



Sam's Ride

Becky Citra

illustrated by Amy Meissner

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AR Quiz # 134483

About the Book

Sam can think of nothing worse than staying on Grandpa's ranch for two weeks while his mother is away at a conference. Sam is afraid of Bolt, the huge white horse he is supposed to ride, and he resists his grandfather's attempts to make him into a cowboy. Bolt has a mind of his own. He trots at unexpected times, shies at a moose in the bush and even dunks Sam in a creek. But Sam learns some surprising things at the ranch about his father, who died when Sam was a baby. And in the end, Sam overcomes his fear of riding in order to help rescue Grandpa.

About the Author

Becky Citra lives on a ranch beside a small lake in the interior of British Columbia. She is the author of fifteen books for children. Her books include the historical Max and Ellie series and the Enchanted Theater fantasy series. Becky's books have been nominated for many awards. Becky recently retired from a teaching career to become a full-time writer. She enjoys going back to schools and sharing her books with children in classrooms and libraries all over British Columbia. When Becky is not writing, she rides her horse, gardens, hikes and snowshoes on her ranch.

About the Writing

Sam's Ride is set on a ranch that is very similar to the ranch where Becky lives. Horses have always been an important part of Becky's life. She has helped many children learn to ride and understands that it can be very scary. Just like Sam, Becky was dunked in a creek by a horse! Besides horses, Becky is also interested in the relationships between children and their grandparents.

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

Sam has to overcome his fear of riding Bolt in order to help rescue his grandpa. Have you ever had to do something that frightened you? What are some ways you could help a friend overcome his or her fear?

Classroom Discussion Questions

1. Sam thinks Grandpa has too many rules. What are some examples of fair and unfair rules in your life? Who do you think should set rules?
2. Grandpa and Doctor McKinnon like to help each other. Are you friends with your neighbors. What do you think a good neighbor should do?
3. Sam thinks Grandpa wants him to be a cowboy. How does this make Sam feel? What are some of the expectations that people have for you? Are they hard to meet?
4. Are grandparents or elders an important part of your life? What kinds of things can you learn from them?
5. Is there a time in the story when Sam feels like giving up? What advice would you give Sam to make him feel better?

Suggested Activities

- Draw a story map of the setting. Include Grandpa's house, the corrals and barn, the fields and meadows, the creek, the bridge and Doctor McKinnon's house.
- Research cowboy traditions. Learn how to sing a cowboy song. Make bannock (campfire bread).
- Make a graph showing what you and your classmates want to be when you grow up. Does anyone want to be a cowboy?
- Try on a real pair of cowboy boots and a cowboy hat. Role play a day in the life of a cowboy.
- Interview your grandparent or an elderly person. Ask them questions about what kinds of jobs they did or are still doing.

Other Titles and Websites of Interest

Dog Days by Becky Citra (Orca Young Reader), grandparents

Jo's Triumph by Nikki Tate (Orca Young Reader), horses

Me and Mr. Mab by Andrea Spalding (Orca picturebook), elderly people, neighbors

Do Cowboys Ride Bikes? by Kathy Tucker (Albert Whitman and Company), cowboy life

Paul Revere's Ride by Henry Longfellow (Dutton Children's Books), horses

www.cowboyshowcase.com

Other books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

Danger at the Landings

Dog Days

Ellie's New Home

The Freezing Moon

Jeremy and the Enchanted Theater

Jeremy and the Fantastic Flying Machine

Jeremy and the Golden Fleece

Jeremy in the Underworld

Never To Be Told

Runaway

Strawberry Moon

Whiteout

Awards

Dog Days

Hackmatack Award nominee

Never To Be Told

Hackmatack Award nominee

Silver Birch nominee (Honour Book)

Red Cedar nominee

Strawberry Moon

Chocolate Lily Award nominee