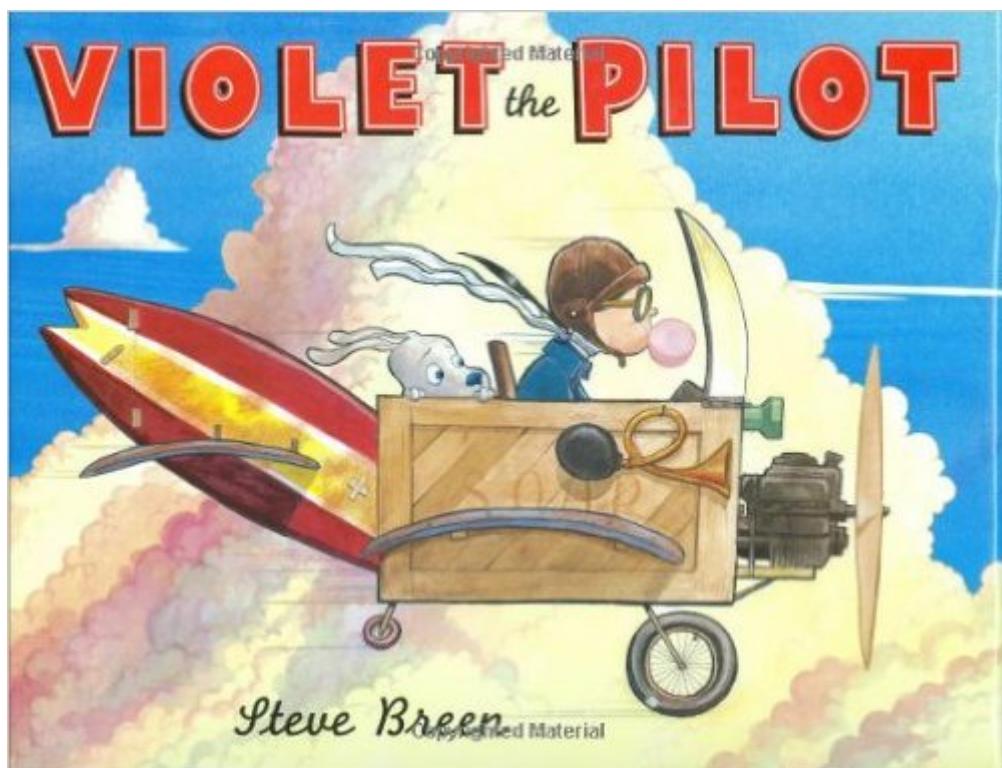


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## Violet The Pilot



## Synopsis

By the time she's two years old, Violet Van Winkle can fix nearly any appliance in the house. And by eight she's building elaborate flying machines from scratch?mind-boggling contraptions such as the Tubbubbler, the Bicycopter, and the Wing-a-ma-jig. The kids at school tease her, but they have no idea what she's capable of. Maybe she could earn their respect by winning the blue ribbon in the upcoming Air Show. Or maybe something even better will happen?something involving her bestever invention, a Boy Scout troop in peril, and even the mayor himself! A classic underdog story full of humor and sweetness and retro pizzazz, *Violet the Pilot* is both endearing and adorable. It'll fly right into your heart.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD740L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Dial Books (March 13, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803731256

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Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 0.4 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (67 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #24,910 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Planes & Aviation #204 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect #1502 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

I was disappointed with this book. I had high hopes buying it for my daughter who shares the heroine's name but have decided not to give it to her because I feel I can do it better. This book is about a smart creative girl with supportive parents, a great character for little girls, however it was not handled well in the storyline. After her character introduction, the author goes on to tell that Violet has NO friends and isn't liked at school partially because she read engineering books. Violet decides to enter a contest with one of her creations and then saves some boy scouts on her way to

the contest. The town then loves her. The bullies never apologize. I feel the story line basically says if you are a smart creative girl then it is normal for you to not be accepted until you do something heroic or dangerous. I sadly did not want to be Violet the Pilot.

Both my boys(5 and 2) loved this book. This book had everything. It also initiated some great conversations especially regarding empathy. It's just short enough to be read over and over again in one night!! I liked how Violet did her own thing. We took time to discuss the parts where the other kids were rude to her how they would deal if they were put in that situation from both sides. We were able to talk about how to persevere when things go wrong (keep inventing). There is also a huge disappointment for Violet and we were able to discuss what the right thing was to do. This book opened many venues of discussion, from bullying, to perseverance, be your own person, helping others, be creative, how to handle disappointment, etc.

This is a lovely story with wonderful illustrations. Unfortunately, the author doesn't allow Violet to simply be an awesome girl--he instead describes her as "different than the other girls," who are only interested in tea parties. Just once I would like to read a book that doesn't imply that the heroine is the only awesome girl out there (or that there is anything wrong with tea parties). My daughter, who is the target audience for this book, absolutely loves it, and I think it's pretty great if I just ignore the unnecessary implications about the value of girls in general.

Violet, a mechanical genius, could repair almost any appliance by the time she was two. At age eight she started to build elaborate flying contraptions from spare parts and machinery that she salvaged from the family business, a junkyard next door. Accompanied by her faithful and fearless dog (aptly named Orville), Violet flies the local skies in her innovative flying machines. She reads Popular Science Monthly for new ideas and dreams about winning a prize at the upcoming air show. Perhaps a blue ribbon would end the relentless teasing from the children at school and garner her some newfound respect. En route to the air show, Violet uses her latest flying invention to become a hero in an entirely unexpected way. This book is superb. With its gifted female protagonist and clever storyline, Violet the Pilot packs a powerful punch with lessons about innovation, human resources, and women in science. Steve Breen's delightful illustrations are marked by a sense of humor, expressive facial features, and skillful attention to detail (witness the posters of Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart in Violet's bedroom). The blend of entertainment, emotional fluctuations, and substantive content make this book an utterly satisfying read for children and

adults alike.

Wonderfully strong message for girls!!!! I bought this for my own 23 year old daughter who is named Violet, who as a little girl was fiercely independent and creative and a problem solver like the Violet in this story. I couldn't resist buying this for her for her to both possibly share with her elementary school students whom she teaches English to in South Korea, or hopefully my future grandchildren if she ever decides there will be somebody strong enough to share her vision of the world and the future, and strong enough to love the amazingness that is Violet Jane. The illustrations are so engaging the reader, they invite the child to sit and look and think and wonder, if they can read on their own, or after they have heard the story before, they are the kind of illustrations that are inviting to just sit and look at awhile. And the story itself is so exciting and powerful, and empowering. I highly recommend this book for both girls and boys.

In a nutshell: Violet is a mechanical genius who lives next door to a junkyard and is able to build fully functioning airplanes out of spatulas and row boats. She doesn't have any friends, except her dog Orville, and the kids at school like to bully her. One day she sees an advertisement for an air show that happens to take place on the date of my birthday. (It's a bit uncanny how these fortuitous details keep showing up in the books we read. Further cementing my favorite color, my birthdayâ | all sorts of things I need to be sure to drum into these kids' malleable little heads.) Spoiler alert: In the end, Violet doesn't get to fly in the air show, but she wins an award and recognition from her entire community by saving a troop of drowning Boy Scouts in her latest homemade jet. This book hits on all sorts of important topics including bullying, engineering, community service, and feasibility. The illustrations are super cute. Kids like pictures of people with bugs in their teeth. It's still unclear to me if the bully twins are also in the boating accident. I'd recommend discussing this with your book club. I find the end of the story takes kind of a strange, unexpected twist that leaves me wondering if it should end differently? Maybe it's just me. Families can talk about: What is bullying and what should you say and do? Can kids really build real airplanes that fly out of household objects? Even if you think it will fly, is it a good idea to jump off of anything high? What could happen? What is the FAA? And with young listeners, is Violet a pilot or a pirate?

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