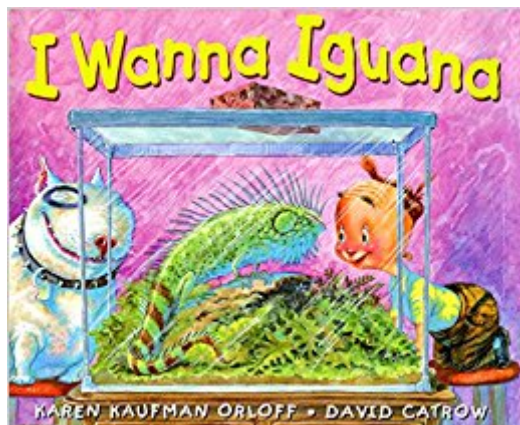


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# I Wanna Iguana



## Synopsis

Alex just has to convince his mom to let him have an iguana, so he puts his arguments in writing. He promises that she won't have to feed it or clean its cage or even see it if she doesn't want to. Of course Mom imagines life with a six-foot-long iguana eating them out of house and home. Alex's reassurances: It takes fifteen years for an iguana to get that big. I'll be married by then and probably living in my own house. and his mom's replies: How are you going to get a girl to marry you when you own a giant reptile? will have kids in hysterics as the negotiations go back and forth through notes. And the lively, imaginative illustrations show their polar opposite dreams of life with an iguana.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD460L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers; Complete Numbers Starting with 1, 1st Ed edition (September 9, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399237178

ISBN-13: 978-0399237171

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.3 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 111 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #23,036 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Reptiles & Amphibians](#) #60 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets](#) #118 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 3  
This funny story is told through an amusing exchange of notes, as Alex tries to convince his seemingly unshakable mother that he should be allowed to adopt a friend's baby iguana ("If I don't take it, he goes to Stinky and Stinky's dog, Lurch, will eat it. You don't want that to happen, do you?"). The boy pulls out all the stops in his arguments: iguanas are quiet (so are tarantulas, Mom counters); the reptile could be kept on the dresser (they grow to over six feet, Mom replies); the iguana could be the brother he's always wanted (you already have a

brother, Mom reminds him). Featuring his signature cartoon characters, Catrow's illustrations provide a hilarious extension of the text. Alex, with his unruly red cowlicks and kewpie-doll shape, is totally disarming, as is the iguana, which makes imaginative appearances strumming a guitar on a bike, sporting tiny swim trunks, and reading in bed. The tale is perfect for reader's-theater presentations and could also be used effectively as a writing prompt for older children. It will make even the most serious youngsters giggle. —Lee Bock, Glenbrook Elementary School, Pulaski, WI Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Karen Kaufman Orloff is the author of many books for children including *I Wanna Iguana*, *I Wanna New Room*, and *I Wanna Go Home*, all inspired by her son's pet iguana who quickly grew to be over four feet long and take over his room. She also writes a humorous column on family life every other week for *The Poughkeepsie Journal*. David Catrow is the illustrator of many picture books including *Stand Tall*, *Molly Lou Melon* and its sequel *Have Fun, Molly Lou Melon*, written by Patty Lovell; *I Wanna Iguana* and its two companion books *I Wanna New Room* and *I Wanna Go Home*, written by Karen Kaufman Orloff; *Our Tree Named Steve* by Alan Zweibel; *The Middle Child Blues* by Kristyn Crow; and *We the Kids: the Preamble to the Constitution*. He lives in Ohio with his wife, Deborah.

Adorable! I was absolutely head over heels in love when this book was read to my 3 year old at story time. The book takes you through a humorous exchange between a mother and son through the most adorable letters. The story begins with the son writing to his mother with his request for an iguana. As the exchanges go back and forth they reveal the pure innocent in a child and their reasoning and a mother's love to do for her child anything even if it will gross her out. I highly recommend this book for any library but especially mom's and their sons!

I read this book to my class every year when we begin letter writing. My students do a Flat Stanley project, where they have to write a letter to a family member or friend in another area. We read this beforehand so that they can see the layout of friendly letters. The letters are fun and cute and they always make the kids laugh. This is a great book!!!

I am a teacher and work in a small group atmosphere. I have majority of boys and I try to find books that are appropriate and would seek their interests. Iguanas are definitely on their list of topics to

read about! I used this book to teach about Point of View. This is an adorable story! The boy and his mother write letters back and forth about the reasons why or why not he should get an Iguana as a pet. The letters were used so the students could point out the key words that help identify what point of view the story is being told. They also used the letters to compare and contrast the points of view between the mother and son. Perfect book for my lesson and it was funny as well!

Bought for my 6 yr old nephew. He loves books but this did not keep his attention past the 2nd page. I did enjoy reading it though.

Great story to share with students about to write a persuasive essay. Cute story.

Illustration were distracting for Bilingual students.

We love this book as my grandson loves iguanas!

Great mentor text for kinders. They loved the story and also learned how to persuade from the main character.

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