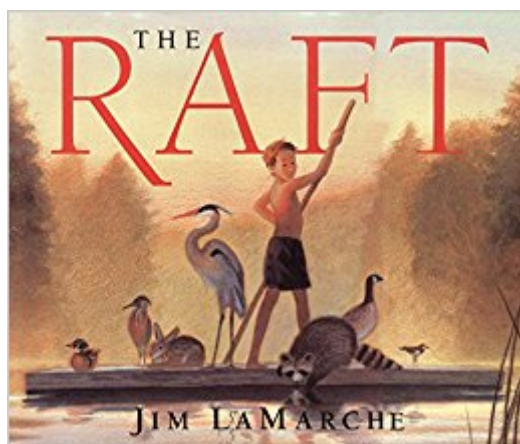


The book was found

# The Raft



## Synopsis

Inspired in part by his own childhood, this gorgeous picture book from Jim LaMarche, the beloved illustrator of *A Story for Bear* and *The Elves and the Shoemaker*, tells the story of one stubborn boy's unexpectedly wonderful summer on the river. This is an imagination-sparking story about appreciating the simple, natural joys of the world and the people in it, and about discovering and exploring one's own talents. School Library Journal proclaimed, "This dazzling picture book is an artistic triumph." The author's note describes the similarities between his own life and the life of his protagonist. Nicky is convinced that his summer with his grandmother in the Wisconsin woods is going to be the worst summer ever. She cooks food that he doesn't like, there's an art studio where her living room should be, and he's expected to do chores "including fishing, the most boring chore ever. But one afternoon, while Nicky is trying to catch their dinner, a raft drifts down the river towards him. The raft has a calming magic about it, affecting both Nicky and the wildlife of the river and woods. Through the raft and the adventures it brings him on, Nicky finds new common ground with his grandmother, a fellow river rat, who encourages him to explore his newfound talent for art.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD540L (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1 edition (May 28, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064438562

ISBN-13: 978-0064438568

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 60 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #9,425 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Sports & Outdoors >

Outdoor Recreation > Rafting #7 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Water

Sports #11 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Water Sports

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Imagine passing a summer drifting up and down a slow-moving river, watching as cranes, turtles,

raccoons, otters, and ducks grow accustomed to your presence. Envision days spent poling the raft through lily pads and grasses, glimpsing foxes through the trees on shore. On hot, sticky nights, picture a tent set up on the raft, from which you have an unobstructed view of huge bucks drinking from the moonlit river. Nicky has no idea what he's getting into when his father drops him off for the summer at his grandmother's cottage in the woods. And he's not especially pleased at the prospect. "There's nobody to play with ... She doesn't even have a TV." But this "river rat" is not the normal kind of grandma. Without pushing, she quietly allows Nicky to discover for himself the wonders of river life. Gradually, Nicky's interest in drawing the wildlife he sees brings him closer to his artist grandmother, and to an inner peace that looks as though it will last for a lifetime. Jim LaMarche draws on his own childhood summer experiences for this lovely, serene story. As the light and weather change through the summer, the river reflects all the beauty of the season. LaMarche has illustrated many remarkable and award-winning picture books, including the magical *Little Oh* and *The Rainbabies*. (Ages 4 to 9) --Emilie Coulter --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Nicky's summer vacation in the Wisconsin woods fills up with quiet adventures when he discovers a raft covered with drawings of wild animals. PW's starred review praised the "exquisitely rendered" pastel drawings that "bathe the images in the bewitching glow of a riverfront dawn and dusk." Ages 6-up. (June) Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Great little book. My kids love box car kids, caddie Woodlawn and other stories centered around the outdoors.

Very creative! Wonderful illustrations!

Arrived as described. Pleased with my purchase.

Cute!

Nice book!

Such beautiful illustrations, and a sweet story that makes me yearn for a summer growing up beside a river. My 4 year old daughter may not be a fan yet, but I'm sure she'll love it as she grows older!

I love love this book!! I bought it for my 4 year old grandson and he wanted me to read it to him back to back times. He really got into the story as did I. I highly recommend this book.

Cute story. Quite simple. Takes the "life is a river" theme and reduces it for children's appreciation. Kids "get it" Artwork is delightful. Good read aloud for early elementary or pre-school.

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