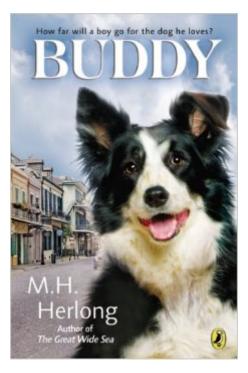
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# **Buddy**





## Synopsis

A classic boy-and-dog tale in the tradition of Old Yeller Tyrone "Li'l T" Roberts meets Buddy when his family's car accidentally hits the stray dog on their way to church. Buddy turns out to be the dog Li'l T's always wished for--until Hurricane Katrina comes to New Orleans and he must leave Buddy behind. After the storm, Li'l T and his father return home to find a community struggling to rebuild their lives--and Buddy gone. But Li'l T refuses to give up his quest to find his best friend. From the author of the BBYA Top Ten selection The Great Wide Sea comes a powerful story of hope, courage, and knowing when to let go.

### **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0670 (What's this?) Paperback: 320 pages Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (May 16, 2013) Language: English ISBN-10: 0142425443 ISBN-13: 978-0142425442 Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (51 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #210,811 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #207 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather #408 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American #1128 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs Age Range: 10 and up Grade Level: 5 and up

#### **Customer Reviews**

This is the story of a determined boy, a three-legged dog, a destitute family, a miserable tragedy, and faith when all is hopeless."Buddy" is a great dog tale, not for the faint of heart, but it is for people who love their dogs to death. You'll be taken on a journey, through the disaster of Hurricane Katrina, and the devastation it brought on America.I liked how the story brought out Li'l T's endurance in how he worked hard for what he wanted. And I liked that the author incorporated going to church into the story and having a family that stands works together.Note to parents: It does contain references to characters cussing, using drugs, and the father drinks beer often. These

things are not described too much, but they simply exist in the story. Overall, it's a nice book, with big emotional drama to keep you reading.

An excellent read! It's an emotional (and often comical) story of a boy's ability to learn about hard decisions, responsibility, and attachment even throughout one of America's biggest catastrophes. Li'l T learns to share everything he loves and to find the value in the lessons that often come from loss.Excellent character development and a wonderful use of diction. Easy to read with characters that are easy to enjoy -Looking forward to reading other works published by this author, both past and future.

I finished reading the book tonight. To me it really didn't start getting good until chapter 17 when hurricane Katrina was moving in and everyone had to evacuate. Don't get me wrong I liked the book. I didn't care much for the ending because to me I think the boy and his dog Buddy should have ended up together again. Good read for all ages.

I loved this book from cover to cover. I feel that I gained a clearer insight into the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the lives of those in its horrific path. Since reading it, I have gifted to one friend and might to more!

I am a classroom teacher, and this book, along with Great Wide Sea (also by Herlong) are favorites in my room. I bought "Buddy" after discovering "Great Wide Sea." Although the topics of both books couldn't be more different, I have found that Herlong's style of writing captures the reader especially boys. About a fifth-sixth grade reading level.

BUDDY is a poignant story of resilience, forgiveness, second chances, responsibility, and love. I give this book five stars for each time I wept. And yet, this is also a story of hope. M.H. Herlong is a writer who genuinely loves people and sees the goodness in spite of the flaws in humanity. This story makes you want to aspire to be a better person yourself. The "voice" of Li'l T may be that of a young boy, but his yearnings resonant with readers of any age.

This story is much more than a story about the bond between a boy and his dog. The author skillfully draws you into the story where you become Li'l T feeling all of his emotions as your own. Buddy is what drives the story, but the real story is about character - learning to be selfless and to

think of others while dealing with the challenges of living through a catastrophic life changing event. Buddy is an inspirational and heartwarming story that you will not want to put down.

When I began reading â œBuddyâ • a few hours ago, I couldnâ ™t put it down. It held my interest from the beginning, as should good books about good dogs. I will admit that, being a book about a dog, it made me cry. That seems to be a prerequisite when reading a book where a dog is the main character, and lâ <sup>™</sup>m sure it will make you cry too.Liâ <sup>™</sup>l T is about to be 13 years old, and has always wanted a dog. When his father accidentally runs over a mangy dog, Liâ <sup>™</sup>I T takes it as a sign the dog is to be his and names him Buddy. From that day on, he and Buddy are inseparable. The family is poor, but Liâ <sup>™</sup>I T becomes quite enterprising in the ways he earns money for Buddyâ ™s food. He loves Buddy, and Buddy loves him.A few months later, the family has to leave their home in New Orleans because Hurricane Katrina is coming. They expect to return from Mississippi in a couple of days so, since their car is too small, they leave Buddy home. When Liâ <sup>™</sup>I T finds out that New Orleans is flooded and Buddy is gone, his heart is broken. It seems nothing can ever be the same again for Liâ <sup>™</sup>I T. His grandpa has died of a broken heart, while his home, friends and dog are all gone. However, New Orleanians are tough. Rebuilding their homes and communities also includes rebuilding what once seemed to be lost forever. When Liâ <sup>™</sup>I T learns Buddy is not lost, he is ecstatic but will need a lot of help to get him back. It will take a village to put everyoneâ <sup>™</sup>s life back on track, including his own.Liâ <sup>™</sup>I T and Buddyâ <sup>™</sup>s story will make even the most stoic reader shed tears, not only for their story but for all that was lost, and found, during the devastation of Katrina. Students, especially boys aged 9-13, will enjoy Buddyâ ™s story.

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