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Janet Halfmann

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Baby Bat loves his cave home and never wants to leave it. While practicing flapping his wings one night, he falls, and Pluribus Packrat rescues him. They then explore the deepest, darkest corners of the cave where they meet amazing animals—animals that don't need eyes to see or colors to hide from enemies. Baby Bat learns how important bats are to the cave habitat and how other cave-living critters rely on them for their food. Will Baby Bat finally venture out of the cave to help the other animals?

Home in the Cave Details

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From Reader Review Home in the Cave for online ebook

Wayne Walker says

Have you ever visited a cave and seen bats hanging from the ceiling or flying around? Baby Bat lives in a cave with his mom, and he never wants to grow up and leave his home, especially when he hears scary stories from other bats about owls and foxes who prey on bats. However, his mom must fly out of the cave to get food. While she is gone, the little bat makes friends with Pluribus Packrat who teaches him all about some of the other cave creatures, such as phoebes, rattlesnakes, salamanders, cave crickets, crayfish, and many more. Baby Bat also learns the importance of bats to the cave habitat. Will he ever decide to fly out of the cave and go hunting with his mother?

A lot of people are afraid of bats and hate them. However, these unique animals have some very important functions in the ecosystems in which they live. Janet Halfmann's informative text and Shennen Bersani's eye-catching illustrations combine to give a very sympathetic portrayal of life in the cave. The "For Creative Minds" section contains information about cave zones and rock formations, a quiz on cave habitats, a bat echolocation hands on activity, and a page comparing and contrasting bats, birds, and humans along with answers to the question, "Are Bats Good or Bad?" The publisher's website gives further cross-curricular teaching activities and interactive reading comprehension and math quizzes for Home in the Cave. When our boys were younger, we toured several caves where we noticed bats in their natural habitat and attended programs on bat ecology. This book is a great way to study about these amazing creatures.

Lyn says

Baby Bat loves his cave. He never wants to leave which is why he ignored his mother's advice to practice flapping his wings like the other little bats. When he accidentally falls onto a messy ledge, he meets Pluribus Packrat who convinces him to go exploring inside the cave. His friend teaches him why bats are so important to the cave ecology.

This simple story does a good job of presenting bats as beneficial to the world. It sure beats just reciting facts.

The Creative Minds educational section in the back of the book provides facts, puzzles, and hands on activities that enhance the story. Quizzes are available on the book's home page.

Mymcbooks says

My Review: A story about a young baby Bat who loves the cave so much that he is afraid to leave it. In order to hunt for food, his mother told him that he needs to practice how to fly so he can hunt for his own food. While hearing stories told by other baby bats how their mothers caught a gazillion mayflies, almost got snatched by an owl or flew between a fox's sharp teeth he was even more certain that he will never leave the cave until he met Pluribus Packrat. He learnt from Packrat while showing him around the cave how important bats are to other animals. The food dropping helps provide food for other cave critters to eat. Baby Bat couldn't wait to let his mom know that he practiced flapping his wings so that he will be ready to go hunting with her the next day.

The book also includes four pages of learning activities about Life in Caves Zones, Rock Formations, Cave Habitats, Hands On: Bat Echolocation, Compare and Contrast: Bats, Birds and Humans and learn about Are Bats Good or Bad? The illustrations by Shennen Bersani are great and helps tell the story.

Disclaimer: As per FTC guidelines, I received a copy of this book from Sylvan Dell Publishing in exchange for my honest review. I received no monetary compensation. All opinions expressed here are mine and mine alone.

Kristi Bernard says

When we think of bats we think of scary little creatures that fly around in the night swooshing down at our heads to frighten us. Instead, I discovered a delightful story about bats and how they contribute to their cave community. Bats are pretty thrifty and each cave dwelling animal depends on them more so than I ever knew or could imagine.

Baby Bat snuggles close to his mom. It's almost time for her to fly out into the world to gather insects for food. Baby Bat loves being in the cave and never wants to leave. Mom reminds him to practice flapping his wings so that some day he can hunt with her. Baby Bat listens to the other little bats tell stories about how danger almost got their moms. Now, he was really sure he never wanted to leave his safe home in the cave. When he stumbles into the nest of Pluribus Packrat he learns more about the cave, other animals and how much help bats are to the growth and stability of the caves many dwellers.

This is a wonderful fact filled story that young readers will keep and enjoy for a long time. Parents and teachers will enjoy learning all about bats and what can be found inside a cave. The back of the book has information and pictures that teach readers about cave crickets, cavefish, stalactites, stalagmites and bat echolocation. Readers can also decide if they feel bats are good or bad.

AnnieM says

Ok there really isn't a good reason for me to dislike this book except it's about bats and the animals that eat their poo.

I love the gross books, but not this one.

Brittany says

Home in the Cave is a great story full of facts! It wasn't presented in the boring text book way and that really caught my attention which means it will catch many young reader's attentions. For the twin text with this book I chose *Nightsong* by Ari Berk. *Nightsong* is a story about a young bat who learns how to live the life of a bat! It has wonderful illustrations and just brings all of the facts out of *Home in the cave* to life. By pairing these two the children in the classrooms can learn factual content and then switch to read a fun story and use the content they have already learned to use in everyday life.

Beth says

Originally published at Beth's Book Reviews.

Received for review.

While not the most intellectually stimulating book I've read on the topic this was a cute enough children's book. It was fiction so it wasn't quite what I would have liked to have seen. The story was cute but not overwhelmingly wonderful. The illustrations by Shennen Bersani were well done and appropriate for the material.

Overall I would have to say this is a good bat story, and if you're looking for something on the fiction side this is a promising option.

Alice says

3.50 Stars This book was interesting about bats. It uses kids words to explain things like "Tummy" instead of stomach. The pictures are nice and the story is good. I don't like mice in any form so that was downer for me, but bats are cool!

I like the talking points in the back as well as the activity suggestions! Nicely done!

Cheryl Malandrinos says

Though I adore Halfmann's work, I had reservations about traveling through a book about bats and cave-dwelling critters; even if all of them were depicted so charmingly by Shennen Bersani. But despite beetles and mites, and rattlesnakes and spiders, I found myself drawn to *Home in the Cave*. Young readers are treated to an ecology lesson that also teaches them about trying new things and becoming more independent. By giving Baby Bat the right motivation (helping others) Pluribus Packrat helped Baby Bat realize what bats mean to the habitat in which they live and the creatures they share it with.

Also included is educational information about: caves, rock formations, cave habitats, and bat echolocation. Kids can compare bats, birds, and humans. There's also a brief section on whether bats are good or bad based upon the information they just read.

Home in the Cave would be an excellent addition to any school or home library. Highly recommended!

Tina Peterson says

Baby Bat loves his cave home and never wants to leave it. While practicing flapping his wings one night, he falls, and Pluribus Packrat rescues him. They then explore the deepest, darkest corners of the cave where they meet amazing animals—animals that don't need eyes to see or colors to hide from enemies. Baby Bat learns how important bats are to the cave habitat and how other cave-living critters rely on them for their food. Will Baby Bat finally venture out of the cave to help the other animals? Age 4-8 yrs

Baby Bat is adorable. There is nothing more to say - except that little kids are going love this story and I'm sure you are going to be reading it over and over. Home in the Cave is a good introduction to beginning science for 3-4 years old. While all the other baby bats are excitedly learning how to fly and talking about the adventures their moms are having while hunting in the cave - little Baby Bat gets more afraid as he imagines all the dangers and scary things that are out in the big world. One day he falls and lands on the cave floor where he learns that there are amazing things in the world and with the help of a blind rat he explores not only the cave but the big world outside.

(This one was easily my favorite of the 5 books that I reviewed although all of them were wonderful. The illustrations and the story are memorable and fun and will be a favorite of the children in your life.)

Melanie says

Some books are written simply for the joy of presenting a picture book story and reading time for a youngster. Others are meant to be a spring board for discussion and research. Janet's book falls in the later category. As we read about the animals in the Cave and follow baby bat around, questions arise from my young ones, desiring to go deeper in study. I love that in a book, especially as a homeschool mom we tend to utilize a lot of what we call Unit Studies where the one topic is covered in all educational disciplines. The Home in the Cave lend itself very easily to this concept with the science, history of the caves and animals, the blindness of some animals not needing light, the numbers and math of the various critters in the cave as well as the social side of baby bat and his fear of leaving the cave.

She discusses guano, sure to be a hit with all little boys! My daughter, not so much. I loved the circle of life with the bats providing a large amount of the food for the creatures in the cave. I didn't know that and thought it was very interesting.

Shennen Bersani's illustrations are beautifully done, showing her love of nature. The critters from the bat and packrat to the crickets and salamanders look realistic yet still softened by her artistic talent.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Sandy Brehl says

Of the many stories about bats and caves, this one takes the unusual point of view of a young bat reluctant to fly from the safety of the cave. When he joins a pack rat to explore the cave and discovers the many life forms dependent on guano to survive, he recognizes his role in traveling out to feed and return. This "hidden" ecosystem is intriguing to any reader but will fascinate young readers and likely spark further research.

Stacie says

Home in the Cave by Janet Halfmann is a delightful story about a little bat who refuses to learn to fly for fear of leaving the safety of the cave he lives in with his mother.

After befriending a mouse, the little bat takes a guided tour of his cave home and learns how many cave dwellers depend on bats for their survival. The little bat discovers the important job his mother has and now must decide if he should face his fears and learn to fly.

The book is very educational and provides facts about cave dwelling animals as well as teaching new vocabulary to young readers.

Shennen Bersani's illustrations visually engage readers and enhance learning.

Home in the Cave can be used by teachers as a fun learning tool.

Liz Todd says

The kids LOVED this book. They attached to the character right away. Best of all, this book introduces the concept of "guano," which is fun to talk about!

Close reading: How do bats help our world?
