

CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW

Steig book a classic tale for children

I first came across "Sylvester and the Magic Pebble" by William Steig when I was planning an earth-and-rocks theme for my K-1 classroom. It captured my interest and attention, and has done so with numerous classes since.

It tells the story of a young donkey who finds a small red stone while out walking one day. He soon realizes it has magical powers — when he holds it, whatever he wishes for comes true. While he is walking home to share his discovery with his parents, he sees a lion, and before he knows it, he wishes to be rock.

And, because he is holding the magic pebble, his wish comes true. Now his trouble begins, as being a rock he can no longer hold the pebble. As the story unfolds, we follow his life as a rock and his parent's search for him as they nearly lose hope.



Brown

The story finishes with a heartwarming reunion.

The illustrations are full of life and do a wonderful job narrating the story visually. There are plenty of talking points to have some fun book talk and with your child before, during and after reading. This is a unique and quirky book with a style all of its own. It has endearing characters and a one-of-a-kind plot.

This classic children's book won the Caldecott Medal. It's almost certain to entertain and amuse children from 3 to 6 years old. And down the road, you may want to search out some other great picture books by William Steig.

— Reviewed by Martin Brown, K-1 teacher at The Village School in Royalston.