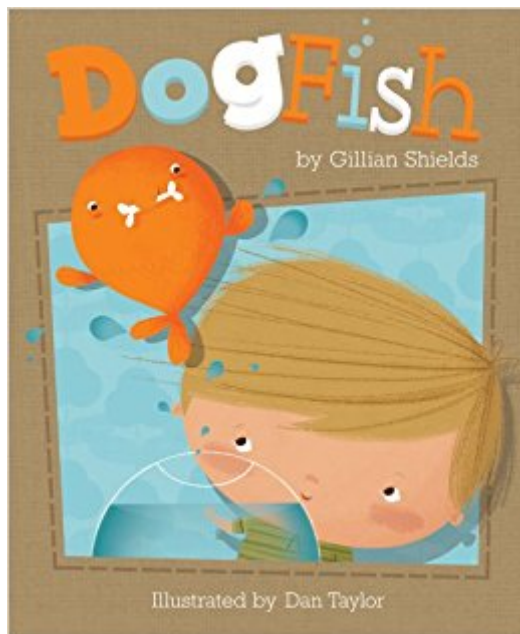


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# DogFish



## Synopsis

Everyone has a dog. Except for one little boy. He has a goldfish. He needs a dog. Mom says, "Why do you need a dog when you have such a nice goldfish?" But goldfish can't catch sticks or go for walks or wag their tails.... Can they? Maybe they can...

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers (November 25, 2008)

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,136,482 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Hunting & Fishing](#) #1881 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets](#) #11411 in [Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Activity Books](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1  
A little boy who has a goldfish wants a dog and enumerates all the things a pup can do that a fish can't. His mom says, "We'll see," which really means, 'NO.'" Finally, after looking "irritated but sorrowful," she says, "Well, if you can't have what you want, want what you have." The boy takes a look at his pet and soon finds that he can train it to catch sticks, climb steps, and wag its tail. The tone of the text will appeal to children, who will be familiar with the boy's attempts to manipulate his mother. The digitally rendered illustrations are hip and fresh, yet reminiscent of '50s modern. Readers will chuckle over the performing goldfish, who reads the paper when he's home alone. A winning combination of dog and fish, humor and hard work.  
Susan E. Murray, Glendale Public Library, AZ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

A little boy who lives in a forty-fourth floor apartment has a goldfish, but he longs for a dog. His mother is not interested in his pleas: "If you can't have what you want,

why don't you try wanting what you have? And so, like Pygmalion, the boy begins to try to transform his goldfish, and in no time his pet is fetching sticks, wagging his tail, and taking walks in the park. Shields' story is a familiar one, with a well-wrought predictability that young audiences will respond to. And Taylor's digital artwork, with its midcentury decor, aqua and orange palette, and highly stylized figures, evokes both a specific, retro sensibility and a timeless quality. Together, text and art form an insouciant package that will entertain groups of young pet enthusiasts and comfort children longing for canine companionship. *Preschool-Grade 2.* --Thom Barthelmess

My son has loved his book for a while but I couldn't find it so when it dawned on me to look here and I found I was very excited! It so cute and written in such a neat way!

I agree with most of the other reviewers. This story is fun and playful overall, though at times it may be a bit sophisticated for younger readers. The illustrations are especially clever and interesting; they were my favorite part of the book. I do think it is a bit trite to ask a child to feel content with a fish instead of a dog, but I liked the message that you can use your imagination to have fun with what you have, even if you don't have exactly what you want. I think most everyone can relate to that.

This book was just delightful for kids age 3-7. If your child is pestering you non-stop for a dog as they look at you with "hypnotizing eyes" (you'll get the "hypnotizing eyes" comment when you read the book); compromise and buy them this book (along with a goldfish of course)! Seriously though, this is really an entertaining book. The book is the story line, from a little boy's point of view, of his efforts to convince his mother that he really, really, REALLY needs a dog. After every thwarted attempt to make his mother see things his way, the boy provides a very humorous verbal account of how he looks upon receiving the bad news. This was a really interesting take on describing and illustrating emotions (i.e.: hopeless, irritated but sorrowful, sad). And then the book takes a turn because the little boy realizes that with patience, he could teach his goldfish tricks.....just like a dog. And in fact, he could do all the things with his goldfish that he imagined he could do with a dog. Positive emotions are then illustrated: feels good, happy, etc. All in all, a very good book that begins with a disgruntled "Everyone has a dog.....except me" but in 28-pages ends with a blissfully HAPPY "why would I need a dog when I have the best goldfish in the world?"

This is a great message - it teaches to want what you have, when you can't have what you want. They thought it was great that the fish could learn tricks, and that the boy says he mom "Says thing like that." - This lead us into many family discussions of they "types" of things moms say and why. My children are 7 and under, and this book stays off our shelf - someone is ALWAYS reading it! Wonderful! Sra. Gose Mother of Five, Teacher, Curriculum Writer Flip Flop Spanish

This is a very cute book! I ordered this to read to two of my sons ages 6 and 4, and they love it! This book is about a little boy who wants a dog, but he cannot have one, but he does have a goldfish. The message of this book is "to want what you have"....A classic 'if life gives you lemons, make lemonade' type of story. What I really love about this book as a parent is that it is not too long. Some children's stories are so long, that I get tired of reading them, and my kids lose interest before the story is over. This one is just right...not too short, not too long. I think there are about 28 pages..some pages only have a single sentence, while others have maybe 3 or 4. The book is a hardcover with a dustjacket, and is printed on quality paper. I LOVE the illustrations, they are fun to look at for children and adults alike. Very creative. In addition to the positive message, this book is also good at helping children identify emotions. For example there is a part where the boy and the fish are sad and the book says, "these are our sad looks"..with an illustration of the boy and the fish looking sad. Great for kids learning to identify feelings. Wonderful story, would make a great gift for any child, or even a teacher for the classroom. This book is geared towards children ages 3-7, which I think is appropriate, and I even think that kids as old as 8 could even take away something from this story. Cute Book!

The book, "Dogfish" is about a boy who feels he is less happier than others because he does not own a dog (like everyone else), but a goldfish that cannot do what dogs do (wag a tail, go for a walk, catch a stick). At the end, the boy finds happiness in the goldfish. In sum: 1. The book's lesson is real important one for the kids. As we know children WANT things even though they do not really NEED them. And as parents, we cannot always give them what they want, so this lesson in the book will encourage children to be content with what they already have. 2. The book's point is: find happiness in what you already have. This is done by (1) being creative with what you have and (2) being appreciative of what you have. The book's illustration is simple but eye catching. My kids like the book. Also, it opened the door for teaching them to be happy with what they have (toys, books, etc). The book is also stitched (not glued to the spine), therefore it is sturdy. Highly recommended!

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