

Book Review: All My Stripes

Amazon: 4.9/5

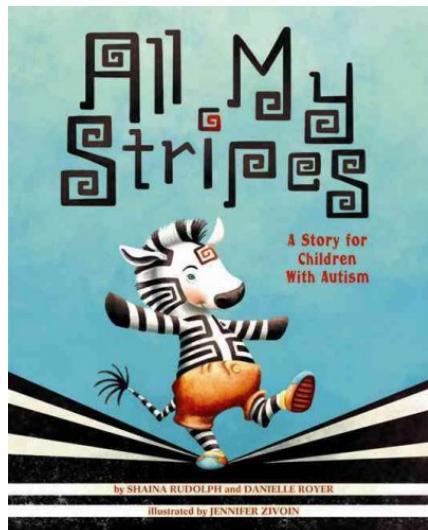
Barnes & Noble: 5/5

Goodreads: 4.2/5

All My Stripes by Shaina Rudolph and Danielle Royer presents readers with a glimpse into the life of Zane, a zebra with an “autism stripe.” Because of his autism stripe, Zane often feels he stands out because he is very different from the rest of his peers. “Nobody gets me, Mama!” he exclaims at the beginning of the story as he recounts the bad day he had at school and how he felt no one understood him. As Zane confides in his mother that all everyone else sees is his autism stripe, she responds with genuine love and comfort in telling him that there is more to him than that stripe. She proceeds to tell him about his many different stripes, and how each of those, including his autism stripe, are special and together make Zane the unique and amazing individual that he is.

The story truthfully describes the challenges experienced by individuals on the autism spectrum. There is one instance in the book; however, that might leave readers alarmed. When Zane struggles with a blaring fire alarm, the class leaves him in the classroom to be found by firefighters! Zane’s response to the alarm can be typical of an individual with autism, yet his entire class leaving him is definitely not acceptable. This glitch in the story can certainly be used to teach a lesson on how to appropriately respond during such an incident. Despite this, the book is still a delightful read that will warm the hearts of its readers. Children and grown-ups alike will also enjoy looking at the vibrant illustrations created by Jennifer Zivoin. It is interesting to note that the drawings brilliantly capture the essence of the story as no two zebras in the book have the same kind of stripes.

All My Stripes is a fantastic story that highlights the importance of celebrating and respecting differences. Not only does the book provide children on the spectrum with a relatable character, it is also an excellent tool to teach readers about awareness, empathy, and compassion.



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