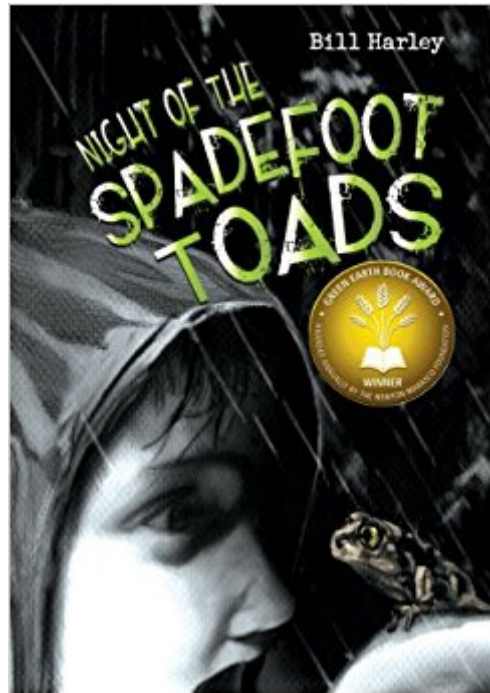




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Night Of The Spadefoot Toads



Synopsis

When his father takes a new job in Massachusetts, Ben Moroney must leave behind his best friend Tony, a western banded gecko named Lenny, and worst of all, the desert home he has loved and explored. Ben's adjustment to his new environment is not going well until he unexpectedly finds a kindred spirit in his eccentric fifth-grade science teacher, Mrs. Tibbets. Together they explore the varied habitats on her rural property, and she introduces him to the elusive and endangered Eastern spadefoot toads that make their home there. When Ben discovers that Mrs. Tibbets's relatives plan to sell the land to developers, he knows he must try to stop them. As Ben's obsession with saving the spadefoot toads habitat grows, his schoolwork suffers and his relationships with his family and new friends are strained. One foolish, impulsive act threatens to destroy his friendship with Mrs. Tibbets and maybe even her career. But just when it seems things can't get any worse, Ben finds a way to meet his responsibilities to the people around him and learns what it means to feel at home.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

Grade 3
Fifth-grader Ben Moroney has just moved from Arizona to Massachusetts. While struggling to adjust to his new home, he becomes unlikely friends with his science teacher, Mrs. Tibbets. She introduces the young nature enthusiast to the wildlife inhabiting her rural property, including the fascinating, rarely seen spadefoot toad. Despite his initial loyalty to

his previous home, Ben finds himself increasingly interested in his new environment, and when he learns that the spadefoot toad's habitat will soon be sold to developers, he makes it his mission to save the threatened species he has grown to love. This title does not contain the same level of mystery, action, and suspense as Carl Hiaasen's *Hoot* (Knopf, 2002), but the narrative does move along at a quick enough pace to keep the book interesting, and the main character is a well-developed, realistic "child hero." An additional purchase with a positive message that may appeal to readers interested in science and nature. —Melinda Piehler, Sawgrass Elementary School, Sunrise, FL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Harley's appealing story shows readers that adults and children can connect in meaningful friendships, and reminds them that conservation can begin in their own backyards. --Kirkus...the main character is a well-developed, realistic 'child hero.' --School Library Journal

Bill is an accomplished writer and storyteller. This book touched my fifth graders as we read the book together. They loved Ben and the story. Perfect read aloud or stand alone.

Good quality. Great story.

It was shipped promptly and was in the condition advertised. It was the book I was looking for and am happy to have it in my library.

I brought this book for my son. His classroom is reading it. He loved it. The book got his interest.

This is a wonderful book. My 10 year old son could not put it down. I highly recommend it! It is entertaining as well as educational.

We are HUGE Bill Harley fans and this book did not disappoint us! We read it as a family (our kids are 8 & 5) and we all fell in love with it. It really encouraged us to further research endangered species and to be more conscious of the world and creatures around us. A great book!

This story is tender and serious and humorous and on point! Loved it! Will recommend it to young friends and fans... and to those with checkbooks who like to give worth while Christmas gifts. Dianne

Good book

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