

The Story Behind Pebble the Puffin



Pebble the Puffin began many years ago as a piece of Grade 4 artwork created by my daughter when she was nine years old. Like many childhood creations, Pebble was carefully tucked away and almost forgotten. When I came across the little puffin again years later, its cheerful expression and simple charm immediately made me smile.

My daughter does not remember creating Pebble, but the artwork captures something of the child she was. She loved animals, cared deeply about wildlife and once imagined that she might grow up to become a zoologist in Madagascar. She was also rarely without a book. Reading was not simply something she enjoyed. It was one of the great passions of her childhood.

I like to imagine that some of that curiosity and love of the natural world found its way into Pebble when she drew it. Perhaps Pebble's bright, happy character was waiting all these years for a story and a new adventure.

When I began working on this book, Pebble felt like a natural companion for it. The little puffin represents curiosity, imagination and the joy of discovery, qualities that books help awaken in all of us. Using my daughter's childhood artwork also gives Pebble a special history and connects this book to many happy memories of her growing up.

My daughter has since built a successful life and career of her own, but her love of animals and reading continues. With her enthusiastic blessing, the puffin she created at nine years old has now become Pebble, a small childhood drawing given a new purpose, a new story and a chance to delight a new generation of readers.