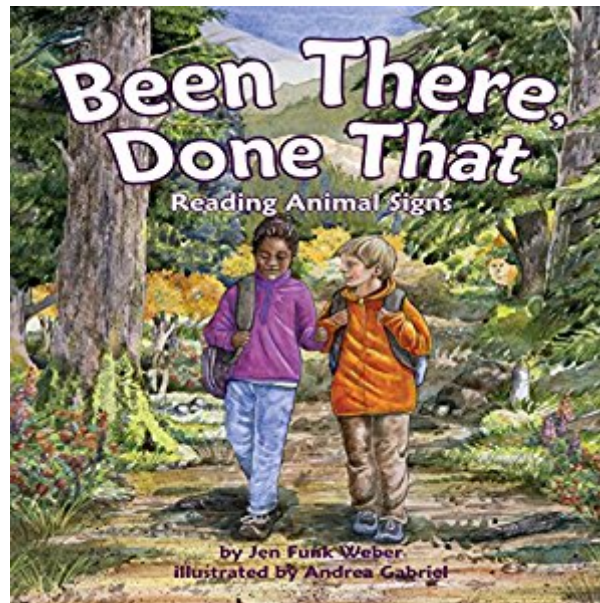




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Been There, Done That: Reading Animal Signs



Synopsis

Spotting wildlife is a thrill, but it's not easy. When Cole comes to visit his friend, Helena, he can't wait to see all the wildlife the forest has to offer - and is disappointed when all he sees are a few birds. Together, the kids set out on a hike and encounter plenty of animal signs along the way. Through observation and her knowledge of animal behavior, Helena helps Cole learn what each of the signs means: Something had been there; something had done that.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What a beautiful book, and not just for children. I purchased my copy for myself, and have read it to my grandson numerous times, but it will stay at MomMom's house to be enjoyed as a special read. The story line while being accurate, has a repetitive cadence that is soothing. Great information well presented, and the illustrations are just awesome. Appreciate that both genders are represented, and that it is multicultural. I do know the author and Jen is such a talented person and I hope her African trip becomes a book. Bravo Jen!

What a fun book! Jen's story and Andrea's wonderful artwork are a pleasure just to look at. But the story reminds us that you need to really LOOK when you're outside, there's so much there that we all miss. And just in case we don't know what to look for, the last pages show what to look for, with a game, a craft and what signs to look for, even human signs! It serves to remind us that we share this planet with many creatures!

Enjoyed this book! The author's descriptions of what two kids encounter during a hike is perfectly

written. It will make you feel like you are right along, looking for animals with them. The illustrations are beautiful. I highly recommend this book!

Bought this book to read with the grandkids - they love animals and were fascinated with the story and the pictures. We went outside later looking for sign of the animals!!

Been There, Done That, Reading Animal Signs By Jen Funk Weber, illustrated by Andrea Gabriel The magic of discovery is brought to life with this perfect pairing of text and art to stop the reader in their tracks and discover what can't be seen from what can. Part mystery, part nature, this book traces the clues of animal activities to allow the reader to "see" them when they are not visible. The telltale signs of the napping grounds of a moose, the bark-stripped base of willows, the dropped eagle feather, all described in vocabulary-enriching terms paired with intriguing illustrations speak of the animals that had been there and done that. Meaningful on many levels, the book inspires reflection on how we find and leave the earth and others. A bonus suggestion of activities to undertake in the field or classroom make this book a perennial favorite.

This book reminds me of the first time I ever went on a hike with a naturalist. Their ability to turn a seemingly empty forest into a world full of animals through insightful observation was seemingly magical. In *Been There Done That*, two children go on a walk in the woods together. Cole doesn't see any animals, but Helena is watchful and perceptive about the small changes to the environment that indicate "something had been there." Easily read as an interesting story or used as a launch pad for your own scientific discoveries, *Been There Done That* is a fascinating adventure in the woods sure to inspire everyone to look a little more closely at the world around them.

"*Been There, Done That*" is beautifully written and illustrated, featuring two kids at the center of exploring the outdoors in what feels like a very real and matter of fact way. The book starts with skepticism--a young visitor asks his friend "where are your wild animals?". The boy says he's only seen birds since the start of his visit. His host gently helps him see what surrounds them both during a walk in the woods. The book quickly moves into noticing signs of many wild animals in the landscape, using the "been there, done that" trope to indicate how creatures leave clues about their activities behind. A bear, fox, beaver, eagle and more are not seen firsthand by the boy and girl; but rather evidence the creatures have left behind. The signs go beyond prints and scat, and are both

mysterious and richly illustrated in such a way that the clues could be easily identified in the outdoors after reading this book (some helpful exercises at the end reinforce this). It's easy to get lost in exploring the pages, and the book is really an inspiring call to explore the outdoors and take deeper notice of the signs of creatures all around us, but the story invites us to take one step further in thinking about human impact as well. What do we leave behind when we've "been there, done that"? This book encourages children both to observe the outdoors in a deeper way to take note of animal signs more subtle than flapping wings, and also gently helps them to think about themselves and the signs they leave behind. What a wonderful read at an important time for all kids and adults who wish to foster a deeper connection to the outdoors.

This book makes me think of all the people that come to our home in the woods and do not know how to look . . . and is a kind story. It is a nice presentation of nature noticing, of a rural kid being helpful. Plus it models watchfulness and time. The rabbits were there months ago - as seen by the height of the tree bark loss. That's how high the snow was when the rabbits fed. So it tells the story of the seasons. Plus there are resources at the back of the book to help the reader learn more. All in all a great book for middle age nature lovers and those who will be their guides. Good going!

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