



It's Hard to Swim

K.J. Hales

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Ellie the Wienerdog is back!

In Life's Little Lesson #2, *It's Hard to Swim*, readers are reunited with their favorite wiener dog as she is about to abruptly get her paws wet.

Romping on dry ground and chasing a ball are the activities Ellie believes dogs are built to do. However, one day as she is enjoying her canine fun, she chases her ball onto a dock and then finds herself cornered by her "people" who think it would be a good idea for her to take a little dip.

The drama builds as her mind goes into over drive imagining all the terrifying possibilities that could await her below the surface of the water.

Will she sink? Will she end up as dinner for a hungry shark or a monster fish? Or will she overcome her fear and discover all the fun that comes with trying something new? Her future hangs at the end of a dock with very dark water below . . .

Swim is a year-round Summer Fun read! Kids will love searching for all the hidden treasures in the vibrant, whimsical illustrations and grown-ups will love the timeless lesson that is shared through Ellie's humorous tale.

The team of K.J. Hales and Serene Wyatt have done it again – thanks to the inspiration from Ellie the Wienerdog.

It's Hard to Swim Details

Date : Published June 6th 2017 by Open Door Press, Inc.

ISBN : 9781942264033

Author : K.J. Hales

Format : Hardcover 36 pages

Genre : Animals, Childrens, Dogs

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From Reader Review It's Hard to Swim for online ebook

Glen says

I won this book in a goodreads drawing.

A great children's book about a weiner dog that is afraid, but still learns to swim.

Great for kids unsure of swimming.

Alisa says

A very cute book about facing your fears, how we tend to build up the fear in our head and how, if we give something a try, we may be surprised at how great it actually is.

Megan Rang says

I won this on Goodreads Giveaways. It is an adorable book about a Weiner dog who is afraid to try to swim. I read it with my 5 year old son. He was engaged with every page. I loved the rhyming words. The pictures really added to the story. This is soon to be a family favorite!!

David McClendon, Sr says

It's Hard to Swim is a cute little children's book with wonderfully cute illustrations. It is the story of Ellie the Wienerdog, who starts out talking about how she can't swim because she has fur and does not have flippers and fins, etc.

Someone puts a life jacket on her and puts her into the water. Here is where we have a problem. Ellie goes through a series of thoughts about not being able to be found, spooky creatures, and more.

We feel that, unless your child is already a swimmer and very familiar with the water and swimming, this might not be the book for your child.

The story turns out all right. Ellie is thinking about possibly teaching fish to sit. This is good, but we are concerned with the apprehension that might be stirred up in a child because of Ellie's fears.

The story is cute and the illustrations are great. We give this book three stars. We caution parents to be careful with children who might be sensitive to Ellie's fears and might not be able to see that the outcome of the book is positive.

Ellie Reardon says

I won this awesome little book in a GoodReads giveaway, and I'm glad I did! Other than the main character and I having similar names, I loved how she was quite an adorable little puppy. I liked that the story encourages kids to not give up, which is something kids need to hear, especially my 6 year old. The illustrations were lovely, and extremely vibrant and full of life. My son and I really enjoyed this book. We also loved that it was pawtographed by Ellie, herself!

April Ochieng says

This is such a cute little children's book, and the best part? It has a clever play on words, and my kid loves pointing at the dog on every page.

Jennifer says

Other reviewers have explained what this books is about, so I just wanted to mention how nice the illustrations are. This book is filled with bright, beautiful pages that feature a cute little wiener dog. I was lucky enough to win this book in a Goodreads giveaway, so a big thank you to the author for having Ellie the wiener dog pawtographed it. My 4 year old daughter loves the book, and can't wait to take it to show and tell.

Araceli Romo says

I love books that can incorporate rhyming into the story. This little tale is funny and fun to read, particularly aloud. Of course, the book has its little lesson about encouraging kids to try new things because what other way can we discover new ways to enjoy life. So, the book is a little treasure that teachers can actually use for light discussion over a topic that may be a little difficult for young kids as some of them do not want to try out new food, new activities, new books, etc. I also like that the book is deep in thought, but it is not overwhelming in detail; readers can connect to it through different levels and still have a good time reading it. Great book!

Kathleen says

This book came to me through Goodreads Giveaway. My grandsons who just turned 4 & 7 years old fell in love with Ellie. She is a dog that is funny and has a great imagination. This is the 2nd of the series, so it's a given that we will be getting the 1st in the series too!

Julie Carpenter says

Another cute book in the Ellie the Wienerdog series! Fun life lessons taught to children by a fun and lovable

pup!

Not only is it hard to be good but, heavens, it's hard to swim! Ellie is happily playing along and comes to the end of the dock...NOPE not gonna go in the water! Until she gets a little surprise and realizes that with a little practice and help she can do it and have fun!

Again, lots of great illustrations and rhyming prose. I loved all the illustrations with Ellie in the water and with the other water creatures. The ending was pretty cute too, Ellie gets to share her learning with others!

I don't know about you but we've had dogs who have reacted both positively and negatively with regards to water. We love camping and are constantly at the lake fishing during the summer and one dog LOVED being in the water, she'd dive out in it and swim and have a blast. But our dog that we have now is a little adverse to the water. She really wants the stick at the edge of the water and does this bunny hop thing to get to it and come bounding out as soon as she gets her stick. The first time we saw it (and each subsequent time) we laughed until our sides hurt! I couldn't help but think about those memories while reading this cute story!

My family and I are really enjoying this series and will keep watching for more!

Definitely a fun series that I recommend for families with children and of course families with dogs (or even those without).

I received a copy from the publisher, Greenleaf Book Group, via Netgalley. All thoughts and opinions in the review are my own.

Happy Reading!!!

Craig Sisterson says

The second in the Ellie the Wienerdog series, this is a delightful tale with vivid illustrations that are full of joy and fun. My wee two-year-old really enjoyed us reading it aloud. This time Ellie is not keen on the water, and worries what might happen if she falls in. What ferocious creatures of the deep might she encounter.

We enjoyed the first Ellie story, but I think this one steps up a notch. The rhyming verse is a wee bit better, with a good rhythm and plenty of fun in the story. The illustrations are full of action and colour, and really bring the story to life and give it a feeling of movement, not just static pictures.

A fun wee story that I think will be re-readable over and over, and bolsters a promising series.

La La - Everyone's Crazy Aunt says

Parents beware, this book shows all sorts of scary things in the water that bite and can eat you, but it doesn't resolve anything with showing cute friendly fish in the water after the dog starts swimming. In fact, it shows another image of those same dangerous fish in the water at the end of the story. The shark is smiling, but it's still a shark in what appears to be a lake which makes no sense. So, be prepared for kids who will be afraid to go into the water if you read this book to them. It seems strange a children's picture book editor let this pass.

I was approved for an eARC, via Netgalley, in return for an honest review.

Rachel says

"It's Hard to Swim" is the second installment in Ellie's Little Lessons series and we absolutely loved the tail (pun intended).

I read it to my nephew (5 years old) and son (9 months old). It was easy and fun for my nephew to read along with me and understand the intended lesson. The story had a lovely melodic rhyme and the illustrations were vivid and imaginative. We are excited to take another adventure with Ellie.

I'd also like to comment on other reviews of the sea life being scary with no resolution. I disagree with this stance. When Ellie is afraid of trying something new (swimming) the sea life is imagined scary; however, when she learns she can do it and it is fun she imagines the same sea life as a captive and fun audience for her to teach them something new... very easy to explain to your little one in my opinion.

*Note: I received "It's Hard to Swim" through GoodReads FirstReads in return for my honest review.

Melissa says

Two thumbs up for this book! What a spectacular little tale to read to your young one or for first readers! Brilliant pictures that are fun and engaging! A must have for any child's little library!

Thank you to the author and Ellie for this lovely book! Won on a Goodreads.com giveaway. I will be putting this in the mail today to share with my cousin, who is a Weiner dog owner, she will love reading this to her grandchildren!

Nancie Lafferty says

Cute kiddie book with colorful, lively illustrations. My tiny niece loved listening to it and looking at the pictures of the doggie and fishies.

Received this as a Giveaway. Thank you! I gave it to my sweet baby niece who's Daddy is a fisherman.
