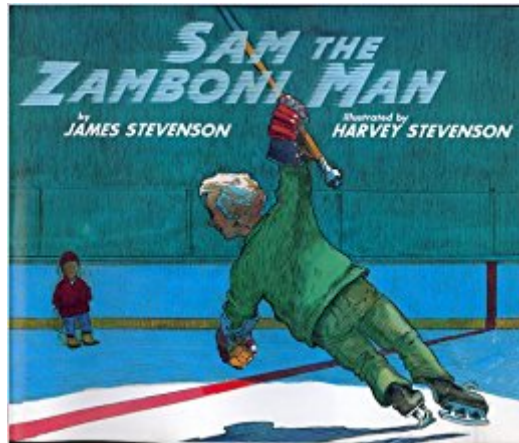




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Sam The Zamboni Man



Synopsis

Matt's Grandpa Sam is called the "Zamboni Man" because he drives the machine at the hockey stadium that smooths the ice. When Matt visits, the two go to a hockey game, and the cheering crowd and the clattering of hockey sticks leave Matt tingling with excitement. But nothing can match the surprise the Zamboni Man has in store for Matt. Full color.

Book Information

Age Range: 3 and up

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Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 2?Matt's grandfather drives the Zamboni at a huge hockey stadium. When Matt is invited to visit him in the city, the boy is treated to a front-row seat at his first hockey game. He enjoys the action and waves proudly when his grandpa clears the ice during the break. After the game, his grandpa laces up some skates and, in the darkened stadium, shows the boy how he used to play hockey when he was young. The following night is even more special, as his grandpa sneaks them into the empty stadium, turns on all the lights, and lets Matt steer the Zamboni. This warm and gentle story may attract young hockey fans, but the relationship between the boy and his grandpa is more central. Neither character emerges as a distinct personality, though the shared love of the sport clearly connects the two. Harvey Stevenson's watercolor illustrations reflect the action well, subtly moving from scenes of calm conversation to the more lively action on the ice. Several views show young Matt from behind. Like the text, this technique moves the focus from the boy as a character to the sights and sounds he experiences. The result is a pleasant but unexciting book that

gains appeal from its unusual subject matter. ?Steven Engelfried, West Linn Public Library,
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Ages 4⁺-7. Matt knows his grandfather drives the Zamboni at the hockey stadium, but he's never seen a game or watched Grandpa smooth the ice with the big machine. Then Grandpa invites him to come for a visit--a visit that not only introduces Matt to real live hockey but also gives him an opportunity to learn how special his grandpa is. Although it lacks the wonderful humor of Stevenson's stories about Grandpa and Janetta, this quiet intergenerational story will be an easy book to read aloud, and its focus on a sport less often spotlighted in picture books is a bonus. The foreshortening in some of the paintings seems awkward, but the warm colors nicely reflect the strengthening bonds between Matt and Grandpa Sam. Stephanie Zvirin

This is a comforting book about the warm relationship between a grandfather and his grandson, and sharing the love of hockey. The author manages to capture the exhilarating sights and sounds at a hockey game so accurately and the emotions of Matt and his grandad so vividly. Together with the whimsical drawings and colours, it all adds up to a delightful book that we all enjoy.

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