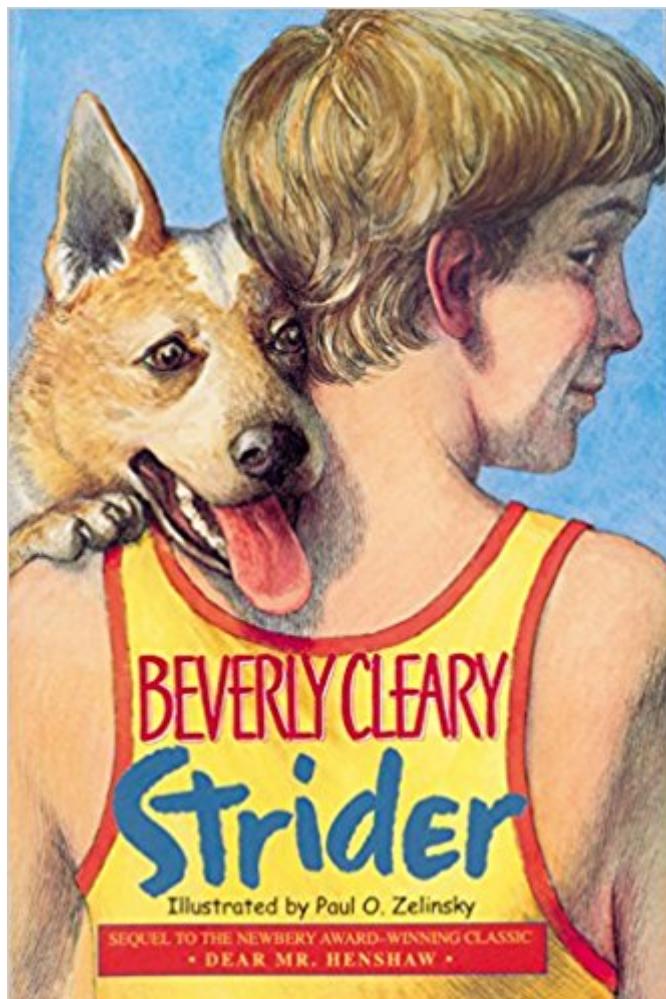


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# Strider



## **Synopsis**

Strider has a new habit. Whenever we stop, he places his paw on my foot. It isn't an accident because he always does it. I like to think he doesn't want to leave me. Can a stray dog change the life of a teenage boy? It looks as if Strider can. He's a dog that loves to run; because of Strider, Leigh Botts finds himself running -- well enough to join the school track team. Strider changes Leigh on the inside, too, as he finally begins to accept his parents' divorce and gets to know a redhead girl he's been admiring. With Strider's help, Leigh finds that the future he once hated to be asked about now holds something he never expected: hope.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 840 (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reissue edition (August 8, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0380712369

ISBN-13: 978-0380712366

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 48 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #160,724 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #906 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs #2836 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Two boys share custody of a dog in this sequel to the Newbery Award winner Dear Mr. Henshaw . Ages 8-12. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 4-7-- Leigh Botts, the protagonist of the Newbery winner Dear Mr. Henshaw (Morrow, 1983), is once again recording his thoughts on paper. While cleaning his room, he discovers his old diary and is inspired to start writing again. Now 14, he is still dealing with some of the same issues from earlier days--his parents' divorce, concerns about his father's sincerity and financial stability, and

insecurities about his own identity and popularity. He also has a few new worries--namely Geneva, a girl, and Strider, a dog. Leigh and his friend Barry find the abandoned pooch on the beach and decide to try "joint custody." It is not the perfect arrangement. Because Leigh's attachment to Strider fills the emotional voids in his life, he becomes reluctant to share him. Eventually, the two boys work through the tensions that threaten their friendship. At the same time, Leigh and his father develop a new understanding. Although the story is centered around Leigh's relationship with Strider, this is more than just "a boy and his dog" book. Cleary's talent for portraying the details of everyday life--both small and significant--is evident here. Her characters are unique individuals and "every children" at the same time. Strider lacks the subtle poignancy found in *Dear Mr. Henshaw*, and some readers may find Leigh's interest and responses more appropriate for an 11 or 12 year old than a 14 year old, but Cleary's fans will relate to his challenges and triumphs--whether or not they've read the first title.- Heide Piehler, Shorewood Public Library, WI  
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I have read Cleary's books since childhood. Strider is refreshing because she matures the characters. Cleary's books improved my reading skills at a very fast pace.

great book

My seventh-grade son (who was a fan of Henry Huggins when he was younger but had grown out of him) loved it. So did I. Perfect dose of nice boy and (adolescence oblige) attitude. Growing up but staying nice, at least most of the time. Hurrah for Beverly Cleary.

It was a story of hope and love between a young boy going through transitions and a dog who helps him make the transition.

I loved *Dear Mr. Henshaw* growing up, but never read the sequel. Glad I did as I always wondered about Leigh Botts and how he was doing! Good book for children (and adults who want a short read).

I love this book. It's a follow-up to *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. It's special because it takes place in the Monterey, Pacific Grove area, which is close by.

Great product, highly recommended.

My son and I read this book together and we both thought it was a very good book!!! We recommend this book to anyone who wants to read a good book!

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Strider Black Bullet, Vol. 6 (light novel): Purgatory Strider

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