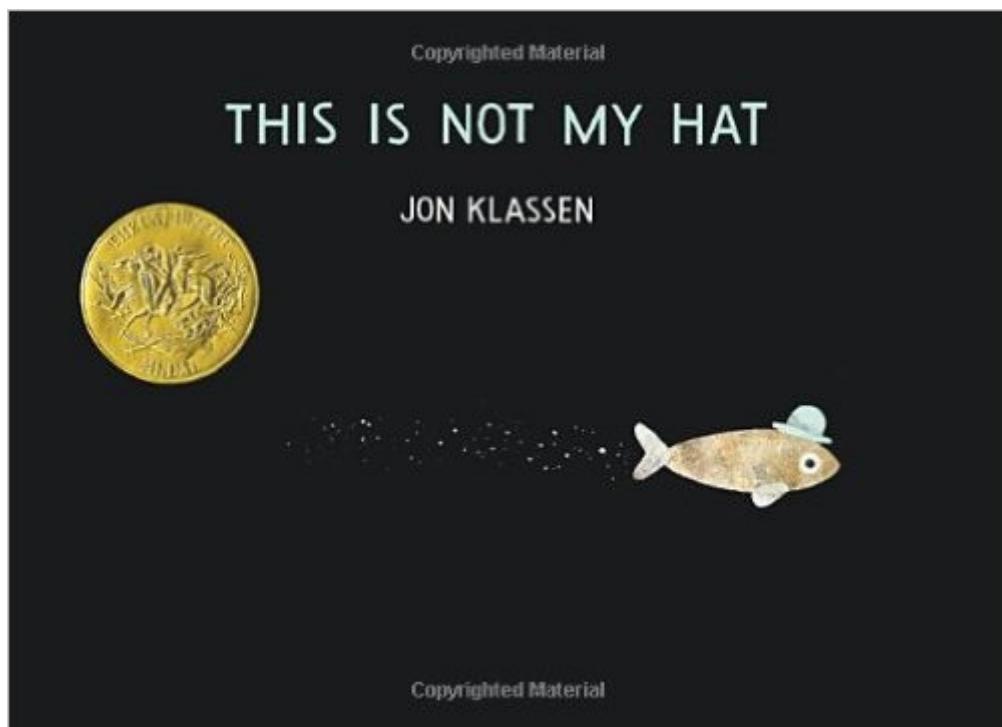


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This Is Not My Hat



Synopsis

WINNER OF THE 2013 CALDECOTT MEDAL! From the creator of the #1 New York Times best-selling and award-winning *I Want My Hat Back* comes a second wry tale. When a tiny fish shoots into view wearing a round blue topper (which happens to fit him perfectly), trouble could be following close behind. So it's a good thing that enormous fish won't wake up. And even if he does, it's not like he'll ever know what happened. . . . Visual humor swims to the fore as the best-selling Jon Klassen follows his breakout debut with another deadpan-funny tale.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 340L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; 1st Edition edition (October 9, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763655996

ISBN-13: 978-0763655990

Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 0.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 451 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,049 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Fish #46 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values #50 in Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Year 2012: Jon Klassen first surprised readers with his runaway best seller, *I Want My Hat Back*, and his follow-up, *This Is Not My Hat* is an inside out version that is even more fun. Not only did Klassen go with a dark color scheme where the last was light, the action takes place underwater with much of the story told through the expressive illustrations of sea creatures. From the little fish who steals a bowler hat to the crab who sells him out with eyeballs pointing the way, there are lots of laughs along with lessons. This time Klassen created an ambiguous ending that invites lively conversation about the possible outcomes and ultimately leaves it up to the child to decide the little fish's fate with every reading. --Seira Wilson

PreS-Gr 1-With this new creation, Klassen repeats the theme from *I Want My Hat Back* (Candlewick, 2011), but with a twist. The narrator here is the thief-a small, self-confident fish who has pilfered a little blue bowler from a big sleeping fish. He wastes no time or words in confessing his crime as he swims across the page announcing, "This hat is not mine. I just stole it." He continues his narrative with no regrets, but with a bit of rationalizing ("It was too small for him anyway.") as he swims to his hiding place, unaware that the big fish is in quiet pursuit. Readers, of course, are in on this little secret. When the two disappear into a spread filled with seaweed, the narration goes silent, and youngsters can easily surmise what happens as the big fish reemerges with the tiny blue bowler atop his head. Simplicity is key in both text and illustrations. The black underwater provides the perfect background for the mostly gray-toned fish and seaweed while the monochromatic palette strips the artwork down to essential, yet exquisite design. Movement is indicated with a trail of small white bubbles. This not-to-be-missed title will delight children again and again.-Carolyn Janssen, Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, Cincinnati, OH[†] (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Klassen's art is just fabulous and his view of life seems quite quirky! My 7-year-old daughter and I love him! For some reason, this is the last of the hat trilogy for us to read. Klassen's comic timing with his illustrations is superb. He makes subtle changes to the illustrations that actually create a dramatic and humorous impact. We laughed out loud reading this. For example, Klassen shows us a large fish that fills 2 pages in profile with his eye closed. The little fish has just stolen the big fish's hat while he sleeps but we only see the big fish. On the next 2 pages, the little fish is thinking that "he probably won't wake up for a long time" and at that time we are looking at the same picture of the big fish but with his eye open. The next page the little fish thinks that "even if he does wake up, he probably won't notice that it's gone" and without changing anything in the picture except the big fish's eye we know he notices. The big fish's pupil is pointed up toward his head! Then on the next page, the little fish thinks that "even if he does notice that it's gone, he probably won't know it was me who took it." This time Klassen uses the exact same 2-page big fish picture but the fish knowingly narrows his eye. Klassen is just genius to convey so much with so little! We do not see the little fish until 13 pages into the story although the book is entirely from his perspective. My daughter and I hotly debated the end. We know the big fish emerges from the dense plants with his hat back and we no longer hear from the little fish. I am firmly in the little-fish-got-eaten camp but my daughter believes he is hiding in shame. Such fun regardless!

This Is Not My Hat is a companion piece to Jon Klassen's earlier I Want My Hat Back, only it takes place underwater instead of in a forest; and the story is told from the point of view of the thief and not the, er, victim. The end result, however, is pretty much the same. If you don't like I Want My Hat Back because of the conclusion, you will not like This Is Not My Hat, either. It helps to have a sense of humor. It helps even more if your humor has dark tendencies. The artwork for This is Not My Hat is every bit as wickedly delightful as the earlier book's, with a bit more of a build-up in the tension and a seek-and-find on one of the two-page spreads.

My first grade students loved this book! They were really amused how the little fish made little assumptions like, "And he probably won't wake up for a long time" and the picture would show otherwise (the big fish was actually awake!) This book served as a great mentor text for teaching the strategy of asking questions. Using turn & talk, the students asked questions before, during, and after reading. I kept adding them to our "Good Readers Ask Questions" chart. The book is not that long, but make sure you give the children enough time to look closely at the pictures to see how they contradict the main character's thoughts. The students came up with lots of questions that were left unanswered after reading which led to a very lively and engaging discussion! I highly recommend this book for early primary.

Me and my husband are always looking for kids books that might not be seen on the traditional family bookshelf. This book is THAT book! We originally read it in a bookstore with our son and couldn't stop laughing. Such a unique book where the words narrate a story but the illustrations say something else completely. Yes the end may not be rainbows and butterflies but neither is real life. We felt like it had a good moral for our son that for every action comes a consequence. We can't wait to share it with our daughter when she gets a bit older. Adults and new parents may appreciate it more than young kids but eventually they'll get the humor.

My two daughters, aged 2 and 4, love this book! We first picked it up at the library, and after reading it many many times a day for two weeks straight, I decided to buy it for them. It still is one of the books they like to look at almost daily. The premise is pretty simple: a small fish steals a small hat from a big fish. The words are also pretty simple, but the pictures go along with them speak volumes. My daughters love to contradict what the little fish says by pointing out what's happening in the pictures (me: "...he probably won't wake up" them: "He's awake! He's awake!") I was a little

surprised by all the negative reviews saying this book teaches dubious morals about stealing or animals eating other animals. I think that's absurd. My girls understood from the very beginning of this book that stealing isn't OK, and this book has prompted lots of discussions about what you should do if someone steals something (and neither one of them has ever thought killing the thief is the right thing to do!) Anyway, this is a delightful book, and doesn't bore me to death everytime I have to read it! It won it's award based on the artwork, which is show-stopping! I'll be hanging onto this book hopefully for my future grandkids!

I understand why some people think this story is a little dark for small children. The ending certainly implies that the small fish met an unfortunate end. I chose to fill in my own words where the fish are in the plants. "The big fish found the little fish and told him it's not ok to take things that don't belong to you. The little fish said sorry and gave the hat back." Simple as that! Also, my 2 year olds don't really understand death at this point, so they can't assume that's what happened to the little fish. I wonder if it's mostly pessimistic adults thinking the worst of what's going down in the place where the plants grow close together. The illustrations are dark, but very well done. My kids liked this book, so that's all that matters to me!

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