



The Earth and I

Frank Asch

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This is a story about a friendship that one child has with the earth. They play together. They listen to each other. They nourish each other. But when the earth is sad, the child is sad--so he finds a way to make his friend, the earth, happy. "The vibrant use of pastel colors and simple, big details in close-up perfectly communicate the tender empathy children feel towards something loved."--*Children's Book Review*

The Earth and I Details

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From Reader Review *The Earth and I* for online ebook

Ben Truong says

The Earth and I is a children's picture book written and illustrated by Frank Ash and is a book about a boy's relationship with his friend – the Earth. Today is Earth Day (22 April) and so I thought it would be apropos to read a book pertaining to this day. So, I took my godson to the library and he chosen this book for us to read together.

The text is very simplistic and straightforward it is a story about a boy and his friend – the Earth. The boy would do one thing with the Earth and vice versa. The illustrations are beautiful, vibrant, colorful in pastel sort of manner, and complements rather well.

The premise of the book is simplistic and straightforward. It's about a relationship about a boy and the Earth – they play together, they listen to each other, they nourish each other, but when the Earth is sad, the child is sad too. So the child finds a way to make the Earth, his friend, happy, by cleaning up the pollution and garbage that made the Earth sad.

All in all, *The Earth and I* is a wonderful children's book about a child's relationship with the Earth and in turn, shows us that each and one of us has a relationship with the Earth – all we have to do is play, listen, nourish, and make our friend happy.

Maria Roman says

The Earth and I is a short picture book about the relationship between an unnamed male child and the Earth. The story is told through the little boy as he begins by mentioning that the Earth is his friend. The story refers to Earth as anything that is found in nature such as trees, landscape, animals etc. He goes on and states specific events/things that he and the Earth do as friends. Simple sentences tell the story but the illustrations also play an important role. The illustrations are not typical cartoon illustrations. These illustrations are unique to the story. Some pages are left with no text and the reader is left to admire the wonderful illustrations.

In my opinion, *The Earth and I* is an incredibly beautiful book with an even more wonderful message. The story is written in first person which makes the reader feel as if they are the main character. It shows the reader the beauty of mother Earth and the friendship/relationship we as humans have with it. Without mentioning it directly, it leaves the reader thinking about their own relationship with Earth. I believe the illustrations play a major role in contributing to the message because they are so unique and relevant, truly incredible.

Denesha Allen says

This is a beautiful book on teaching students to appreciate our planet Earth by keeping it clean. In the book a boy builds a friendship with the Earth. When the earth gets sad because of trash and pollution, the child

cleans up the garbage and makes the earth happy. The illustrations in this book are very bright and colorful, which captures the reader's eyes. I think that it's a must-have.

Stephanie says

My six year old rated this 5 stars. He loves to read it.

Rachel says

Lovely book about loving the earth.

Donna Mork says

Talks about being friends with the earth, telling her your secrets and listening to hers. When she is sad, you are sad, but when she is happy (and you can help by cleaning her up and planting things) then you can be happy too.

Ashlin Edmisten says

I like that this book shows the symbiotic relationship we share with our Earth. The illustrations are colorful and happy. It's a fun easy read that's important to share over and over again.

Vianey says

"The earth and I" is a good book to show how we should take care of our earth. This book shows things to do in earth outside. Good book to read to show we care about one another.

Learning Extension:

After reading this book we can go outside enjoy the day and what out doors has to offer. We can see, hear and plant some colorful flower to make the earth colorful.

David says

The Earth and I by Frank Asch is a story about a friendship that one child has with the earth.

Asch's colorful, fanciful, detailed, pastel illustrations fit this very idealistic story of a young boy with a deep friendship with the earth. The rainbow theme of colors also fits well with the ecology theme. My favorite images are long walks, she listens, I listen, rainbow, she sings, she's happy and I'm happy.

The simple text and large font makes this a good beginning reader choice. With the vivid colors and large details it makes a good read-aloud choice. One must suspend a little logic, such as believing a small boy could clean up a creek by himself, that the creek would immediately become pure again, and that said boy always goes barefoot and wears the same shirt constantly. That said, this should be useful for reading aloud for environment or Earth Day themes. 3.5 stars.

For ages 3 to 7, earth, environment, ecology, animals, science, respect, and fans of Frank Asch.

Elizabeth Smith says

Asch, Frank. *The Earth and I*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1994. Print. Fiction, Earth, taking care of the planet. *The Earth and I* is a book about a little boy who loves the planet. Because he loves Earth he feels the need to take care of it and enjoys seeing its beauty but is sad when people don't take very good care of their home. In this book I think the author integrates the text and his illustrations very well together. In this book the main character is praising Earth and the pictures illuminate the page and have many different colors integrated together. Having all the colors integrated also helps portray the message that everything in Earth works together to help us have a good planet to call home. I think this would be a good book to read to the class during Earth Day. After reading this book you can explain to students what special day it is and teach them about recycling and have them plant seeds in a cup and place them by the window.

Jenna says

Short and sweet. *Earth and I* sets out to explain what the Earth does, in general. The author relates it with a young boy and how they share a mutual love. I would recommend this book for younger ages. The illustrations are beautiful and vivid. *Earth and I* offers insight to basic knowledge of well, planet Earth.

Elle Sparks says

By Frank Asch

Summary: A boy spends a lot of his time with the earth. He walks with the earth, dances with it, and shares his emotions with it. When the boy does or feels something, the earth does or feels the same thing in return. In the end, he learns that the earth is a friend of his.

Themes: Nature, the environment, and self-care

Star rating: 4 stars

Personal Response: I enjoyed this book because it was very easy to understand. It helped me understand in simplistic terms about our personal relationship with the earth.

Why I recommend the text: I recommend this book because taking care of yourself, others, and the environment are important lessons to learn. I connected with this book on an emotional level. Anyone that reads this will realize that they are never alone.

Diane says

A child explains how he and the Earth dance and sing together and take turns listening to each other. Rainbow-filled illustrations. Would be good for an Earth Day activity.

Katherine Fountain says

"The Earth and I" is so simple yet has a deeper meaning. With the easy to understand text and vivid pictures, this book would be best suited for pre-k to 2nd grade. This book could be a great for Earth Day or a lesson on environmentalism. This really shows the mutual love between Earth and humans and how we must take care of each other.

Elizabeth Gonzalez says

I enjoyed reading this book. I like the way the author used color to create and encourage life into the book. The colors make the reader think of how nature is suppose to be life and light. The author shows with the drawings how nature plays a big part of a child's life. The storyline is that the child depends on the earth to survive. The earth encourages the child to spend time outside, to open his mind, and to be creative. The author talks a lot about "friendship" how the earth and the child are friends because they both spend a lot of time together and put effort into the friendship. One listens to another and builds each other up. I loved the way the author illustrates the way pollution affects a child's life. The author changed to darker colors to illustrate that the earth and the child are sad because the earth is not suppose to be full of trash and animals are not to suppose to be dead. I think younger children would pay more attention into colors at first because that's what brings life into the book. If the reader makes it clear that the book is more about the friendship between the child and the earth younger children will begin to notice that. Their responds would be that every time the child spends outside playing the child shows feelings of being happy. I would emphasize that nature is like a person that helps us grow strong and healthy.
