addiction*)

Don't Laugh at Giraffe is a warm, gentle tale with a good message and plenty of funny moments, making it a great choice for sharing. After all, the story reminds us, it's always better to laugh with a friend than at one. **Starred Review** (*Quill & Quire*)

Bender paints the animals against a bright savanna backdrop, emphasizing their emotional ups and downs with exaggerated facial expressions. The conversational text gracefully delivers a message about kindness and having a sense of humor. (*Publishers Weekly*)

[Bender] knows when a picture, rather than words, should carry the story . . . A fun read, but one which still speaks to the meaning of friendship . . . **Highly Recommended.** (*CM Magazine*)

Bold acrylics fill the pages . . . [Bender] creates personalities with expressive visages (hard to do on a small

bird) and morphologies, with lessons to teach and learn. Recognizing that we're all a little bit Giraffe and a little Bird makes them even more endearing. (*CanLit or LittleCanadians*)

Young readers will be able to internalize the lesson of empathy well, as it is so subtle; Bender does not preach at all, but merely shows her readers - largely with her beautiful illustrations - one option in this social situation. (*Resource Links*)

Author and illustrator Rebecca Bender has fashioned a delightful children's picture book for kids ages 4 through 7. It is one thing for people to laugh with one another in unison and quite another thing to laugh at others. Seeing his friend humiliated and unhappy brings out Bird's caring and creativity. *Don't Laugh at Giraffe* covers both the good and the bad sides of laughter. (*Spirituality & Practice*)

About the Author

Author/Illustrator Rebecca Bender, best known for her award-winning Giraffe And Bird books, broke onto the preschooler scene with her endearing prequel, *Giraffe Meets Bird*, in 2015. Rebecca graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design with the medal for illustration and is now an art director and designer. She lives in Burlington, Ontario, with her husband and two children.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

John McKenzie:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be change about what going on or details even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which you should start with. This *Don't Laugh at Giraffe* is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

Gilbert Kimmel:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book you just read? May be the book with the concept *Don't Laugh at Giraffe* suitable to you? Often the book was written by popular writer in this era. The actual book untitled *Don't Laugh at Giraffe* is the main one of several books in which everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new shape that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their concept in the simple way, so all of people can easily to know the core of this publication. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world with this book.

Mamie Perkins:

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Tracy Rendon:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our expertise for everything. By a publication we can know everything you want. A book is a pair of written, printed, illustrated or perhaps blank sheet. Every year has been exactly added. This publication Don't Laugh at Giraffe was filled in relation to science. Spend your extra time to add your knowledge about your research competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can experience enjoy to read a book. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book that you wanted.

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