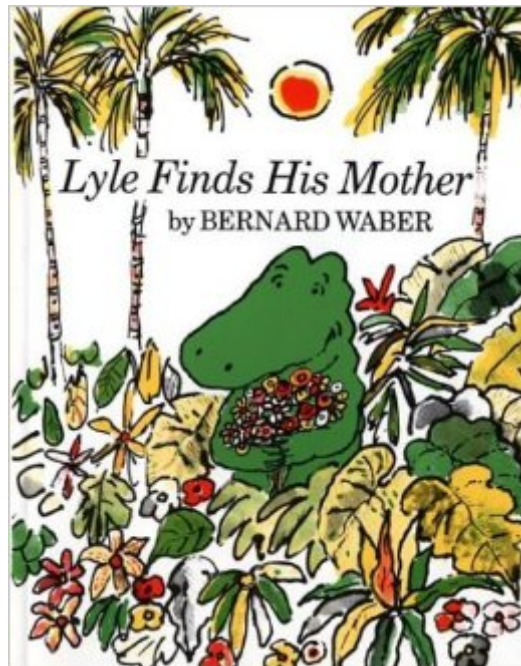


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Lyle Finds His Mother (Lyle The Crocodile)



Synopsis

Lyle leaves his happy home with the Primms on East 88th Street to search for his mother, at the urging of his former employer, Hector P. Valenti, star of stage and screen.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 560L (What's this?)

Series: Lyle the Crocodile

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 26, 1978)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395273986

ISBN-13: 978-0395273982

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.2 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #453,272 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Alligators & Crocodiles](#) #1222 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents](#) #25695 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

We love the Lyle books, but Lyle Finds His Mother takes a strange, cruel turn. For his own selfish reasons, Hector does something manipulative and mean, even for Hector. But what could be an opportunity for a lesson ends with a strange twist; everything turns out great because of what Hector did. There are no consequences, he never admits what he did or apologizes, and nobody even finds out it was all a lie. It's an awful message for children, and I don't know what Waber was thinking with this one.

Actually I liked the book. As Lyle is so happy to be with the Primms and NY. And does not want to leave there. As he is very popular with everybody from the kids to his family, Joseph and his wife, and son Joshua. But when Hector P Valenti, the star of stage and screen that is very poor and living on hard times. As he notices Lyle with his family in the park. While walking and wondering what to do with his desperate situation. And thinks of a scheme to win him back into his old act at Vaudeville

as both were a hit, it was Lyle more of a hit. As Hector gives him a letter saying that he could find his birth mother. But the Primm family are not buying it. Telling him not to give it any thought. Though Lyle begins to think of his own mother. When he does, the family begins to help take his mind off of it. From working in the garden to going to Joshua's school to helping in Mrs Primm's campaign elections for a friend. But as he thinks of his favorite food besides Turkish Caviar in Graham Crackers. He has to go and the family reluctantly agree as Hector "greet" him when he Lyle has a basket for his mother but takes it nonetheless. As his partner says they both must go on the road to raise money. But it is only for Hector's greed and using Lyle. But as they get enough money and Lyle who does not let fame and fortune get in his way of finding his mom, puts his foot down when he discovers Hector not keeping his word. As Hector is only using the money for himself. But in a sense, Hector does or may feel a sense of guilt into tricking Lyle. Agrees to do so. There they travel finally to find his mother. Will Lyle ever find his mother? Will the Primm family see Lyle again? Will Hector really this time stay true to his word? I know one reviewer didn't like it. But still, Hector you had to feel bad for his situation that he was in. As that is unlike him though he does act pretty selfish throughout a few of the books he is in. But he is nonetheless a good guy at heart.

Hector P. Valenti, star of Stage and Screen, has fallen on hard times. This is because that most talented of crocodiles, Lyle, star of Valenti's show, has put his performing days behind him, now living an idyllic life on the Upper East Side in Manhattan with the beloved Primm family. As his circumstances go from bad to worse Hector is driven to hatching a deceptive plot to lure Lyle back into the act. It works - for a time. The Star of Stage and Screen (Hector) behaves in a manner that is manipulative and self serving, but ultimately is rewarded. Lyle is taken for a ride but greatly benefits before it's all over. Indeed in the end there's a happy and a beneficial outcome for one and all. Some parents may be flustered by this apparent moral ambiguity. Will kids go off on a wrong track seeing Hector P. Valenti escape punishment for his sneaky plot? I think not. This adventure of our surreal reptilian shows that good outcomes sometimes do proceed from dishonorable intentions. The world is complex and kids do well with exposure to this nuance that they will eventually encounter in real life. And reading this memorable tale they'll have some fun along the way.

My students were thrilled to hear the story of how Lyle finds his mother. We had read another story out of sequence and knew his mother was with him and they wanted to know where she came from.

I love this book. I bought it as a welcome addition to my classroom library. Not as wordy as some of

the other Lyle stories.

Great children's book. My grands fell in love with all the Lyle books. Thanks, Mary

My son loved it as a child and now my granddaughter is loving it.

This is a charming book and -- for me -- the most enjoyable of the Lyle sequels. It has very much the same flavor as the first book, with a similar story. Lyle goes away because of Hector, misses the Primms, and is happily reunited with them at the end. In this one, though, he brings his mother back with him and there's even a hint that Lyle's mother may go on the road performing with Hector. Yes, Hector gets away with tricking Lyle, but I find it odd that the other reviewer would give the book only one star because of that. If you really want to make an issue of it, you could use this book as an opportunity to talk about why people sometimes do bad things (Hector's motivation for tricking Lyle is very clear.) But I think that's missing the point. A book is not a lecture, or should not be one anyway. Besides, it seems that the vast majority of picture books do try to shove "good" messages down kids' throats. So if you read enough of them, you can't help but reinforce those norms. Surely we can all kick back once in a while and enjoy a whimsical story in which even the villain ends up all right.

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