

BOOK REVIEW

By Joan Alford

No, David! By David Shannon, The Blue Sky Press, An Imprint of Scholastic Inc. New York, 1998

This book was a 1999 Caldecott Honor Book and received the Georgia Book Award. David Shannon was a presenter at the 2001 Literary Conference at the University of Georgia. Andrea Gilbert, the Media Specialist at my school shared the book with me and what fun it was to go to his presentation. David Shannon has written and/or illustrated several children's books and if they are as delightful as this book, it will be fun to read them. The author's mother sent him a book he had written when he was little and Shannon decided to base a book around his early illustrations and limited writing vocabulary "No, David!"

David does all of the things that any curious and mischievous child will do from writing on the wall to running out of the house naked. The illustrations are wonderful and any 'kid' can relate to them. It ends with "Davey, Come here!" He gets a great big hug and "I Love You".

This book communicates in a fun and creative way that we all do things we shouldn't; we get punished; and we are still loved. Even the change from "David" to "Davey" at the end reminds me of the different names my mother would call me depending if I was in trouble, she wanted me to do something, or just wanted to let me know I mattered.

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A PROMISE IS A PROMISE
Robert Munch & Michael Kusugak
Firefly Books Ltd., Willowdale, Ontario, Canada
1988

Robert Munch is the author of the well-loved and popular book, Love You Forever. A Promise Is A Promise takes place in the Northwest Territories of Canada, and the story is told to young children to keep them from going to the ice without their parents.

Allushua wants to go fishing in the ocean in the ice cracks. Her mother tells her not to go there because the Qallupilluit live under the ice and grab children who are not with their parents. She tells her daughter to go fishing in the lake. Allushua says she will and says, "a promise is a promise." She leaves in the direction of the lake, but takes the path to the sea. At the shore she yells taunts at the Qallupilluit and nothing happens, so she fishes at the crack. She caught several fish and she is quite boastful, when she hears a voice like blowing snow that says, "The best you may be, but the smartest you are not."

Allushua is pulled under the ice and finally gets free by 'promising' to bring her brothers and sisters to the Qallupilluit. Her father finds her nearly frozen by the house and they quickly get her warmed up to save her. She tells her family what happened. They devise a way for her to keep her promise, and outsmart the Qallupilluit.

I like this story more each time I read it. I think it offers the opportunity to discuss rules for keeping children safe and understanding what a promise means. Because the culture is so different, the reader may need to draw some parallels with some of our folklore for the younger child. I think all ages would enjoy this book.