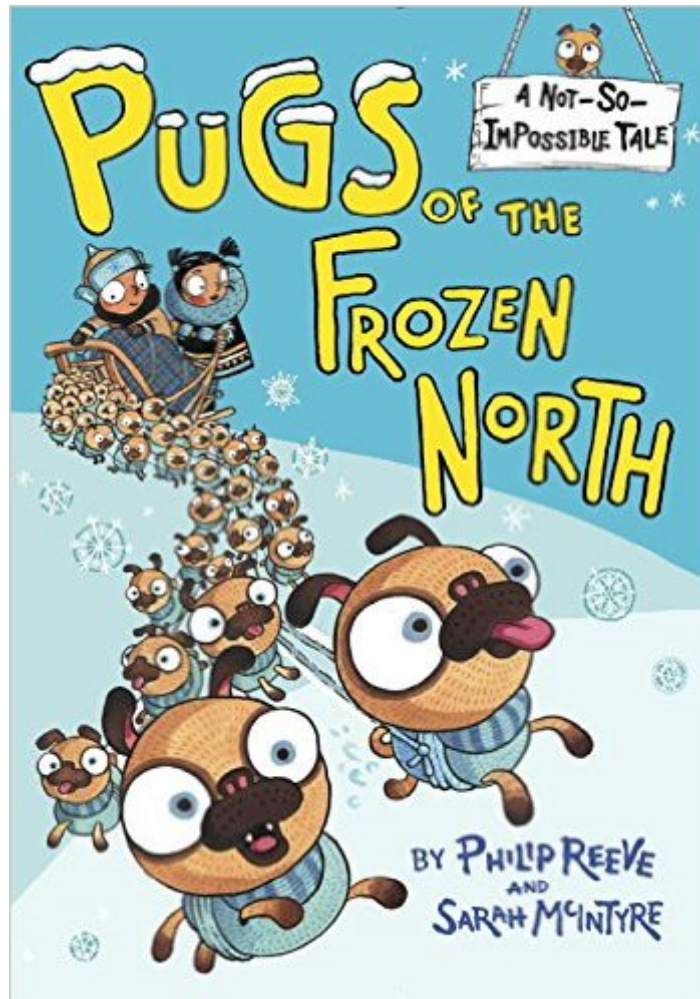


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Pugs Of The Frozen North (A Not-So-Impossible Tale)



Synopsis

With a little luck and a pack of pugs, anything is paws-ible! When True Winter comes, it's time for the Great Northern Race! The best sled teams in the world must reach a mysterious man called the Snowfather. He will grant one wish to the winners. Young racers Sika and Shen want to win more than anything. But they don't have big sled dogs—all they have is sixty-six yappy, yippy puppy pugs. Can this unlikely team make their dreams come true? For early chapter book readers who are ready for something longer, the Not-So-Impossible Tales are packed with humor, action, and color illustrations on almost every page. "A madcap, magical blend of fluff and other good stuff."—Kirkus Reviews, starred review

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0880 (What's this?)

Series: A Not-So-Impossible Tale

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (January 26, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385387962

ISBN-13: 978-0385387965

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.8 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (31 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #46,220 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #135 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Marine Life #2343 in Books > Children's Books > Humor #2355 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Having read other books by Philip Reeve, my children were keen to review this latest "Pugs of the Frozen North." With fourteen chapters and just over 200 pages, this is probably best for more confident readers, aged approx 7+. However, it has lots of fantastic illustrations, which not only break up the text for the more reluctant reader, but also helps the story appeal to a younger audience, as well as being good to read aloud. Shen is the cabin boy on the "Lucky Star" when the ship becomes trapped in ice. In the hold are sixty-six pugs,

which Captain Jeggings had hoped to sell. When he needs to lighten the load though, it is the pugs he abandons and Shen ends up stranded with them. Looking for help, he finds Sika, who tells him about the Great North Run. The prize is "Your Heart's Desire" and Shen and Sika decide to take part, with the pugs pulling the sleigh. What follows is a really exciting adventure through a frozen world, inhabited with snow trolls, sea monsters, the Kraken, hungry yetis and fifty different kinds of snow. Rather like the "Wizard of Oz," our heroes have to make their way to the icicle palace of the Snow father, who can grant wishes. Will they make it and will Shen find what he most desires? This is a really exciting adventure story and the illustrations match the storyline perfectly. Many are dark, which captures the bleak, icy landscape. However, the illustrations are cute and appealing, rather than scary. This book will have appeal to both boys and girls and both my children look forward to reading more books by Philip Reeve.

We were lucky enough to get a copy of *Oliver and the Seawigs* for free to read and we all loved it, I read it aloud to them and I thought it was just such an original story. We waited eagerly for *Cakes in Space* to come out and got lucky and got an advanced reader copy on eBay before it was released, I did not read it but my girls loved it, it was great to hear them laughing out loud while reading. They have reread both of these books multiple times. So, when *Pugs* was announced we were just dying and couldn't wait. It was released in the UK before here so I bought a copy from there for one of my daughters for Christmas and it was a huge hit! I did not read it, but even though it has only been a month each daughter has read it multiple times now (they are in third grade) and again it is so great to hear them laugh out loud and enjoy this book much. The one daughter who actually received it as a gift said that this one is the funniest of the three books so far. She liked the sweaters the pugs wore, or sleeves that is, and she liked how the *Night of the Seawigs* was mentioned in the book. Her favorite part seemed to be the Kraken attack, she insisted on reading this part aloud to us and couldn't stop talking about it for days afterwards. This also led to a family discussion and the subsequent Googling of the proper pronunciation of Kraken, turns out we were all wrong, the *a* in Kraken is pronounced like the *a* in palm, who knew. Anyway, now comes the long wait for the fourth book in this series....

Philip Reeve's "Not-So-Impossible Tales" are delightful adventures in imagination and absurdity. His most recent book, *Pugs of the Frozen North*, is slightly less comical and does address some serious topics. This story, like Reeve's others, also place emphasis on self-reliance and the importance of friends and family. To lighten the tone of

the story, it incorporates an imaginary character that will play a critical role in resolving Shen's dilemma and some humorous secondary characters. When the "Lucky Star" becomes trapped in a frozen ocean, Captain Jeggings orders the crew to abandon ship. Ordered to save the cargo consisting of sixty-six pug dogs, Shen ultimately becomes responsible for their welfare. Abandoned by the Captain, Shen and the pugs traverse the frozen sea and eventually reach a village. There he meets Sika, a girl who tells him they are experiencing a magical "once-in-a-lifetime" winter. He learns of a race to the North Pole where the Snowfather lives. He will grant a wish to the winner; Sika wants to win so she can wish for her beloved grandfather to live and see another "once-in-a-lifetime" winter. Shen volunteers himself and the use of the sixty-six pugs so Sika may enter the race. Their adventures and the lessons they, along with the other race entrants, learn make this story entertaining while still teaching some valuable lessons. In "Pugs of the Frozen North", Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre have given readers a book filled with humor, exciting situations, and very relatable characters. The cartoon-like, but not cartoonish, illustrations add to the overall reading experience. Through use of the cartoon-style and a limited three-color format of the illustrations "green, black, and white" the fantasy aspect of the story becomes even stronger. The two have done an excellent job presenting situations and concerns many children experience. While fantasy and imaginative fictional characters fill "Pugs of the Frozen North", the actual topics addressed are familiar and relevant. Fear of abandonment and disaster, and the need for family and friends are important to the target age group. Lessons involving cooperation and teamwork are presented without becoming didactic. "Pugs of the Frozen North" is written so well that adults can enjoy the story and not find it cloying or juvenile. The language is not "dumbed down", but neither is it so complex as to discourage young readers. The story and its plentiful pictures are engaging enough to interest preschoolers to whom parents read bedtime stories. This is another winner for Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre.

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