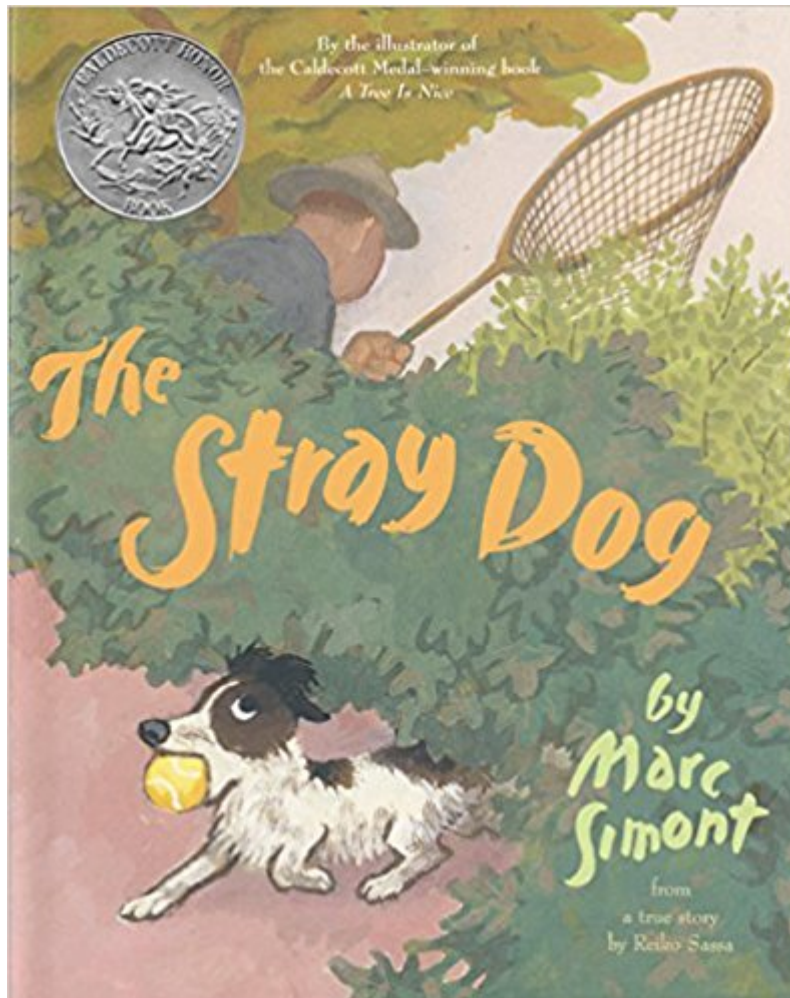




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# The Stray Dog



## Synopsis

“This picture book has all the earmarks of a classic. Simont gets it all right.”  
The Horn Book (starred review) Caldecott Medalist Marc Simont’s heartwarming tale of a stray dog is told with tender simplicity and grace. When a little dog appears at a family picnic, the girl and boy play with him all afternoon, and they name him Willy. At day’s end they say good-bye. But the dog has won their hearts and stays on their minds. The following Saturday the family returns to the picnic grounds to look for Willy, but they are not alone—the dog catcher is looking for him, too! Awards for this book include: Caldecott Honor Book \* New York Times Best Illustrated Book \* ALA Notable Children’s Book \* Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor Book \* [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) Editors’ Pick \* School Library Journal Best Book \* New York Public Library’s One Hundred Titles for Reading and Sharing.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (May 27, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064436691

ISBN-13: 978-0064436694

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 55 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #79,269 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #225 in Books > Children’s Books > Animals > Pets #528 in Books > Children’s Books > Animals > Dogs #2696 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

"It was a great day for a picnic," begins Marc Simont's lovely, touching, happy-ending picture book, *The Stray Dog*. And indeed, judging from the opening spread's clear skies, sparkling water, zooming boats, and adventure-bound cars it looks to be so. The story begins as a scruffy little dog makes an appearance at a family's picnic. The children name him Willy, and by the end of the day they desperately want to take him home. The family drives away, but all week they can think of nothing but their new furry friend. They return to picnic at the same spot the very next week, much to Willy's

good fortune--and that of the newly smitten family. As in all the best illustrated children's books, Simont lets his pictures tell the story. We don't have to be told how wrenching it is for the kids to leave Willy behind--we see their small outstretched arms out the car window and the puppy watching them go. Simont doesn't have to tell us that the next Saturday the family is completely preoccupied with the possibility of another Willy sighting. We see the family, silent, munching, and just to the side is a plate of meat they've put out, just in case. Young readers will adore this simple tale of puppy love, but adults will be equally charmed. Simont illustrated his first book in 1939, and since then has illustrated nearly 100 titles, including the 1949 Caldecott Honor Book *The Happy Day*, by Ruth Krauss and Janice May Udry's *A Tree Is Nice*, winner of the 1957 Caldecott Medal. This book is our favorite so far of the year! (Ages 4 to 8) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this slender but engaging volume, Caldecott Medalist Simont (*A Tree Is Nice*) retells and illustrates a true story told to him by a friend. Picnicking in the country, a family spies a friendly dog. The brother and sister play with him and even name him, but their parents will not let them take Willy back to their city home. "He must belong to somebody," their mother explains, "and they would miss him." Returning to the same spot the following weekend, they once again see Willy, this time being chased by a dog warden who deems him a stray: "He has no collar. He has no leash." In the tale's most endearing scene, the boy removes his belt and the girl her hair ribbon, which they identify to the warden as Willy's collar and leash: "His name is Willy, and he belongs to us." Simont's art and narrative play off each other strategically, together imparting the tale's humor and tenderness. The final scenes are simple gems of understatement and wit. "They took Willy home" accompanies a full-bleed picture of the children energetically and messily bathing the dog; "And after that... they introduced him to the neighborhood, where he met some very interesting dogs" captions a busy scene of a park full of pooches. A charmer. Ages 4-8. (Jan.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Delightful story for young family members even if you don't own a dog!

I love this book! We have a dog that looks just like this one. The illustrations really capture her personality!

Good story.

Perfect!

Simple story easy to follow along. Great for problem and solution.

Kids love it.

Simple story, but kids love the connection they make.

good read

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