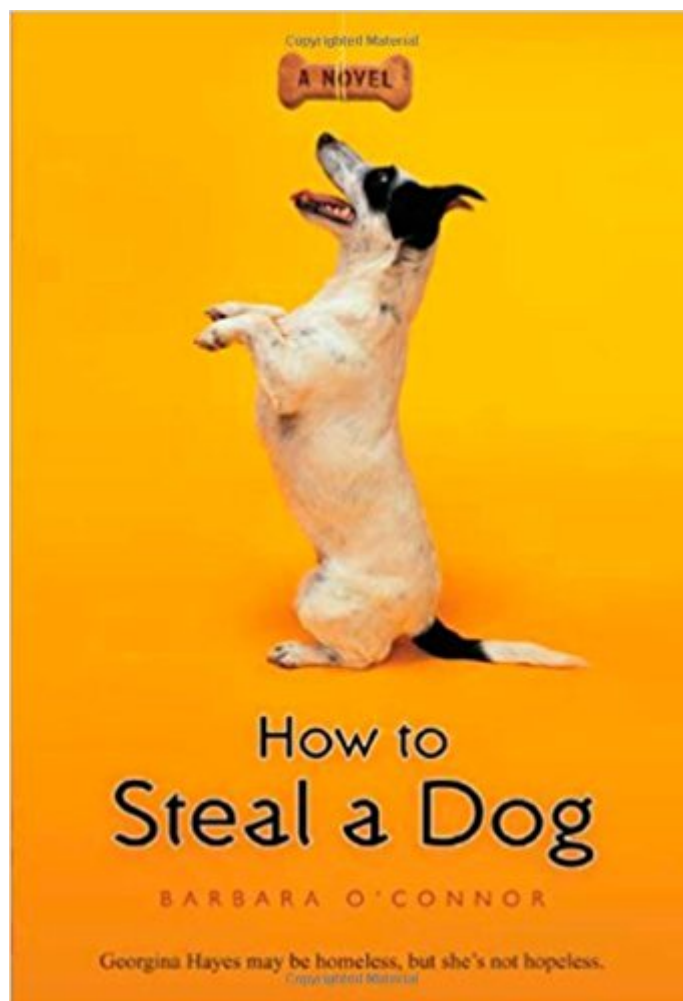


The book was found

How To Steal A Dog: A Novel



Synopsis

Half of me was thinking, Georgina, don't do this. Stealing a dog is just plain wrong. The other half of me was thinking, Georgina, you're in a bad fix and you got to do whatever it takes to get yourself out of it. Georgina Hayes is desperate. Ever since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment, her family has been living in their car. With her mama juggling two jobs and trying to make enough money to find a place to live, Georgina is stuck looking after her younger brother, Toby. And she has her heart set on improving their situation. When Georgina spots a missing-dog poster with a reward of five hundred dollars, the solution to all her problems suddenly seems within reach. All she has to do is "borrow" the right dog and its owners are sure to offer a reward. What happens next is the last thing she expected. *How to Steal a Dog* is a 2008 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year. This title has Common Core connections.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; 1 Reprint edition (April 27, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312561121

ISBN-13: 978-0312561123

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 149 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #31,410 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty](#) #150 in [Books > Deals in Books](#) #157 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 3-7 *How to Steal a Dog* is a story about Georgina and her family who have been living in their car since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment. Mama is working two jobs to earn rent money and trying hard to hold things together. Desperate to help out, Georgina decides to steal a dog for the reward money, laying out the details of her plan in a diary. However, the dog's owner can't

afford to offer a reward, and Georgina ends up feeling sorry for the lonely woman. The girl also makes friends with another adult named Mookie, a kindhearted wanderer who is camped out at the abandoned house where she is keeping the dog. He shares his wisdom and offers help, whether she wants it or not. Georgina's narrative is honest and deeply touching, as she recounts how she and her brother try to survive their circumstances. Washing off in a gas station restroom and turning in grease-stained homework become fairly normal occurrences. Readers will identify with the agony and the embarrassment caused by being different, as well as Georgina's struggles with her conscience. The book's endearing humor smooths out the more poignant moments, and the unfolding events will keep youngsters totally engaged. The gem in the story is Mookie, who manages to sparkle even when sadness threatens to devour the moment. Though set inside a heavy topic, this novel's gentle storytelling carries a theme of love and emphasizes what is really right in the world.

Robyn Gioia, Bolles School, Ponte Vedra, FL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

One day Georgina has a home, a best friend, and plenty to eat. The next, she's living in a car with her mother and brother. Carrying on as usual isn't possible: washing up in a restaurant bathroom, doing homework by flashlight, losing her friend. Mom works two jobs, but it's not enough, so impatient Georgina decides to steal a dog, hoping to collect a reward. She picks her furry victim and makes careful plans--but she doesn't count on her conscience. In stripped-down, unsentimental prose, Georgina tells her own story, her words making clear her vulnerability and heartbreak as well as her determination and pride. It's puzzling why Mom doesn't seek outside help for her desperate family, and the appearance of wise Mookie, a sort of transient deus ex machina, verges on excess. Yet in the end, this is truly Georgina's story, and to O'Connor's great credit, it's Georgina herself who figures out what's right and does it. The myriad effects of homelessness and the realistic picture of a moral quandary will surely generate discussion.

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If you haven't had a chance to read this yet, you really should. It's the story of a pre-teen girl in a homeless family who hatches a desperate plan to secure a home for her, her mom, and her younger brother. With a lovingly depicted small southern town as a backdrop, this story is in turns charming, melancholy, and funny. Most of all, though, it's an insightful portrait (and for younger

readers, a useful example) of a young girl facing her first struggle with her conscience.

A fifth grade student recommended this book to me since she knew I liked to read. She's a great kid so I thought I should read it and let her know how much I enjoyed her choice. It is a good solid read for late elementary level readers, and even higher readers for pure enjoyment. It has many elements worthy of discussion and further analysis.

Great read! Children from poverty enjoy it because they can relate. Those who can't relate to that lifestyle are able to empathize and walk in her shoes to experience a different lifestyle.

"How to Steal a Dog" is a powerful novel that takes a clear look at a number of issues, both societal and moral. What do you do when circumstances force you to live in a car? What responsibilities does a young person take on in such a circumstance? How does she deal with friends--old ones who suddenly look down on her, or new ones that befriend her? I believed the narrative voice one hundred percent, and the characters all come alive on the page. A wonderful read!

Lovely book, my son had it for his summer reading and this was a sweet story with a happy ending that evoked some interesting discussions.

I really enjoyed this book. It was interesting and kept me on my toes. The only thing I did not like about it was it never really got to a point. But I did love how detailed it was! It felt like you were really there! I recommend this book to all the people out there who love dogs.

Great book to teach children that not everyone has a home, and all that goes with it. Opens doors for discussion.

I love this book because it teaches you not to steal and teaches you very good lessons. This book is funny and sad at the same time. Thank you Barbara O'Connor for writing How To Steal a Dog.

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