



Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys

By Stephen James, David Thomas

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Playing off the themes in the Caldecott Medal-winning children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*, this informative, practical, and encouraging guide will help parents guide boys down the path to healthy and authentic manhood. *Wild Things* addresses the physical, emotional, and spiritual parts of a boy, written by two therapists who are currently engaged in clinical work with boys and their parents and who are also fathers raising five sons. Contains chapters such as “Sit Still! Pay Attention!” “Deficits and Disappointments,” and “Rituals, Ceremonies, and Rites of Passage.”

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Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys By Stephen James, David Thomas Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

James, Stephen & David Thomas. *Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys*. Tyndale House. Feb. 2009. c.351p. ISBN 978-1-4143-2227-8. pap. \$14.99. CHILD REARING

This worthy, engaging owner's manual on boys aged two to 22 is written from a reserved, supportive Christian perspective. With five sons between them, the authors (both therapists) view testosterone-fueled shenanigans with droll humor and encourage parents to remain calm when upsetting things inevitably occur. The authors aptly demonstrate their view that "[t]he older a boy gets, the more he needs from his caregivers." With real-life examples both mundane and dramatic, they discuss characteristics frequently shared among boys of similar ages and provide guidance on what boys need most during those stages. Practical direction (e.g., give young "Explorers" "space to roam"), along with encouragement to be open and honest when parenting, is constant. While some suggestions (e.g., monitoring MySpace accounts or backpack inspections) may alarm some at first, they are tempered by the authors' admonition to "keep a watchful eye" and inform sons you'll be doing so. The work effectively straddles William Sears's attachment parenting and the more openly authoritative style of John Rosemond. In a crowded field, this work is highly recommended for all public libraries and for collections supporting teachers and the helping professions.--Douglas C. Lord, Connecticut State Lib., Hartford --Library Journal, February 2009

Review

"As a pediatrician I see parents everyday wrestling with how to understand and guide their sons. If you're looking for practical parenting skills these pages are filled with sound advice. The authors break down each stage of a boy's journey and it is filled with effective, simple tips that you can implement now. This book is one of the best parenting resources I've seen. " -- Dr Linda Brady, Pediatrician, Nashville "I loved this book! As a single mom for the past seven years, I couldn't wait to dive into David and Stephen's timely work. This mom of two wild things and two softer things needed their roadmap and driving instructions for the dangerous journey we are traveling. Bless you both for the wisdom you have given to me. May all our boys be nurtured and loved until they are the honorable men God intended for them to become." --Angela Thomas, Speaker and Best-selling author of *My Single Mom Life*. "David and Stephen have once again demonstrated the beauty and power of fraternal collaboration in their newest book, *Mentoring Boys*. If I didn't know otherwise, I would assume these two guys were grand-dads, not young dads, when I consider the depth of wisdom and breadth of practical applications captured between the covers of this volume. How I wish I had this book when my son was younger, yet the same principles of loving well are applicable from generation to generation. If you want hope and not hype, but this book. It is a joy to unequivocally endorse it, and I look forward to putting it in the hands of many dads, and moms as well. " -- Scotty Smith, Founding Pastor Christ Community Church "God has entrusted a unique and powerful gift to Dave Thomas to understand the complex language of a boy's heart and help interpret it for us who love them. This is an important book about a very important subject."

--Steven Curtis and Mary Beth Chapman

From the Back Cover

Born to be . . . wild! A boy's endless imagination, hunger for adventure, and passionate spirit are matched only by his deep desire to be affirmed, esteemed, and loved. Yet over the past few decades, our culture has adopted a model of parenting and educating boys that doesn't affirm, celebrate, or embrace a boy's hunger,

passion, or wildness but rather seeks to tame it. As a result, many parents, teachers, coaches, and mentors find themselves frustrated, confused, and wearied by boys' behavior. The truth is, boys don't need to be tamed—they need to be understood, loved, challenged, and encouraged. *Wild Things* helps parents, teachers, mentors, and others understand and explore the hearts, minds, and ways of boys—and the vital role that parents and caregivers play on the journey to manhood. Based on clinical research and filled with practical tips and suggestions, *Wild Things* gives fresh insight and much-needed encouragement on the road to raising boys.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sheila Walker:

Inside other case, little men and women like to read book *Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys*. You can choose the best book if you'd prefer reading a book. Given that we know about how is important any book *Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys*. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world by just a book. Absolutely right, because from book you can know everything! From your country until eventually foreign or abroad you will end up known. About simple issue until wonderful thing you are able to know that. In this era, we can easily open a book as well as searching by internet unit. It is called e-book. You may use it when you feel weary to go to the library. Let's go through.

Kevin Primeaux:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is certainly always change and advance. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to a person is you don't know which you should start with. This *Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Bonnie Mentzer:

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Molly Maldonado:

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