

R.E.A.D.® ON!

Continuing Education for R.E.A.D. Teams

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February 2023

R.E.A.D. is Coming Back Around the World

After the long hiatus during the COVID Pandemic

We have been so thrilled to hear from so many of you whose R.E.A.D. programs are thriving once again! Thanks for sharing with us at “headquarters”—it helps inspire those who have been feeling a bit discouraged by the slow pace of recovery.

At right is a poster from an upcoming workshop in Italy, sent by our leader there, Tiziana Bertoli.

And below is the front page of Christina Pellegrino’s local New Jersey newspaper, which featured her and her partner Buster.

On the next page, see a series of photos from our colleagues in Taiwan, where all elementary educators are required to learn about the R.E.A.D. program.

Con il patrocinio
Comune di Rapalano Terme

**12° WORKSHOP
R.E.A.D.®**

**14/15/16 APRILE 2023
Rapalano Terme (SI)**

RISERVATO A:

- COADIUTORI DEL CANE,
- REFERENTI DI INTERVENTO,
- RESPONSABILI DI PROGETTO

(COME DA LINEE GUIDA NAZIONALI PER GLI I.A.A.)
Patrocinio e 16 crediti valevoli
per la formazione continua dei soci APNOCS



Il R.E.A.D.® migliora
le abilità di lettura dei bambini
e le loro capacità di comunicazione
utilizzando un potente metodo:
la lettura ad un cane,
ma non a un cane qualsiasi!



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Reading Education Assistance Dogs®, è un programma di alfabetizzazione, ideato nel 1999 dall'organizzazione no profit americana

Intermountain Therapy Animals®
e diffuso in oltre 20 Paesi

IN COLLABORAZIONE



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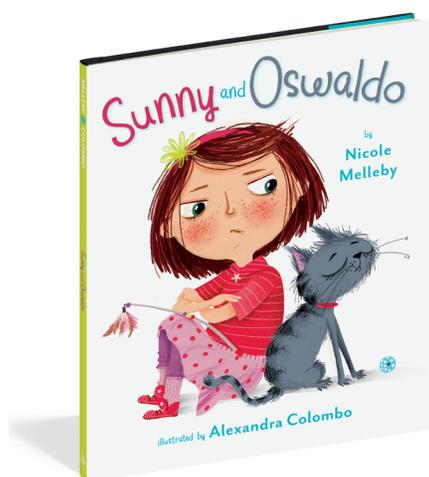


A New Book for R.E.A.D. ers

Worthwhile even if you think you aren't a "cat person"

We haven't had a publisher reach out to us with a fun new book for quite awhile now, and even when they do we are often hard to impress.

But Abigail Sokolsky from Algonquin Young Readers/Workman Publishing in New York recently contacted us to suggest we take a good look at a new book called **Sunny and Oswald**. And we love it! It's about a little girl who really doesn't like the family cat that her dad loves. And it has a lot to teach about love and empathy. We encourage you to check it out, and meanwhile, author Nicole Melleby has written an insightful letter about her own experiences and how the book came to be that we are including on the next page. Enjoy!



A moving story of friendship, family, and the importance of empathy from award-winning author Nicole Melleby, expertly rendered with vibrant, expressive illustrations from Alexandra Colombo.

Sunny does not like cats—especially Oswald. He's cranky and mean.

Sunny's dad loves Oswald. She does not understand why.

When Oswald doesn't come home one day, Sunny is happy. But her dad is sad.

Sunny wants her dad to be happy, so she helps him look for Oswald.

But can Sunny and Oswald ever get along?

Available at:

Amazon | B&N | Bookshop | Workman



amazon smile

You've probably already heard this news, but just in case: **Amazon is cancelling their Smile program.** After February 20, 2023, it will be no more, although any purchases made between now and then will still accrue to your chosen charity.

We are truly grateful to all of you who chose ITA/R.E.A.D. to benefit from your Amazon purchases.

Thank you!

We weren't a big "pet" family growing up.

I didn't have an animal I bonded with. I didn't really understand the connection between pet-and-human that some of my friends had. I didn't ask for a dog for my birthday, or for a cat for Christmas. I didn't really feel the need to have one.

I didn't think I was missing out on anything, either.

And then my brother decided he wanted a dog.

My brother was moving to another state for a job he got right out of college, and before he left, he adopted a greyhound to bring with him. We quickly learned that this greyhound—Angie—was much too anxious to be an apartment dog, to stay at home long hours alone while my brother worked. The plan was, then, for my brother to foster her through the rescue he adopted her from until he could find her a permanent home.

The rest of us, though, fell in love with this anxious, wonky-eared deer-looking pup. We (painstakingly) taught her how to walk up the stairs. We learned how to try and calm her down when she heard loud noises. We realized that she didn't cry when she needed to go out, just stared at you until you got the hint. We learned all of her quirks and personality traits, and she learned how to relax and how to play, and she permanently became ours quickly after that.

That was how I became a "pet person".

When I moved out of my parents' house to live with my partner, I realized how much space Angie took up in my life, and how lonely I was without her. My partner worked 9-5, and I mostly worked at home and, well, I knew I needed a companion to cuddle with while I wrote, a pet to keep me company so the apartment didn't seem so empty during the day.

I learned from my brother's mistakes—our apartment was too small for a dog, and we didn't have a yard for one to play in, and it just didn't feel like the right move for us. My partner had always had cats growing up.

I thought I didn't like cats.

But I wanted to try. Because I thought, before Angie, I wasn't a pet person, either.

So we adopted Gillian, our little gray rescue kitten. And, just like I quickly learned I was, indeed, a pet person, I now learned that I was a cat person, too.

That didn't mean we didn't have to get used to one another. I also learned that I have very little patience, and I learned that kittens are exceptionally energetic, and I learned that there is a big difference between a little two-month-old gray fluff of a cat and a four-year-old rescue dog. I learned that Gillian liked to bite and Gillian liked to chew things. I learned that she was really bad at cleaning herself, and really bad at knowing how to use the litter box, and really bad at the things cats are supposed to be inherently good at.

I learned that when I yelled at her, she'd come running and purring at me to pet her, because she didn't like when I was mad at her.

I learned that she liked to snuggle, and she liked to play fetch, and she liked to greet you at the door when you came home from being out all day.

I learned to stop yelling at her, and to buy her more chew toys and get her more scratching posts to put by the futon she liked to claw at, instead. I learned that she liked to sprawl out on my lap while I wrote or I read.

I learned that she was exactly what I wanted and needed.

When I wrote Sunny and Oswaldo, I wrote about a girl who hates her dad's cat. She doesn't understand him. He's not a very good cat. But by the end, Sunny learns how to love Oswaldo anyway.

And I think, when it comes to pets or it comes to people, there's a lesson there for all of us.



Nicole Melleby

Author of **Sunny and Oswaldo**

Illustrated by Nicole Alexandra Colombo

