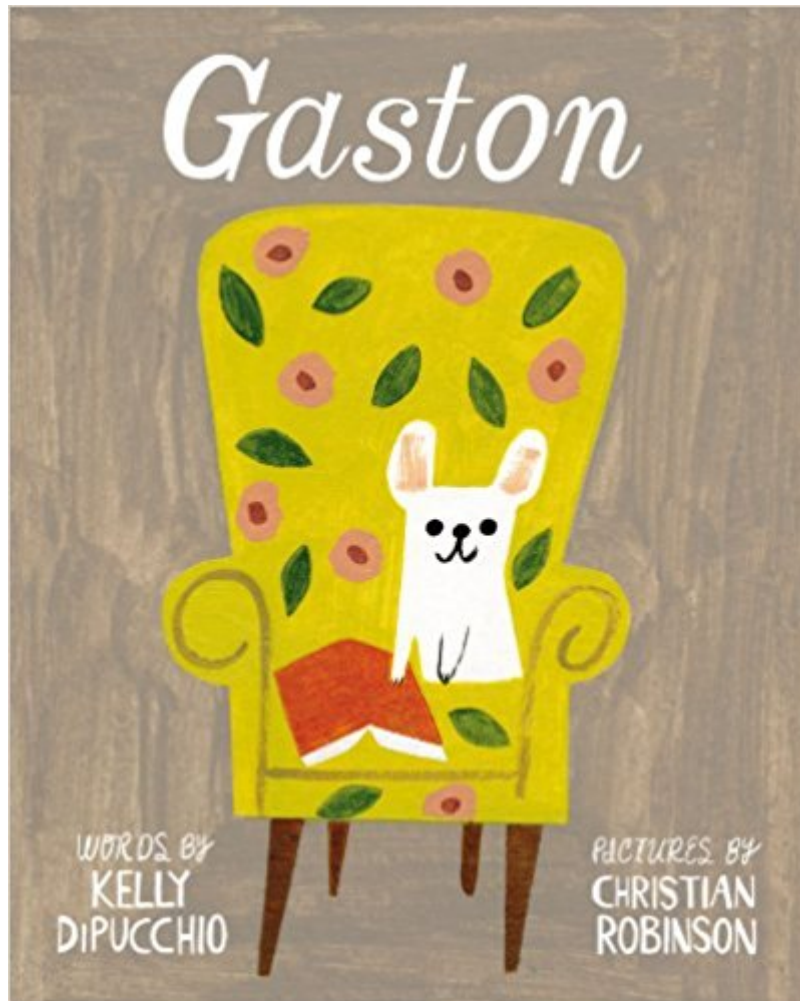




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Gaston (Gaston And Friends)



Synopsis

A bulldog and a poodle learn that family is about love, not appearances in this adorable doggy tale from New York Times bestselling author Kelly DiPucchio and illustrator Christian Robinson. This is the story of four puppies: Fi-Fi, Foo-Foo, Ooh-La-La, and Gaston. Gaston works the hardest at his lessons on how to be a proper pooch. He sipsÃ¢â¬â¢ never slobbers! He yipsÃ¢â¬â¢ never yaps! And he walks with graceÃ¢â¬â¢ never races! Gaston fits right in with his poodle sisters. But a chance encounter with a bulldog family in the parkÃ¢â¬â¢ Rocky, Ricky, Bruno, and AntoinetteÃ¢â¬â¢ reveals thereÃ¢â¬â¢s been a mix-up, and so Gaston and Antoinette switch places. The new families look rightÃ¢â¬â¢ but they donÃ¢â¬â¢t feel right. Can these puppies follow their nosesÃ¢â¬â¢ and their heartsÃ¢â¬â¢ to find where they belong?

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2Ã¢â¬â¢ Mrs. Poodle has new puppies, Fi-Fi, Foo-Foo, Ooh-La-La, and Gaston, but one of them is not like the others. Next to his petite siblings, Gaston is stocky, ungainly, and goofy looking. One day, they encounter a rough-and-tumble bulldog family, and it's immediately clear that there has been a mix-up. Gaston's short legs and broad ears look just like those of the bulldogs', while the bulldog family includes a tiny poodle named Antoinette. What starts out as a typical "Ugly

Duckling" plot becomes a tender exploration of nurture vs. nature. The pups go home with their "real" families, but everyone questions the decision. The mothers are shown gazing forlornly at family portraits, and poor Gaston has no interest in anything "brutish or brawny or brown," preferring the "proper or precious or pink" home that Antoinette scorns. The next day they joyfully switch back: "There. That looked right. And it felt right too." But the story doesn't end there. Both families continue to meet and teach each other about being tough and tender, and when Gaston and Antoinette eventually fall in love and have puppies of their own, they teach them to be whatever they want to be. Robinson's expressive acrylic paintings are bright and bold, yet simple, making masterly use of negative space and contrast. This heartwarming story of family will be a welcome addition to homes and libraries of all types. —Anna Haase Krueger, Ramsey County Library, MN

Nature or nurture? Gaston, born into a family of fancy French poodles, looks and acts different. His coiffure, bark, and demeanor need work. His ears stick up, not down; he ruffs instead of yaps, slobbers instead of sips. Mrs. Poodle and her daughters Fi-Fi, Foo-foo, and Ooh-La-La love him just the same. Strolling in the park, the family meets a mostly bulldog clan: Rocky, Ricky, Bruno —and Antoinette. She has learned their ways, as she races, yaps, and abhors pink. The mothers decide to switch the two pooches, since each, obviously, belongs with the other clan, but in the end, no one is happy. Puppies are reexchanged, and all works out for the best, especially when Gaston and Antoinette marry. Though readers will probably want to know how the mistake happened (and a mix-up would have been easy to show on the title page), they will mostly adore this joyous tale. The pictures, rendered in simple shapes of warm acrylic colors, are a delight, celebrating each dog's expressive personality. Kids who might feel the odd man out in their own families will take heart from this. Preschool-Grade 1. --Lolly Gepson

Bought for 2 year old's birthday. It is her favorite book now, "GonGon" she says. She wants it read every night and it's so sweet and funny we don't mind. At first she only made it through a couple of pages but each night she stayed longer. This is her first big non-board book. She knows the dog names and has half of it memorized now.

I purchased this as a gift for a friend, but she has since emailed me on two different occasions letting me know how much she loves this story. In fact, she says it is her favorite children's book!! I bought this specific book for my friend because she has a white French Bulldog that looks just like the dog on the cover of this book. Honestly, I didn't even know the story was about a French

Bulldog! My friend, and her daughter, absolutely love this story though, and not just because their dog looks like Gaston. She said it's a sweet story that they have already read multiple times. Based on my friend's response, I would say this book is a must-have for French Bulldog owners... and anyone else. :)

Super cute story line. Simple, but engaging illustrations! I love this book! Inadvertently, it's good for counting, if your child is learning numbers, and also delighting in and noticing "differences" between pictures, too. I'm an adult, who wanted to gift this book to a toddler and her mother, but chose to keep it for my own collection! French Bulldog and/or Poodle owners; all pet owners and non, will love this book!

This story is so adorable (as are the illustrations). I bought it as a gift for my cousin's two year old daughter but must admit I read it to my ten year old son before gifting it and even he was charmed by the story and illustrations. Oh, and I also bought the little Gaston stuffed animal which is a great accompaniment to the book.

Absolutely completely adorable. I love it. I bought it for the French Bulldog but ended up thinking the story was completely adorable. Appropriate for ages up to 7, but even at my age I enjoyed it.

A fabulous and adorable book!

9 year old gran-daughter thought the book was great and it won at her school in all 3 second grades.

This book was suggested by a co-worker who also has a mixed kid. Very helpful. My daughter's name is Antoinette. She loves this book.

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