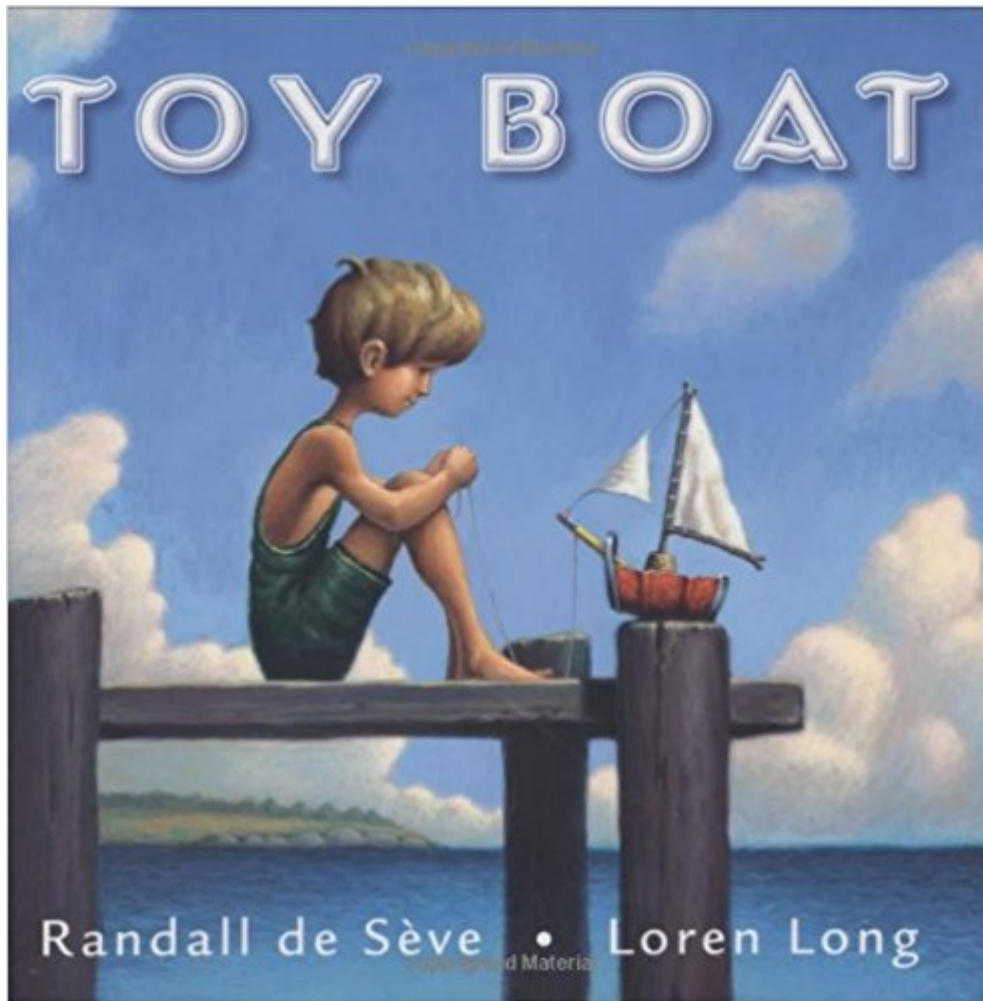




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# The Toy Boat



## Synopsis

A little boy has a toy boat. He made it out of a can, a cork, a yellow pencil, and some white cloth. The boy and his boat are inseparable, until one day when the wind pushes the toy boat out into the wide lake. Alone now, the little boat must face fierce waves, a grumpy ferry, a sassy schooner, and a growling speed boat. How the little boat misses the boy! But if he is going to survive, he must figure a way to do it on his own. Loren Long has a timeless and magical touch. As he did with *The Little Engine That Could*, he creates a world of toys and children that go right to the soul. *Toy Boat* will sail into young hearts and stay there. Praise for *TOY BOAT*\* "With plenty of buoyant charm and imaginative artwork, this contemporary *À À Little Toot À À* has an abundance of child appeal."--Booklist, starred review "A resonant tale with wide appeal."--Publishers Weekly *À À*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A boy's handmade toy boat plays the metaphorical role of a child longing for independence in de Seve's auspicious first picture book. The text begins in simple language that lightly implies a parent/child bond: "The boy loved the boat, and they were never apart. They bathed together. They slept together." Every day the boy sails the boat in the lake, holding onto it with a string. Usually the boat feels content, but occasionally the sight of big boats awakens its curiosity about "what it would feel like to sail free." A sudden change in the weather occasions the toy boat's premature adventure

out of the boy's protective grasp, described in suspenseful text and acrylics that imaginatively extend de Seve's story. Long (the re-illustrated Little Engine that Could) shrewdly illustrates no persons other than David, even though David's mother plays a pivotal part. Rather, the toy boat has a face (readers should look carefully at the cork holding its mast) and, as it encounters the big boats at last, each wears its own visible personality. A giant ferry occupying most of a spread bears down on the toy boat, its windows, decks and trimmings shaped into an enraged visage, complete with glaring eyes and pursed lips; the toy boat shrinks dramatically in the wake of a huge speedboat depicted as a flame-colored shark. Not until the reassuring conclusion can the toy boat again be seen from the boy's perspective. A resonant tale with wide appeal. Ages 2-up. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

PreSchool-Grade 1 • A boy loves his toy boat and he takes it everywhere, keeping it close on a string near open water. When he drops the string and the toy is carried far out on the lake, it faces the perils of high waves, stormy skies, and large, mean-spirited vessels. The small boat, near sinking, sail heavy with water, misses the child terribly and floats aimlessly all night, lonely and frightened. (Even the moon is shown weeping at such a pathetic plight.) Finally the next day, "a humble little fishing boat" takes pity on the little boat since "it knew how it felt to be pushed around on the lake." It guides the toy toward shore and for a few moments the little boat feels the joy of freedom, wind in its sail. Then the boy sees it and the boat is home again. Now, the boy occasionally lets the string go when they are by the lake since the boat knows to come back. This story of freedom and its perils has the potential to be unsettling for a young audience. The cruel eyes of the giant ferry bearing down on the small boat and the painted sharklike teeth on the side of the speedboat with its "screaming" motor can easily be construed as menacing and can send a negative instead of heartening message. Only near the end, on the spread where the little boat is sailing, does the acrylic art show the pleasure of the open sky and freedom at the prow. This book has limited child appeal. • Susan Moorhead, New Rochelle Public Library, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

I bought this book to put on a shelf for decor in my son's nursery and not knowing too much about the storyline, but it's one of my kids' favorites. My 1 year old loves the "move along!" parts and my almost 4 year old loves the story. The illustrations are gorgeous and hold the interest of both my children.

I was disappointed in this book, for a board book it has far too many words and the story is a little odd. The illustrations are beautiful but I think in this format, much is lost.

What a sweet book about realizing home is where you belong.

I purchased this book for my little boy for his first christmas. I remember reading somewhere that it was considered the Velveteen Rabbit for little boys. I LOVED the Velveteen Rabbit, so of course needed to get this book for my little boy. He's now 2 1/2 and loves having me read stories to him. Every night he asks me to read this book to him. "Toy Boat" he requests again and again. It is a sweet story. Having a husband who grew up sailing, it has special meaning to us as one day I hope that my son grows up and enjoys the water and wonderment of sailing too.

Unique book for our lake home! Nicely illustrated.

I have bought this book for multiple kids ranging from 2-8 and they all love it. The colors and illustrations are vibrant and adorable. I recommend this book for everyone!

This is a good book with good illustrations. Be warned, it's a bit longer so kids need to have a longer attention span!

The boy builds a boat himself, out of bits and pieces any boy should have available. The boat has adventures, some scary, but ends up back with the boy who allows him to keep having adventures. I like the message. The language is straightforward and the illustrations vivid, with nice movement and color. All in all a good present for a child in a sailing family, like the one who received it from me.

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