



# Squeakers

*Stephen Cosgrove , Robin James (Illustrator)*

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This children's book teaches it is important to learn to say 'No!' to situations that make you uncomfortable. On the way home from school Mr. Mole would stop Squeakers, the squirrel, and trade him some nuts for some fur from Squeakers tail. Read and see how he learns to say 'No!'

## Squeakers Details

Date : Published February 6th 1996 by Price Stern Sloan (first published 1985)

ISBN : 9780843139259

Author : Stephen Cosgrove , Robin James (Illustrator)

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## **From Reader Review Squeakers for online ebook**

### **Arwen says**

We read this book right at the same time as I was reading about the "Tricky People" concept for keeping kids safe. The two go pretty much hand in hand. (See <http://safelyeverafter.com/tenrules.html> for more info.)

This story about an innocent young squirrel who get trick by his neighbor the mole into trading his tail fur for some nuts is a great starting point for talking to kids about tricky people who might want to hurt them and personal safety. And of course its accompanied by the beautiful illustration of Robin James.

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### **Alison says**

Squeakers A heavy subject wrapped up in a way that kids can understand.

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### **Ilana says**

This series of books is the most wonderfully illustrated, sweetest series available for children. Each book is beautiful, the animals are so sweetly drawn and each book teaches a wonderful lesson. I still have all of my original copies from my childhood (the 90s).

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### **Ayla says**

Great book to teach children how to say no and to talk to their parents when someone threatens them. Beautiful illustrated.

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### **Thea says**

He gets bad touched...

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### **Catherine Grodensky says**

I think this is an important and useful book, but it freaked my son out a bit. I wish I'd read it carefully myself before reading it to him---I remembered it from my own childhood but forgot that it's pretty upsetting. Probably not good for kids under... 8?

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## **Kate says**

I remembered this book when I found the book Crickle-Crack - this is about a squirrel who really loves her beautiful silver tail, but is convinced to give up hunks of her fur for a few acorns. These books look beautiful and cute, but some of the themes are really dark - as the description says, it's about saying "No"...

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## **Jamie says**

Great book to be sure your child understands when it is okay to say no. That their body is their own. It explains the balance of listening to adults and respecting yourself. Can be a heavy discussion topic so best to avoid as a bedtime read the first time through.

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## **Lindsey says**

This is perhaps one of the most important Serendipity books while also being one of the hardest subjects to talk about. Squeakers is a squirrel who is intimidated into letting Mr. Mole take some of his tail fur for some nuts. Squeakers, of course, feels ashamed of this but eventually tells his parents, who teach him to speak up for himself.

It's a very simplified story about abuse, bullying, peer pressure, and intimidation but contains a critical lesson about a person's right to privacy and their own body. Like several other Serendipity books, this is one to read before your kids so you're prepared to discuss. It's even a good reminder to adults of how important it is to a)teach your kids to defend themselves and b)**always** listen when your child wants to talk to you.

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## **Amelia says**

[ warnings against potential sexual abuse (hide spoiler)]

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## **jacky says**

I have always remembered this children's book. I had to email my old library and ask them the name of it though because I couldn't remember and it was driving me crazy! I was amazed that the librarians even knew what I was talking about, but they did. She thought it was crazy that I remembered where in the library the books were kept and all. I think this book is great because through a story it teaches the lesson that kids should let others make them feel uncomfortable. In the story, a squirrel is persuaded by another animal to let him touch and take some of his pretty tail fur. He bribes him with nuts and berries. It makes him feel really uncomfortable and he eventually decides to stand up to him and not let him do it anymore. This book offers a message about child abuse in a safe way.

I finally bought a copy of this book. I had students writing children's books as writing options and I told them how even serious issues can be handled in children's books. When I told a few boys about this book,

they kept using it as a running joke, so I had to get a copy for them to read. Buying it allowed me to read this book again for the first time in at least 15 years, if not longer. I shared it with Mike and it added to a running joke we have about moles!

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### **Ashton says**

This book doesn't really good job breaching a really hard topic and does it in a way that kids can understand. It's horrible to me that books like this are necessary to show kids that there's evil in the world, and that they have to be aware of it no matter how young they are. This does it in a way that's not a scary to think about. The only thing that feels untrue to me about the story is that once the evil mole is banished from the forest, the squirrel he tormented is suddenly all better and happy and everything goes back to normal. Unfortunately that's not the way life works. You're scarred for life when someone takes a part of you without asking. I think it's a really good start to a really hard message. A good way to start talking about a hard topic with your kids in the loving and sweet way.

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