

The Cat in the Hat -- Who is he?



Hello, my name is Phillip Black. I'm known as The Cat in the Hat.

You may have seen me near CVS on Wisconsin Avenue. I am homeless, and I sell Street Sense to earn a living. Street Sense is a newspaper to empower the homeless. The paper costs only a dollar.

I wear a striped hat and Mardi Gras beads to get noticed so people will buy papers. There are 105 people selling Street Sense. I usually sell about 35 papers a day.

I was a plumber before I went into poverty. I got poor by getting bleeding ulcers. Bleeding ulcers can happen when you don't eat often. Stomach acid is released, and when there is no food, your acid just sits there and makes sores in your stomach. Eventually, the sores will start bleeding.

So I had to go to the hospital. I didn't have any health insurance, and when I left the hospital, I didn't have a job.

I am the only one in my family that is poor. I sleep on the street behind Best Buy. I have been doing this for five years.

-- as told to Tana Palamino

NICKY AND ALEX by Annie Brennan



MOVIE REVIEW

A Teenage Viking and A Dragon Called Toothless

By Tana Palamino

Right off the top, I'll tell you that I give this great animated movie 9 stars out of a possible 10.

This movie takes place probably around 850 AD, when the Vikings lived in a British seashore village and a nearby forest.

The central character is Hiccup, a teenage son of the leader of the Vikings. His father wants him to be a great Viking like himself, but Hiccup disagrees. Instead of fighting dragons, he secretly keeps one as a pet and trains it. He even has a name for it: Toothless.

Hiccup tries to keep his secret from his father. But can he keep it for long?

This movie is slow-paced at the beginning, but at the end, it's really exciting. The ending, which I liked most, is partly sad and partly happy.

I saw this movie in 3D and the picture was amazing! I definitely recommend that you see this movie in 3D instead of 2D.

The message of this movie is to follow your own dreams, and be what you want to be, not what someone else wants you to be.

The voices really fit the characters. Jay Baruchel is especially good as Hiccup. He starred in "She's out of my League" and other films. The voice of Astrid, a Viking teen who is a favorite friend of Hiccup's, is performed well by America Ferrera of Tinker Bell fame.

I recommend this movie to kids ages 7 and up, and adults. The end, I think, is too violent for little ones.

FAVORITE BOOKS

The Giver by Lois Lowry. "It is a unique story." -- Mrs. Zeedyk (2nd grade)

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl. "It changes the ordinary into the extraordinary." -- Mrs. David (3rd grade)