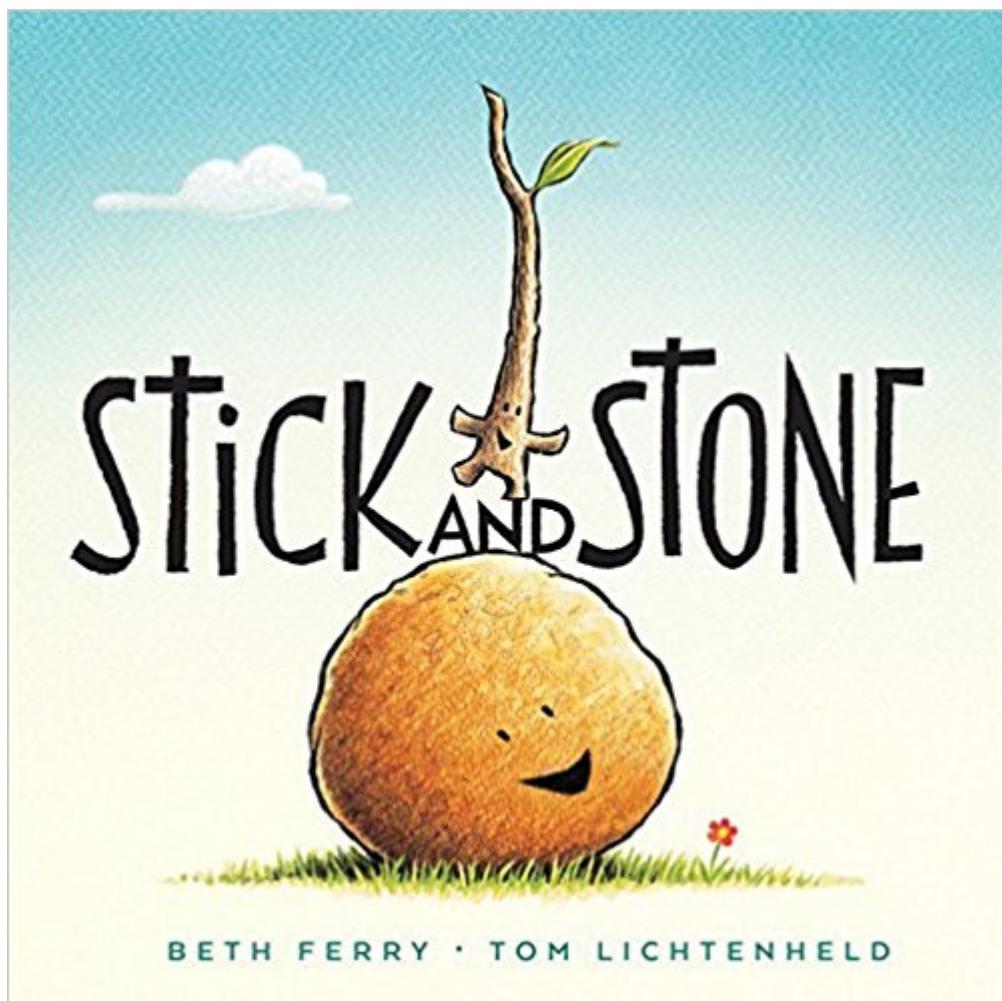


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## Stick And Stone



## Synopsis

When Stick rescues Stone from a prickly situation with a Pinecone, the pair becomes fast friends. But when Stick gets stuck, can Stone return the favor? Author Beth Ferry makes a memorable debut with a warm, rhyming text that includes a subtle anti-bullying message even the youngest reader will understand. New York Times bestselling illustrator Tom Lichtenheld imbues Stick and Stone with energy, emotion, and personality to spare. In this funny story about kindness and friendship, Stick and Stone join George and Martha, Frog and Toad, and Elephant and Piggie, as some of the best friend duos in children's literature.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (April 7, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054403256X

ISBN-13: 978-0544032569

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (169 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,470 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Valentine's Day #3 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Environment #16 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

A Conversation with Beth Ferry and Tom Lichtenheld The debut author and bestselling illustrator of Stick and Stone chat about the story's inspiration, the challenges of bringing the characters to life, and what they hope readers will take away from the book. (At left: Tom Lichtenheld's first sketch of the book's heroes after reading the manuscript)

Beth, what inspired you to write this story? BF: My ideas usually come from interesting words or some type of word play, but for Stick and Stone, there was a definite musical inspiration. There is a song by Train called "Drops of Jupiter." One specific line from that song really stuck

with me: Â¢Â ¢Can you imagine . . . your best friend always sticking up for you, even when I know youÂ¢Â ¢re wrong?Â¢Â • I love that line and I thought yes, I can imagine having a friend like that, and shouldnÂ¢Â ¢t everyone? I thought about that line a lot and the word Â¢Â ¢stickÂ¢Â • just sparked something, especially since it was a homonym. The play on words with a character named Stick sticking up for his friend was irresistible. As was turning the Â¢Â ¢sticks and stonesÂ¢Â ¢ idiom on its head. Tom, whatÂ¢Â ¢s your first step when you receive a manuscript written by someone else? TL: I read it once and, if I like it, I read it again and start doodling visuals in the margins. I liked this manuscript immediately because the storyline is spare yet dramatic, and the perfect rhythm makes it musical. I also liked the challenges of 1), designing a stick and a stone who could be expressive, and 2) creating a world that would be as elegantly simple as the text while allowing for the written action to be visualized. Beth, this is your debut picture book. What has surprised you about the publishing process? BF: What surprised me the most was how amazing it would feel to see the art. Of course I had an idea of what Stick and Stone would look like, and I knew I would like them, but I was unprepared for how much I would love what Tom created. I knew the publishing process was slow, but seeing the art, from the initial sketches, to the color samples, and finally to the finished product really helped me get through the long wait. I truly anticipated seeing TomÂ¢Â ¢s imagination through each stage of the process as he brought Stick and Stone to life.

What do you hope children (and adults) will take away from this book? TL: Of course, the message is about bullying and standing up for your friends, but IÂ¢Â ¢m not a fan of books with heavy-handed messages (I think kids sniff these out and instinctively reject them), so I hope kids enjoy it as a fun adventure story involving unlikely characters, as much as anything else. BF: I hope that children will recognize the power of friendship. How one small act or one small word can, and does, make an enormous difference, and could even help to make a lifelong friend. I hope that this book will remind children and adults alike to treasure the friends that they have and to remember that friends can be made in many ways, at any age, in every place. Do you identify more with Stick or Stone? Or dare I say it, Pinecone? TL: I probably identify with Stone, because heÂ¢Â ¢s quieter and maybe not quite as bright as Stick. But I also donÂ¢Â ¢t dismiss Pinecone; even though heÂ¢Â ¢s a bully, we brought him back at the very end to apologize for being a jerk, because even people who make mistakes (that would be all of us), can be redeemed and forgiven. BF: Oh, I think I have a little bit of all three in me. StickÂ¢Â ¢s pretty much a rule follower, which I definitely was as a child. Stone is sweet and fun, and basically goes with the flow,

but rises to the occasion when necessary—“something I strive to do. And of course, who hasn’t been prickly now and again?

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