



## **A Beach Tail**

*Karen Lynn Williams , Floyd Cooper (Illustrator)*

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Gregory and his father are spending a day at the beach. When Greg finds a stick and draws a lion in the sand, his father says, "Don't go in the water, and don't leave Sandy." The little boy follows his father's advice. But he still manages to travel down the beach quite a way before realizing he can no longer see the blue umbrella where Dad is waiting. Greg's journey takes him past such landmarks as a jellyfish, a sand castle, a big pit in the sand, a ghost-crab hole, and more. Fortunately, he has his stick-and Sandy's tail-with him the whole way.

## A Beach Tail Details

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Author : Karen Lynn Williams , Floyd Cooper (Illustrator)

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## **From Reader Review A Beach Tail for online ebook**

### **Kathryn says**

A fun story about a little boy who draws a lion in the sand on the beach. He is drawing the tail when his father reminds him "not to leave the lion" Of course, we adults can assume this means the little boy is supposed to stay put--but in the child's mind, the excitement and allure of the beach, of discovery, and of getting lost in his imagination translates the father's message into something else entirely. He DOES stay with the lion's tail--but what a long tail it becomes! ;-) Super cute and made me want to go to the beach. I also appreciate that the story features a father/son duo.

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### **wildct2003 says**

Good story, pictures.

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### **Diane says**

Gregory and his father are spending a day at the beach. When Gregory draws a lion in the sand, his father tells Gregory that Sandy, the lion, needs a tail. That tail takes Gregory on a journey along the beach, winding around jellyfish, hermit crabs and leading him back again safely.

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### **Black Carrie says**

Easy read about a safe beach day

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### **Abby says**

In A Beach Tail, young Greg finds a loophole in his father's instructions to stay near a lion he drew in the sand and to stay away from the water at the ocean. By drawing a lengthy tail down the sands of the beach, Greg never technically leaves the lion but ends up far away from his father (who finds humor in the situation, despite the apparent distance between them). A simple story with soft and realistic illustrations, A Beach Tail might be appropriate for storytime, but may not hold the kind of excitement necessary to capture the attention of a group of little ones for an extended period. As Greg explores the beach, the audience will learn about typical sights at the ocean.

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## **Brett says**

Floyd Cooper illustrations set at the beach? Yes, please.

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## **Caroline says**

Reminds me of the magic of walking along the shoreline as a kid. With big, beautiful, realistic illustration that is perfect for storytime.

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## **Jennifer says**

As I was watching this kid get farther and farther from his dad and his original sand drawing, I wondered if this really was a good choice for preschool story time. However, when Greg gets back to his dad - it's obvious that Dad has been watching him the whole time. I'm still not sure that I want to send my little guys the message that wondering down the beach is okay as long as you draw yourself a "lion's tale" to follow home (especially with how easy it is for the water to destroy said path), but the book is so realistic and the illustrations are so beautiful. Maybe we'll read it and have a discussion about the dangers of wandering off, if I can figure out how to do that without spoiling the enjoyment of the book...

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## **Lisa Vegan says**

This is the fourth book I've read by this author and I've really liked them all. This one is somewhat different, from her others, and any other books I've read.

The illustrations are huge and really lovely. They're definitely beach pictures. And the realism of how the people look makes them special.

The story is fine for the very youngest children but has a wide appeal for different children's age groups. Fine for the youngest child because of not too many words, repetition, and sound effects, and it's a great read aloud book.

The story is funny and sweet and perhaps for some children a bit scary for a brief time. I love it because it shows perfectly a child's imagination, a child creating art, a father's understanding nature and his willingness to set boundaries, and the bond between a father and son. That this is an African-American father and son is a positive, in my opinion. Sandy the lion (the boy Greg's sand drawing) is enjoyable to follow, back and forth, right along with Greg.

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## **JoEllen says**

Gorgeous illustrations! Perfect for sharing reflections on a day at the beach. Lots of craft lessons inc repetition, imagery and more word choice to inspire writers! Great mentor author and illustrator to explore.

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## **Jen says**

I totally felt like I was Greg exploring the beach. Through the eyes of babes....

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## **Tasha says**

When Gregory drew a Sandy Lion in the sand on the beach, his father suggested that Sandy needs a tail. He also told Gregory not to go in the water and not to leave Sandy. Gregory drew a tail with his drawing stick. When he came to a jellyfish on shore, he draw a loop around it. He went up and over an old sandcastle. He zigzagged around a horseshoe crab. He swirled around the hole of a ghost crab. He wrote his name. Then he turned around and realized how far he was from his father! How could he find him on the huge beach? Gregory followed Sandy's tail back to the beginning all on his own.

This is a story of a beautiful day at the beach combined with a boy's imagination. The words use some repetition of the father's instructions not to go into the water or leave Sandy. I also appreciate a book where a child moves some distance away from a parent with no fear and uses his own ingenuity to return safely.

It is the pastel illustrations by Cooper that really bring this book to life and raise it to another level. The entire book is done with the detail you see on the cover image above. Gregory's face reflects his moods, his intentness, his creativity so clearly. The use of a fairly limited tan and brown palette really works here, uniting the boy and the beach without losing either one of them. The soft grainy illustrations capture the gritty feel of a sandy beach.

You will almost be able to smell the salt air with these illustrations. A vacation in a book, it is appropriate for ages 3-6.

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## **Olivia Slykhuis says**

Meh. The idea of the book is cute, but it didn't really do anything for me, I found it a bit boring (plus a number of dead sea creatures were involved, which I'm not a fan of). The pictures are nice.

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## **Kenneth says**

Follow the tail and you will find you missing family. Retelling of Hansel and Gretel on a beach, with a stick but no witch.

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## **Jo Oehrlein says**

A boy and his father are at the beach. The boy draws a lion. The father points out that the lion needs a tail. He tells the boy not to go in the water or leave the lion. The boy draws a LONG tail, encountering all sorts of critters and things you find on the beach. When he's done, he looks for his father, but can't see him. He follows the drawn tail back to the lion and his dad.

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