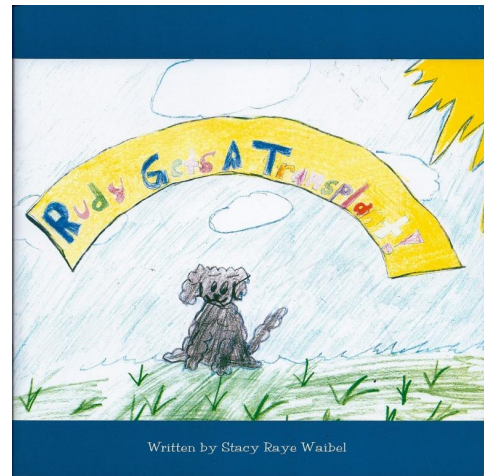


A Review of

Rudy Gets a Transplant (2008)

Author: Stacy Raye Waibel

“**Rudy Gets a Transplant**” is part of a growing series of beautifully illustrated children’s books - most about 20 to 30 colorful pages long - that educate on medical and other subjects told through the voice of a poodle named, of course, Rudy. The author, Stacy, blind from the early age of 19 from diabetes, has herself undergone a kidney transplant in 1995, a pancreas transplant in 2003, and a living kidney transplant from her husband in 2009, so through the voice of Rudy, she shares from her life experiences.



Rudy is a real dog, the loving black toy poodle friend of the author and that love comes through in both the whimsical but fact filled tales and illustrations that have become more polished as the “Rudy’s Little World” series has continued over recent years. I confess I’m not sure I can say which is more delightful to a young reader, the earlier childlike drawings by Ali Gratz, a 7th grader at the time of her illustrating the “**Rudy Gets a Transplant**” book, or the more adult but still watercolor-like art work in “**Rudy’s Checkup**” by Georgia Cook, or even the slightly more polished illustration work by Michelle Gruebele in “**Rudy’s Incredible Kidney Machine.**” The 2010 book, non-medical in subject, “**What’s on my nose?**” was also done by Michelle and seems the most polished of all. Children, as tested on my own 6th and 7th grade grandchildren seem to love them all equally, and that certainly is the best review of all.

The content comes across as education delivered in a very fun and non-threatening way in her stories of Rudy, each with a deep lesson that seems simple in this delivery format so perfect for that child audience. Of course, much of that understanding of this audience I would imagine comes from her passion for speaking to such audiences for which she is well known. Her’s is a life of inspiration, lived in helping others through her own gifts of sight though blind, and story telling in person and through her beautiful writings.

This series is the perfect resource for parents, grandparents or even older children to read to younger ones, especially those who may be facing their own life challenges of a transplant, have a friend facing transplant, or just going on a doctor’s visit. Even better, if able, having that child read the Rudy stories aloud would be even more effective. This is also a unique resource for teachers who may have a student in class involved with a transplant to educate the class about what their fellow classmate is going through.

Stacy has certainly shared her gifts with us and personally, I eagerly await her next story promised as “coming soon” to be titled “**Rudy O’Tooty.**”

Note: **Rudy’s Little World book series** is available from <http://rudyslitteworld.com/> (← click here to link to these books)

Reviewer bio: Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. ’94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer with NKF, UNOS and the Gift of Life Donor Program in Philadelphia, as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, **A Gift from the Heart**, is offered in thanks to his donor family and can be viewed on-line or obtained on a CD without cost by contacting him at GleasonJim@aol.com