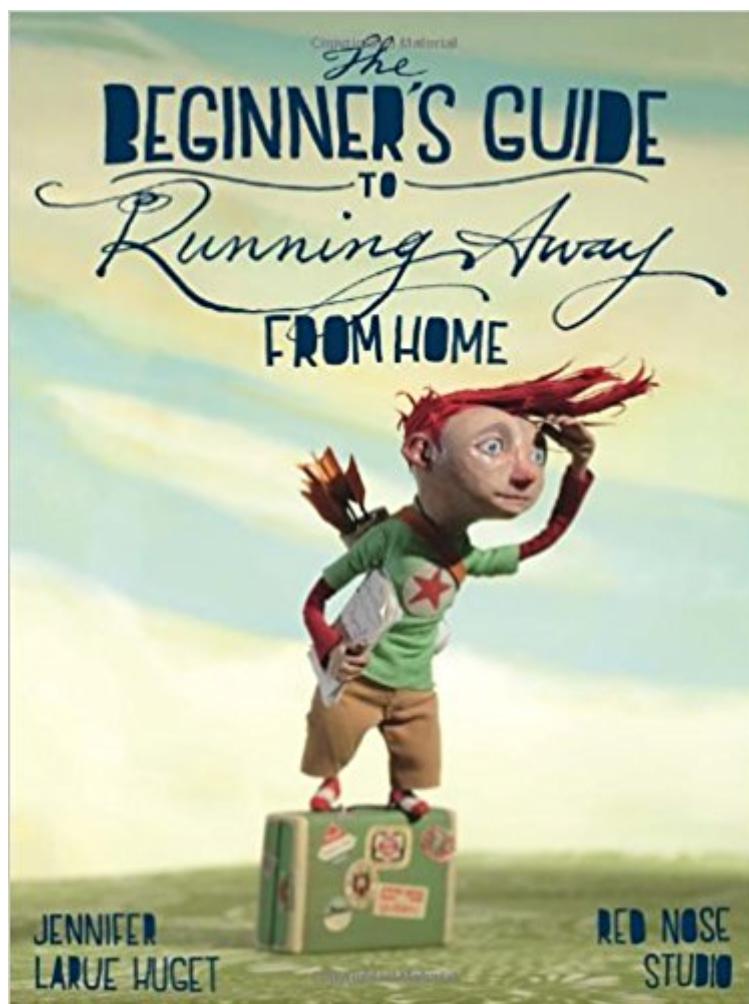


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# The Beginner's Guide To Running Away From Home



## **Synopsis**

What kid hasn't wanted to make their parents feel sorry for treating him badly? And how better to accomplish this than to run away? Here's a guide showing how, from what to pack (gum--then you won't have to brush your teeth) to how to survive (don't think about your cozy bed). Ultimately, though, readers will see that there really is no place like home. Like Judith Viorst's Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, here's a spot-on portrait of a kid who's had it. And like Maurice Sendak's Where the Wild Things Are, it's also a journey inside a creative kid's imagination: that special place where parents aren't allowed without permission.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

PreS-Gr 3-In this quirky story, a boy feels unappreciated by his family. Everyone is "going gaga" over his baby sister. His big brother "gets to stay up a whole hour later," and his mother tosses out his entire collection of candy wrappers. In a wry narrative voice, the child offers advice on the delicate art of running away from home. He suggests bringing gum ("That way you don't need to pack a toothbrush") and a favorite stuffed animal ("That will show your parents you mean business"). After leaving a note (taped to his baby sister) and making a dramatic exit, the youngster doesn't go far before he has second thoughts and runs home to the waiting arms of his mother. The outstanding illustrations feature intricate hand-built, three-dimensional sets and charismatic

characters fashioned out of polymer clay. Funny details abound in the detailed pages, such as the boy's red wagon piled sky high with comics, snacks, and a box of rocks. This imaginative and subversive flight of fantasy is not to be missed.-Linda Ludke, London Public Library, Ontario, Canada

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Many books can tell you all about the greatness of home and the warmth of family. Here, though, is a book that's straight with kids: sometimes home stinks and family is the worst. Like when your sister gets all the attention, your older brother flaunts the freedoms denied to you, and Mom tosses your prized candy-wrapper collection in the trash. Then you just need to scram, and the book offers wise advice on packing ("Save room for a bow and arrow. In case there are bears"); writing an informative good-bye note ("Not allowed to keep pet squirrel"); and possible destinations ("Head for your grandma's house. She still likes you, even if you're not as cute as the baby"). The illustrations, from Red Nose Studio (the working name of artist Chris Sickels), feature the same glossy clay models and nifty sets as in his collaboration with Jonah Winters (*Here Comes the Garbage Barge*, 2010) and are the kind of pictures you want to stare at for a long time. OK, this is another one of those home-is-great stories. But it makes a better case than most. Grades K-3. --Ian Chipman

When windows 10 came out, I had my desktop set to cycle through the wallpapers. My baby daughter was super fussy one day and I was struggling to keep her happy. She looked over at my computer and started laughing! It was a picture by the artist of a man using feathers to fly in a blue sky. Since then whenever she would get particularly unhappy I could show her the 'silly man' and she would be instantly happier. Due to this I tracked down the artist, which lead me to this book. It's a bit 'old' for my now not quite two year old, but she really enjoys the pictures. We always look at this one together since she isn't quite able to resist tearing the pages. The story itself is rather adorable and hasn't become irritating after reading several dozen times. The images are incredible and I discover something new each time we read the book. I also want to get the garbage barge book.

A rather cute moralistic tale that most kids will be able to relate to; which is thinking that running away from home will solve all their problems. The story is about why this isn't a good idea! Our young narrator, never given a name, states that before you decide to run away, you should have a

reason and then gives several examples of ways that kids think they are being treated unjustly and would be a reason to run away. He then explains that tying your stuff in a bandana and attaching it to a stick is simply impossible in today's world, and you should at least consider a backpack or better still your wagon to carry all your stuff on the big adventure lying ahead. Also be sure to make a lot of noise as you leave so your family will know you are leaving and will beg you to stay. But as the sun gets lower, the thought of being alone overnight in the park is losing all of its appeal. So our young hero/narrator thinks it over and decides there is no place like home, but if his family doesn't appreciate him coming back he MIGHT do it again. :-) A simple moralistic tale that 4-8yo for whom the book is written should well be able to understand. I don't know how to describe the drawings in the book but they are sort of like Pixar characters combined with regular drawings. Let me say they are adorable, however they may be described, and the humanoid figures should appeal to most children of the aforementioned age group.

The story is told in a kid's very matter-of-fact way that will make parents and kids alike laugh together. Great lessons, relatable situations, and really focuses on what kids think is important. The artwork is spectacular. I am a fan of Red Nose Studio and the world that Chris Sickels creates. I am always amazed at the talent and imagination in his works. Overall, a great book for parents and teachers. What kid hasn't thought about running away? This is a look at that childhood rite of passage and will spark discussion on family life and a kid's changing role in a family.

Here Comes the Garbage is one of my boys' favorite books, so we could not wait to get our copy The Beginner's Guide to Running Away from Home. They were thrilled and instantly started pouring over the illustrations, noticing the details and playing their own version of Eye Spy. Red Nose Studio's work is inventive and refreshing - a feast for the eyes! The story is wonderfully sweet and familiar. This will surely be an instant classic in our house and my new "go to" Birthday gift for other kids!

Beautiful book, richly illustrated; great for kids and adults alike. Highly recommended.

Wonderfully written, beautifully artistic

The story is marginal at best, but if I were a small kid I'd be frightened to death of the pictures. Absolutely didn't make it to my recommended picture book list. Sorry. I see there are lots of 5 stars;

I guess that's why they print a variety of books..

HugetÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  ¸s text is packed with such sophisticated humor that is still wholly accessible to young readers. This is a perfect book for parent and child to read (and laugh about) together. And the illustrations are a feast for the eyes, begging to be searched and pored over through subsequent readings.

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