



## Barkus: Book 1

*Patricia MacLachlan, Marc Boutavant (illustrator)*

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Meet Barkus. Barkus is loyal. Barkus is generous. Barkus is family.

The exuberant Barkus and his lucky young owner whirl and twirl across the pages of this delightful pre-chapter book series from award-winning author Patricia MacLachlan. The accessible text is ideal for even the newest independent reader, while the warm, humorous story and energetic illustrations will appeal to picture book readers as well as advanced readers.

## Barkus: Book 1 Details

Date : Published June 6th 2017 by Chronicle Books

ISBN : 9781452111827

Author : Patricia MacLachlan , Marc Boutavant (illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Barkus: Book 1 for online ebook

### Kate says

An early chapter book for beginning readers which would also make for a good read aloud for preschoolers and kindergartners. The story has warmth and humor, and it's hard not to fall for Barkus and his owner. It's an engaging book. Heavily illustrated but with plenty of text so as not to look too young. Colorful but still with plenty of white space to discern the words on the page without difficulty. The front cover shows Barkus wearing his dog tag which says "Book 1" and I think kids will be happy to know that.

Lastly, love the dedication to the real Barkus, the author's neighbor dog.

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### Ames Public Library Youth Services says

Uncle Everton is going away to travel the world and needs someone to take care of his dog, Barkus. When Nicky is given the chance to take care of the "smartest dog in the world," she is thrilled to take it! She and Barkus develop a friendship in which Nicky lovingly takes care of Barkus and any of his friends.

This is a sweet early chapter book for beginning readers. The modern, colorful illustrations by Marc Boutavant reflect the story's cheerful sensibility and MacLachlan's text will appeal to the youngest of dog lovers. JP

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### La Coccinelle says

*Barkus* kind of missed the mark for me. I get that it's supposed to be easy to read, but this sort of thing has been done way better by other authors (I kept thinking of the *Bink & Gollie* series as I was reading this). *Barkus* seems way too simple in comparison, and almost condescending in the overly simple storyline and word choices.

The illustrations are cute and colourful, but not that special. Overall, this seems like a forgettable sort of book, and I'm not sure who it will appeal to. If a child has graduated from picture books and is looking for something a little more sophisticated, they won't find it here; in fact, this seemed to be aimed at a *younger* audience than many picture books I've read.

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### Barbara Ann says

This early chapter book chronicles how Barkus became an integral part of Nicky's family. Uncle Everton shows up at her dog with his dog named Barkus who is well-trained and intelligent. Nicky's uncle will be traveling and can't take Barkus with him. Barkus follows Nicky to school where he is immediately adopted as the class dog. When Barkus' birthday rolls around, he invites the neighborhood dogs to crash his birthday party. One day Barkus is bored so he adopts a neighborhood kitten to become a part of his family. Nicky, Barkus and his kitten have a tent camp out in their backyard. Each of them comforts each other; no one is

afraid of the dark.

Large font accompanied by simple illustrations and lots of dialogue assist young readers in maintaining interest. By using four different stories and reweaving them at the end, children learn how to recap and summarize events. Family and pets are two themes that appeal to young readers. Highly recommended especially for children in the six to eight-year-old range.

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### **BiblioBickie says**

One windy day, Uncle Everton shows up at Nicky's door with "a very big brown dog" named Barkus, a gift for Nicky. Four chapters describe various adventures Nicky and Barkus have together, and the last chapter sums it all up. This is a perfect, gentle book with no obnoxious child or pet behavior that will nonetheless appeal to readers advancing into chapter books. Especially good for kindergarten and first grade advanced readers as the text is slightly more challenging, but the experiences in the story are relatable. Best for ages 4-7.

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### **Faith Tydings says**

I like this as an early reader but I'm not convinced that an early reader would pick this up based on the front cover - it seems a little young. The art is cute and the story is cute but may work better as a read-along with a parent for younger kids.

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### **Stephanie Tournas says**

An early chapter book with relatable, diverse characters and an adorable dog. Nicky's uncle gives her a dog named Barkus. In short chapters, Barkus's adventures with Nicky unfold: Barkus follows Nicky to school and becomes the class pet; Barkus has a party; he finds a pet of his own; and while camping in the back yard Nicky tells Barkus the story of his life. Easy text with familiar school and family themes and fun colorful cartoons make this an appealing read for kids new to chapters.

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### **VillaPark Public Library says**

When her Uncle Everton asks her to care for his dog while he is on vacation, Nicky finds herself the new owner of a lively dog named Barkus. Barkus is a particularly communicative dog who readily lets others know his wishes. All who interact with Barkus, including Nicky's parents and teacher, find him to be a very charming and dynamic dog, and he soon becomes a welcome addition to Nicky's family and classroom. The relationship with Nicky and Barkus matures as Nicky becomes particularly attuned to Barkus's moods and wishes. The story takes a new twist when Barkus, after looking noticeably bored one day, surprises everyone by bringing home a kitten. The reader will enjoy watching the special relationship grow between Barkus and the kitten, which he names Baby.

This early chapter book offers the emergent reader a heartwarming story about how an engaging and companionable dog creates special relationships and becomes a valued and distinct member of a family.

Check this book out at the Villa Park Public Library!:

[https://catalog.swanlibraries.net/client/en\\_US/vpd/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fSD\\_ILS\\$002f0\\$002fSD\\_ILS:1615910/ada?qu=barkus&lm=VPD](https://catalog.swanlibraries.net/client/en_US/vpd/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:1615910/ada?qu=barkus&lm=VPD)

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### **Lisa says**

This is the first in a series about Barkus, a loyal and loving dog, and Nicky, his owner. Five short chapters tell the tale of how Barkus became a part of Nicky's family and how that family grew to also include a cat named Baby. Each chapter is amusing and sweet. In one, Barkus follows Nicky to school. In another, Barkus's dog friends join him at his party where they eat cookies and dance in celebration. In the last chapter, Nicky tells Barkus the story of how he came to live with her, which is a retelling of the events that took place throughout the book. The illustrations are colorful and capture Nicky's joy and Barkus's energy. This is a great book for early readers.

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### **Barbara says**

Barkus by Patricia MacLachlan is the first book in a series for new readers. This early chapter book will delight dog lovers with its colorful illustrations and an endearing pooch named Barkus. When Barkus comes to live with Nicky and her family life just gets a little more exciting each day. Barkus is sneaky, loving, frolicky, curious and an all around great new member of the family. It will be fun to see what high jinks he gets up to in the next book. For ages 5 - 8.

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### **Alyson (Kid Lit Frenzy) says**

Odd size for a early reader and also a bit more for 2nd grade readers.

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### **Melki says**

The arrival of Barkus brings many wonderful changes to one little girl's household.

A good one for both kids, and dog lovers who may see a little of their own pooch in big ole Barkus.

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### **Heidi says**

In this delightful ode to the relationship between a girl and her dog, the author has created a wonderful book for sharing with a group or reading one-on-one. The five short stories in the book highlight the fun that Nicky and Barkus have together. The first story introduces Nicky and Barkus to each other. Story two

introduces Barkus to Nicky's class at school. Story three revolves around Barkus's birthday. Story four sees Barkus adopt a kitten and story five has Nicky and Barkus enjoying their first outdoor campout. The bright illustrations are very eye-catching and appealing.

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### **That One Librarian says**

Hooray for Barkus! Veteran author Patricia MacLachlan and the talented Marc Boutavant have teamed up for a brand new chapter book series about family and friendship - human, canine, and feline. "Barkus" is a very early chapter book, perfect for kids just getting their feet wet with longer stories, and is divided into very distinct chapter. Each chapter is self-contained story, but they still build on each other to create a complete narrative. The first book follows Nicky as her uncle gifts her Barkus, an intelligent and lovable pup, and as Barkus adopts Baby, a stray kitten. Together Nicky, her furry friends, and her parents bond as a family. Barkus also manages to get to school with Nicky and becomes a very helpful, if not traditional, fixture in the classroom. While Nicky and her family are white, her classroom is notably diverse. The strengths of Barkus are in the simple text which still manages to convey an engaging story and the beautiful, enticing illustrations. Highly recommended!

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### **Diana says**

Barkus is a cute, accessible early chapter book about a kid and their dog, a classic pair of best friends. The book is notable in that it's main human character is gender neutral. No pronouns are used to describe them and a gender neutral name is used. This, along with the well-paired illustrations, makes the book a mirror for any young, exuberant reader.

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