



Not For Sale

Sara Cassidy

Illustrated by Helen Flook

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About the Book

When ten-year-old Cyrus sees a For Sale sign plunged into his front lawn, it's a complete and utter disaster. Usually, his younger brother, Rudy, is the scaredy-cat, but for the first time in his life, Cyrus is terrified. He's lived at 637 Petunia Boulevard since he came to live with his adoptive mom and dad at two months old. Won't he go hurtling into outer space without these four familiar walls to hold him in? Luckily, Cyrus has a few sneaky tricks up his sleeve to stop this moving business before it even gets started.

About the Author

Sara Cassidy is an award-winning author of six books for children and young teens. Her poetry, fiction and articles have been widely published. She lives in Victoria, British Columbia, with her three children. For more information, visit www.saracassidywriter.com.

About the Writing

Sara wanted to write a book fuelled by the rambunctious energy of her two sons, and her household's happiness and high jinx. She also wanted to write about a close family going through significant change—how the different personalities react, and how they help each other.

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections***Prereading Ideas***

- Have you ever moved house? What big changes have you gone through with your family?
- How can parents and siblings help each other go through big changes?
- What games do you play with your siblings?

Classroom Discussion Questions

1. Cyrus and Rudy have a lot of fun together. Can having fun be a way to get through serious things?
2. What do you think of Cyrus's "solution"? Was it better than doing nothing? Should his parents have been angry?
3. Cyrus's little brother Rudy gets anxious. Do you know how to help someone when they get anxious? Do you know what to do if you feel anxious?
4. Cyrus and Rudy and their parents joke around a lot and do things together. Do you think that if they didn't get along so well, the boys might have a harder time moving house?
5. What do you think of Cyrus's idea for stopping his family moving? Is a family move something that a kid can stop? Did Cyrus do the right thing?
6. Why does Cyrus's family need to move?

Suggested Activities

- Wigglechin the cat always falls on her feet. Research cats and see if you can answer any of the following questions: Do cats always "land on their feet"? How far can a cat really drop? Why do we say that cats have "nine lives"? Why are cats able to leap so far and so well?
- Cyrus's dad works in a logging camp. He's a feller buncher. What other jobs do loggers do? Can you locate any logging camps on the map? Are there loggers in your province?
- Write a guide to help kids with moving. What can they expect? What are good ways to deal with change? What can help?
- Cyrus and Rudy love to play with their potato shooters. What toys do you play with with your siblings? Research some other toys that kids play with around the world? What games do you play with your siblings? What games to kids play around the world?

Other Titles of Interest***Fiction***

Alexander Who's Not (Do you hear me? I mean it!) Going to Move by Judith Viorst

Henry and Mudge and Annie's Good Move by Cynthia Rylant

The Leaving Morning by Angela Johnson

Tooter Pepperday by Jerry Spinelli

Nonfiction

Moving House by Anne Civardi

Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

Seeing Orange (Orca Echoes)

Skylark (Orca Soundings)

Slick (Orca Currents)

Windfall (Orca Currents)

Reviews

“A small slice of very funny family life...A heartwarming romp.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Excellent.” —*Resource Links*