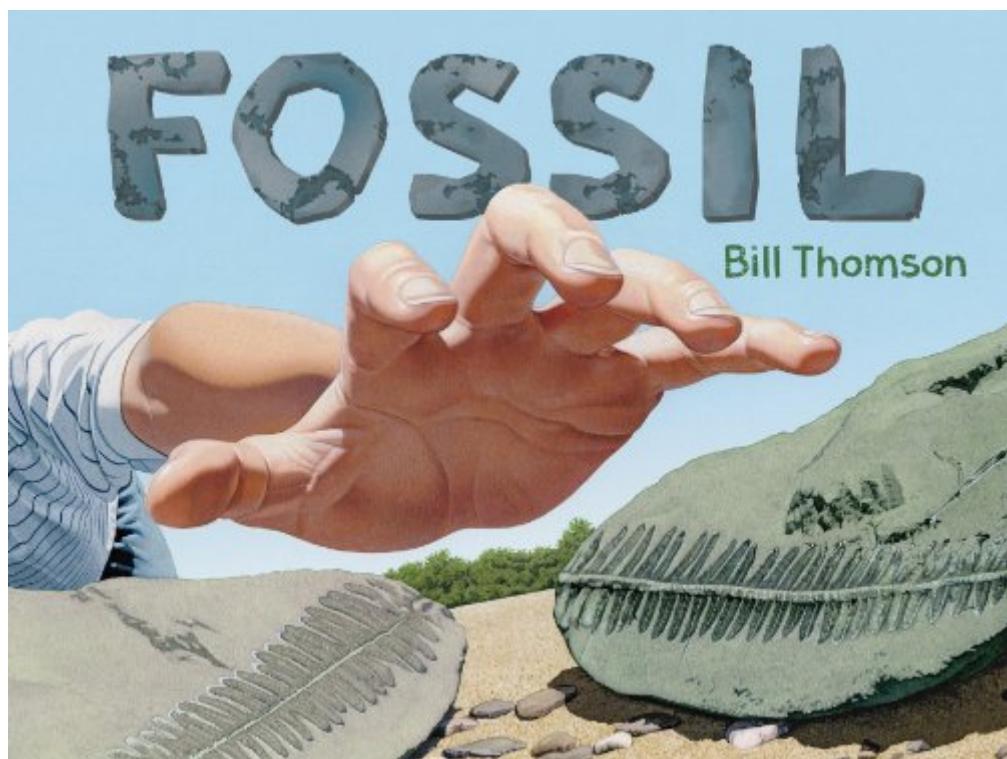


The book was found

Fossil



Synopsis

When a boy and his dog go for a hike, the boy trips on a fossil, and it comes to life, revealing an ancient plant. The boy is so intrigued that he breaks two more fossils that come to lifeâ "a dragonfly and a pteranodon. When these prehistoric creatures collide with present reality, the boy must figure out a way to make things go back to normal. Visually told through art, this "wordless story" will surely spark imagination and creativity.

Book Information

File Size: 9742 KB

Print Length: 40 pages

Publisher: Two Lions (November 5, 2013)

Publication Date: November 5, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00C7XTOMS

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #120,021 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Science, Nature & How It Works > Nature > Fossils #8 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Alphabet #10 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Children's Nonfiction > Science, Nature & How It Works > Nature

Customer Reviews

Having 4 boys in the family, I was very excited to get this book because I know they would love it. The story is about a boy who finds fossils of prehistoric times; and every time he discovers one the real-life item appears. That's an awesome plot! Then a pterodactyl comes along and takes off with his dog and of course the boy is concerned. But I just think the author made a fatal error in making the boy DESTROY dinosaur fossils in order to make the dinosaurs disappear. Couldn't he have been more creative in coming up with a respectful way of handling it? I just can't help but think of the oldest tree in our county along the Oregon Trail that had been there through Pioneers,

Civil War, etc.... and it was set on fire THREE times over 50 years by arsons "for fun" in spite of a protective fence being put around it. I think our youth need to be taught how priceless artifacts are; and this book basically makes it "fun" to destroy them. If anyone has traveled around the country you will see how common it is for people to basically ruin priceless artifacts, especially in nature. It's pitiful. I think it shows a huge lack of creativity and common sense on the author's part to ruin the book like this. It's a shame, because the illustrations, general storyline and feel of the book are wonderful; and done right it could have INSTILLED an APPRECIATION for fossils as opposed to encouraging destroying of them. I just can't recommend this book.

This is a perfect picture book for teachers to teach descriptive writing in elementary school, and beyond. Except for the few brief setup words on the inside flap, and the introduction page defining what a fossil is, the story is completely told through the real life styled illustrations of author Bill Thomason of award winning "Chalk" fame. Each illustration was hand crafted using acrylic paint, and colored pencils which lends an almost photographic realism to the story. The story starts with a young boy walking with his dog on a deserted beach, when he happens upon a fossilized plant that incredibly morphs into something amazing. From there the boy and his dog find themselves on a wondrous adventure of magical proportions. All told through a series of picture panels that detail story concepts, mood, plot, and action. My students began to zero in on the smallest of details in each picture, developing, and broadening their verbal and written powers of description. This segued into my students creating their own wordless stories, as well as strengthening their written compositions. The hardcover paper quality and binding is of excellent quality, and will sure to inspire young writers for years to come.

Recently gave a copy of "Fossil" to a friend's second grade grandson. His eyes just lit up as he looked at the illustrations and told me his version of the fossil adventure. So many details that stimulate a child's imagination can be gleaned from each drawing as the story progresses. Adults are amazed at the quality of the art work as well!

My niece's Springer Spaniel Katie was the model for this book. She told me the author took over 700 pictures of her to capture all the movements depicted in the book and knowing Katie he got it down right the first time. I was happy to be able to get a copy of the book and I know this book will stir imaginations in children.

I was delighted to see another book authored by my favorite illustrator, Bill Thomson. I bought the book at my local bookstore and ordered two more for my grandchildren from . The illustrations in Fossil are wonderful, as always. Bill Thomson's attention to detail is fascinating. The pictures look as real as any photograph that I've ever seen. Professor Thomson has illustrated a number of children's books, but I find his recent books (Chalk and Fossil) to be his best work. These two books, with Thomson illustrations only, need no words. I have enjoyed many hours with my grandchildren "reading" Chalk. They tell me the story, based solely on Professor Thomson's pictures. I look forward to "reading" Fossil with them once their books arrive. Being a retired educator, I love that the Thomson books have corresponding educator's and kids' activity guides. What a great way to get children to use their imaginations and learn at the same time. Rather than spoon-feed information to the children, let's help them discover facts on their own. Let's guide our children through fun storytelling activities. Take your students' minds back to prehistoric times and let them explain what cave paintings represented. My final comment comes from a retired educator's opinion, I love to see that Professor Thomson is passing his knowledge on to the next generation of illustrators. What a wonderful legacy he will leave!

Bill stimulates the imagination of his young readers with his amazing artwork. My grandchildren climb in bed with their parents regularly to "read" Chalk to them. They were so excited to receive Fossil as a Christmas gift (as were their parents).

This is a great book for the imagination! My first graders loved "reading" the book and talking about what might happen next. Some reviewers have decried this book because fossils are destroyed. Don't let them discourage you from getting this book. It's about using your imagination on several different levels. I think you will like it. I know your child will!

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