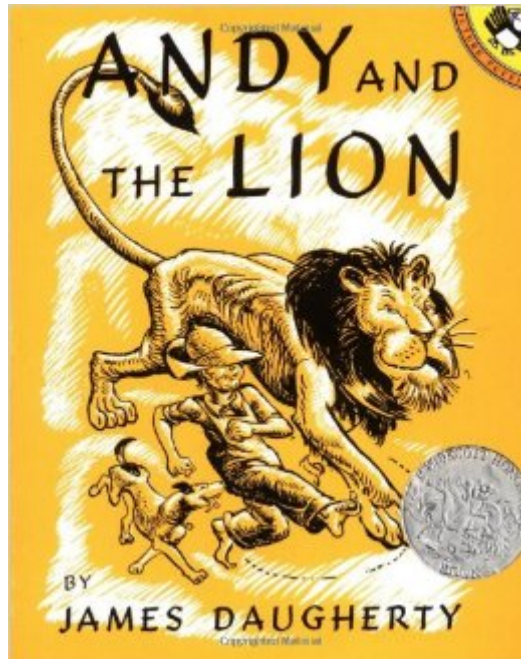


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# Andy And The Lion (Picture Puffins)



## Synopsis

In this retelling of Androcles and the Lion, Andy meets a lion on the way to school and wins his friendship for life by removing a thorn from his paw.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 510L (What's this?)

Series: Picture Puffins

Paperback: 72 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (March 1, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140502777

ISBN-13: 978-0140502770

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 0.2 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #145,400 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Lions, Tigers & Leopards](#) #175 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries](#) #42282 in [Books > Reference](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Having lambasted, decimated, and torn to shreds James Daugherty's remarkably racist, "Daniel Boone", it seemed only fair that I read a book of his that did not hinge on either white supremacy or genocide. "Andy and the Lion" seemed a good guess and after I read it I found I didn't just tolerate it... I didn't just like it... Heck I LOVED this book. What a great story! What superb illustrations and well phrased narrative. What an excellent excellent picture book... one that all children should read and remember for as long as they have brains to do so. Mr. Daugherty has not just reinterpreted the tale, "Androclus and the Lion", he has put his mark on it and made it his very own. One day a bright young barefooted lad named Andy decided to patronize his local lending library. Inside he got out a book on lions and proceeded to read it through his meals and well into the evening. After his grandfather told him some wild tales of hunting lions in the wild, Andy went to bed and dreamed of the large yellow beasts. Upon waking he clearly had lions on his mind, but he goes to school as per usual. On the way there he stumbles across an honest to goodness lion of his own and finds that

the poor thing has a nasty thorn caught in its paw. After removing the offending article (the book, ever covering its bases, informs us that, "Andy always carried his pliers in the back pocket of his overalls") the lion is grateful and the two part ways. Not long thereafter, the circus comes to town. Andy goes to watch the fun but when a lion escapes from his high steel cage and makes for the boy, Andy thinks he's done for. Surprise! It turns out that the lion is the same one Andy helped. The two are joyfully reconciled, the people cheer, Andy gets his own parade, and in the end the two friends go back to the library to return the book. First of all, I want to thank the author for clearing something up for me. In his dedication, Mr. Daugherty thanks the two lions that sit in front of the New York Public Library. Uneducated me, I didn't know they were named Lady Astor and Lord Lenox, respectively. Just goes to show the benefits of reading older picture books, I guess. Now this book's a pip, no question. I challenge you to locate a single youngster that won't be enthralled by either Andy's lackadaisical lifestyle or his numerous encounters with the king of the jungle. The story reads with an easygoing vernacular that's difficult to resist. Heck, the first line in the story is, "It was a bright day with just enough wind to float a flag". How can you not enjoy that? Daugherty has cleverly melded elements of this tale with the original fable on which it is based. What he doesn't care to say in the text, he shows in his delightful illustrations. For example, having read just the words of this tale, your average child reader might wonder how the lion met Andy in the first place. Daugherty has already covered his bases on that one. Earlier in the tale, as Andy reads of lions' lives in front of a fire, his father glances at a paper whose headline reads, "Lion Escapes Circus". The pictures in this tale are filled to the brim with action and movement as well. There's a great moment when the thorn stuck in the lion's paw comes free and both Andy and the feline are sent cartwheeling backwards, legs askew and manes tousled. Admittedly, there's not much in the way of color in this tale. But heck, there's not much in the way of color in "Make Way for Ducklings" either. I hardly think it hurts the book a jot. This being the author that introduced the world to one of the most outrageously racist Newbery award winners, and being that the publication date on this puppy is 1938 (not the best year for tolerance), you might be wondering if there are any notable racial stereotypes marring an otherwise favorable text. Well, ladies and gents, I in this entire tale there is only a single picture of someone of color. In the scene where Andy protects the escaped lion from the now angry townspeople there's a brief image of a black fellow jogging away from the lion. It's innocuous and hardly worth a mumble of outrage. Obviously it would have been nice if this story had included one or two positive minority figures, but you take what you can get sometimes. So I've been won over to a James Daugherty book, in the end. Weaving a tight and lovable story of a boy, his dog, and his lion, I wish I could say that "Andy and the Lion" is well known today. It's not, and

more's the pity. This is just a fabulous tale that deserves loving attention by scads of bright intelligent people. As it is, I insist that you go out and locate a copy for yourself immediately if not sooner. You won't regret it.. and even if you do you'll have to tip your hat a little to its good spirited whimsy.

My mother read this to me when I was a boy. I have since shared the book with my own children. It is an adaptation of Androcles and the Lion, a story recorded by Aulus Gellius in the 5th volume of Attic Nights. Daugherty is both the writer and the artist for this book which won a literary award for its excellence. You will often see people trying to apply modern notions of political correctness to this story in an effort to criticize its literary worth. It is important to keep literature in its context. Trying to take current values and use them to determine merit in historical literature is quite silly: most of us were not around to experience this book as children and we have no idea how to understand its value in the 1930s. The circus was then a fantastic and exotic experience for millions of Americans who might never have seen such things in the era before the modern highway system. The story is good and the art work is stunning. Enjoy it with your family without the clutter of contemporary thought and culture.

With simple text and large illustrations, James Daugherty tells about Andy, a farm boy who loves to read (especially about lions!). On the way to school one day, Andy meets a real lion who just happens to have a thorn in his paw. Clever Andy takes the thorn out with his handy pliers and makes a friend of the lion. Weeks later when the circus comes to town, a wild lion escapes from the ring. All the people in the audience run for their lives but, of course, it's Andy's own lion friend, and Andy saves the day. This charming tale is delightful in its fantasy; most 6-9 year olds never quite understand that the lion is in Andy's imagination. The yellow and black illustrations are dated, but they are funny. The book is a winner because of its sweet message of friendship. Who wouldn't want to have a real lion for a friend? Kids 6-8 love this book!

James Daugherty's drawings are absolutely wonderful! This book is a must just for this. My daughter and I (she is 6) go over each picture in detail and talk about them. Regarding the story, it's simple but imaginative. It is suited for a younger audience. One shouldn't forget that the subtitle is "The Power of Gratitude". It gets this message across.

Andy and the Lion is a well known tale, simply and effectively told. It is one of the books I remember

well from childhood and eagerly shared with my children. The moral is simple and not preachy.

I was looking online for this book, to buy for a friend's child. I LOVED this book growing up. I still remember getting it for Christmas. Believe it or not, I still have that original copy, with a note written inside from my parents, dated Christmas 1965. I have shared this book with my grandchildren. It is a great book, nice pictures, easy reading for kids.... Restart the tradition! GET IT!

A very short children's book based on the ancient story of Androcles and the lion. A boy named Andy goes to the library and checks out a book on lions. Later he encounters a lion on a path and removes a thorn in the lion's paw. It is nicely told with a twist in the end. The book was a 1939 Caldecott Honor book (i.e., a runner-up to the Medal winner) for best illustration in a book for children.

My students are silent with anticipation while reading this title. Boys especially seem to enjoy this lesser-known story.

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