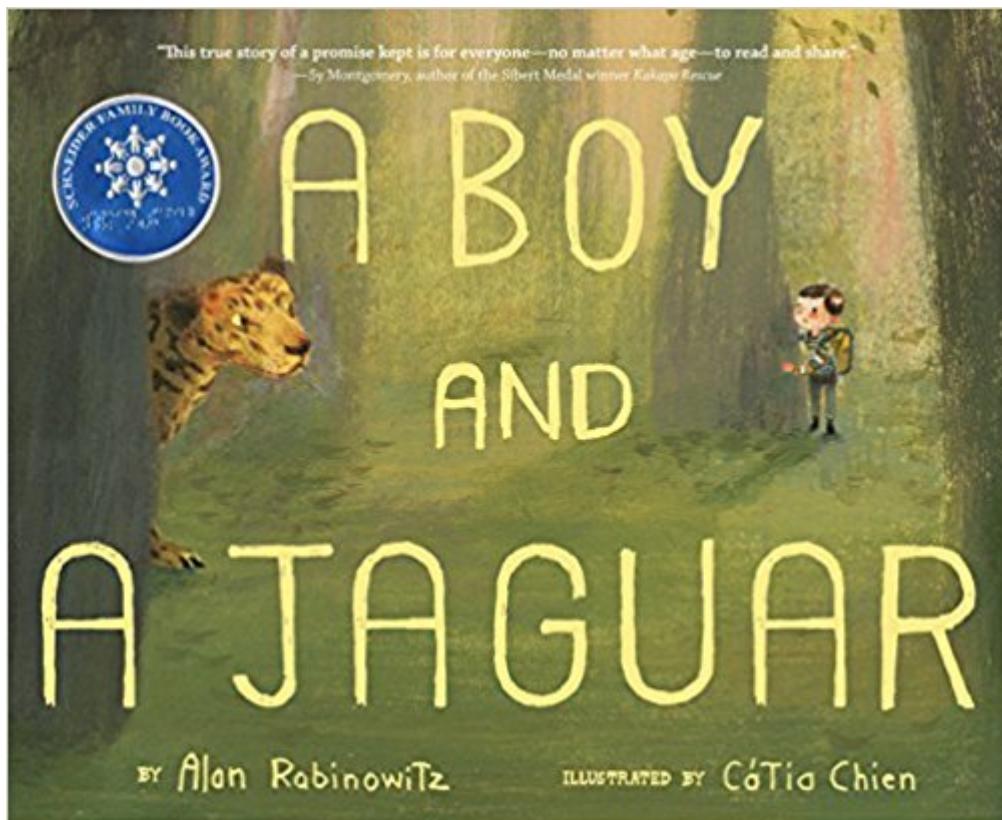


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# A Boy And A Jaguar



## Synopsis

2015 Schneider Family Book Award Winner Alan loves animals, but the great cat house at the Bronx Zoo makes him sad. Why are they all alone in empty cages? Are they being punished? More than anything, he wants to be their champion—their voice—but he stutters uncontrollably. Except when he talks to animals! Then he is fluent. Follow the life of the man Time Magazine calls, "the Indiana Jones of wildlife conservation" as he searches for his voice and fulfills a promise to speak for animals, and people, who cannot speak for themselves. This real-life story with tender illustrations by Catia Chien explores truths not defined by the spoken word.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD670L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (May 6, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054787507X

ISBN-13: 978-0547875071

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #61,922 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Social Activists #43 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology #45 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Lions, Tigers & Leopards

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2-5—Rabinowitz is a wildlife conservationist and spokesperson for the Stuttering Foundation of America. When he was a boy, he discovered that, despite severe speech challenges, he had a gift for communicating with animals. The book charts his story through college and his travels to the jungles of Belize. Eventually, he overcomes his stutter enough to speak before the prime minister on behalf of the jaguars. Chien's acrylic and charcoal illustrations perfectly capture the tenacious, loving spirit of the author as a boy and a lonely, intrepid young man. Chien has a flair

for painting animals as well as portraying Rabinowitz's condition with empathy. One page, drenched in a moody mauve, depicts his anguished face and hands gripping at his throat as he tries to "push words out." With the flip of a page, readers see the boy awash in yellow sunlight, surrounded by animals, his face completely relaxed as he speaks fluently. Rabinowitz's text is elegant, if at times slightly wordy for the target audience: "In this animal's eyes are strength and power and sureness of purpose." The emotional resonance of the text, urgency of the issues discussed, and breathtakingly beautiful illustrations make this book a winner. The story will help children empathize with their peers with speech issues and will be a lifeline to those with special needs or who feel like outsiders for one reason or another. Every library should own this book, a testament to the fierce beauty of jaguars and the human spirit. •Jess deCourcy Hinds, Bard High School Early College, Queens, NY

In this poignant autobiography, Rabinowitz recalls the alienation he felt as a child who thought he was "broken" because he could not get his words out fluently. But there are other, more powerful ways of communicating, which Alan knows from the ease with which he talks to animals. As he grows up, he learns to both conquer and embrace the fact that he will always be a stutterer, and he soon becomes an advocate for animals. When, in the forest, he looks into the eyes of a jaguar and sees "strength and power and sureness of purpose," readers will feel privileged to be part of this magical experience. Chien's impressionistic illustrations lend a gentle playfulness to the overall solemnity, with muted colors, expressive faces, and arrangements that draw attention to scale and size—all of which remind us that there are many ways to tell a story, whether you are one with words, like Rabinowitz, or one without any, like the jaguar. A mature look at how some observant children understand the world better than some adults. Grades 1-4. --Amina Chaudhri

I'm a Speech Language Pathologist, so I love stories about kids with speech and language disorders. This book is about a boy who stutters who grew up to advocate for animal protection. I was really excited when I found out about this book from a coworker. I read through it and oh man, it touched my SLP heart. I love the story line and was able to do a few therapy sessions with this book as the focus. It's so good for other people who stutter to understand that there are other people out there who share the same problems. Then we learned about the author, Alan Rabinowitz, who is an amazing guy. He has done amazing things for people who stutter and animal protection. The illustrations are quite lovely and striking. I love the author's use of space on the pages for some of

the words to really hit at the meaning of his words. I would love to watch a video of the author reading the book, it would be so awesome. I did find some You Tube videos the author has done, he really is a fascinating guy. Overall, I HIGHLY recommend. Especially to anyone who stutters or works with people who stutter.\*Please note that although I often review items at discounts in exchange for honest reviews, I bought this for FULL price and just wanted to share my experience and recommend.

My 9 and 5 year old grandchildren really liked this book. It gave me an opportunity to talk with them about stuttering and how hard it would be if you had a lot of trouble saying what you wanted to. The idea that this boy could seemingly communicate with animals was very intriguing to them. This is a kids' book with some substance, but written and illustrated so that children can enjoy it at whatever level works for them.

beautiful book. beautiful message. beautiful illustrations. simple but lovely language. have not yet shared it with the youngsters in my life, but plan to do so very soon.

This autobiographical story is shared so sweetly, helping to promote understanding of individuals with speech disorders. I would definitely buy this for any child with any kind of disability and for use in classrooms to promote better inclusion and understanding among peers.

We heard Dr. Rabinowitz speak at the Mus. of Nat. Hist, NYC last month - a riveting presentation by a most passionate man; don't miss being in his presence if you have the chance. As for this book - such a delightful story - inspiring for young and old. Thank you for your continued work Dr. Rabinowitz.

This book may appear as a picture book for just young children, but it is appropriate for all ages with an aim toward discussion toward the treatment of those who cannot speak for themselves and those who have so much to offer if only we could look past difference.

My daughter ordered this for my grandchildren. I know that she did the research. So I love it.

This is an excellent book. I highly recommend it to anyone with children. It is a well told true story that gives children insight into someone struggling with an issue, persevering, and triumphing.

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