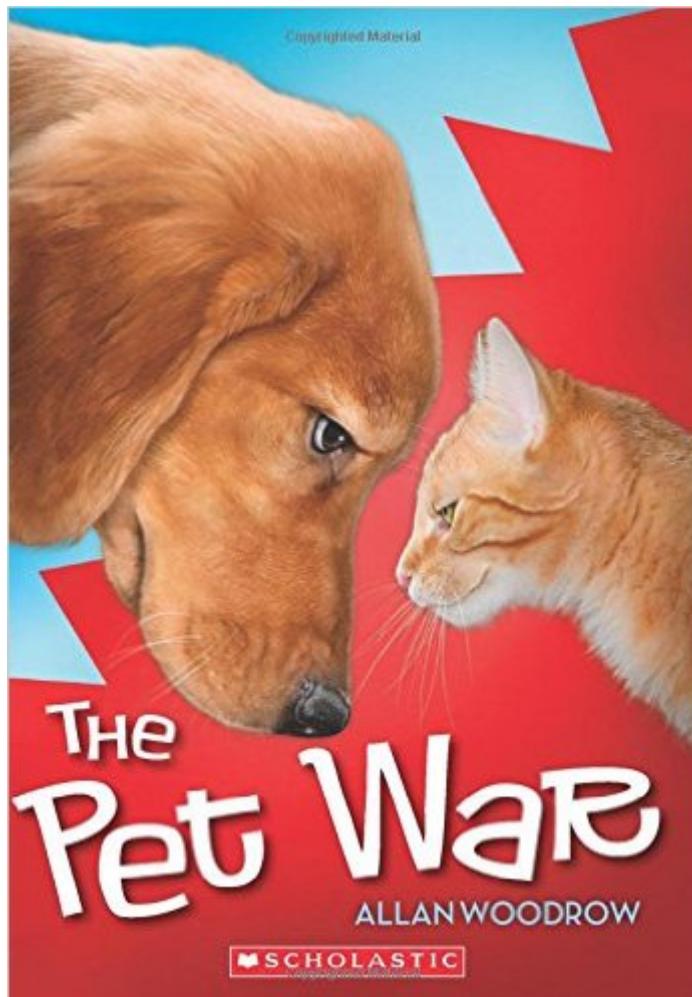


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# The Pet War



## **Synopsis**

THE PET WAR is a hilarious story about the timeless battles of dog vs. cat, brother vs. sister, know-it-all vs. know-nothing. Eleven-year-old Otto wants a dog. His twelve-year-old perfect sister, Lexi, wants a cat. Their mother, who works very long hours as a nurse, wants neither. Pets are expensive so who's going to pay for everything? And what happens to the pet when the siblings are at their dad's for the weekend? Otto has an idea. What if he got a job and earned enough money to pay for the dog? Then Lexi has to open her big mouth. She proposes that whichever sibling can raise enough money first will decide which pet they get. Oddly enough, their mom and dad agree. With Otto and Lexi each out to defeat the other, their business plans become more elaborate and involved. As the competition gets fiercer, the stakes get higher, and the battle lines have been drawn, so let the Pet War begin. . . .

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; Reprint edition (April 28, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545513200

ISBN-13: 978-0545513203

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,848 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets #31 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings #137 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

I liked this book, for reasons set out below. But first, here's a question. How does a brand new reader know when something is cliched? When you read your first book about a normal kid who, unbeknownst to him, is really half royal Faerie, do you know there are lots of those books around? How about the quest for the secret grimoire that the evil villain wants? Or the suspicion that your teacher is an alien? Or the telepathic pet? And so on. When I started this book I thought that pretty

much every single character, plot line, best friend, and conversation was something I'd seen before. Then I got a grip and stopped being a snot. After all, every single landscape painting has trees, a stream and a cow - you can still look at more than one, though, because they're all composed and executed differently. Same thing here. We have the eternal brother/sister conflict, the dog/cat conflict, the unhelpful best friend, the unpredictable parents, the incomprehensible adults, and pretty much everything else that bedevils an eleven year old. But, it is all drawn together into a satisfying whole. Nothing is over the top. Our hero's narration is humorous and clever, with occasional mostly unintended insights that a young reader will pick up. The brother/sister conflict is real, but not psychotic. The idea of the pet war is a little cutesy, but it keeps the book moving forward and it's not obsessive. The failed attempts at money making are clever and realistic, not frantic/zany. The upshot is that the book is cheerful and amusing. It is written for and works for exactly the right target readership. It has a consistent and inviting tone.

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