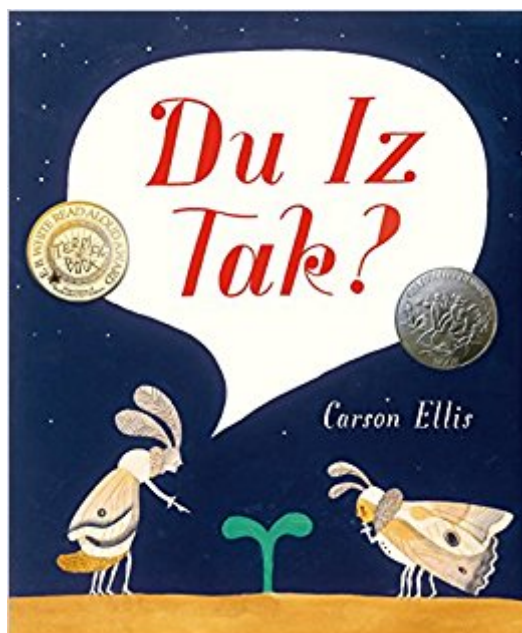


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# Du Iz Tak? (E. B. White Read-Aloud Award. Picture Books)



## Synopsis

A 2017 Caldecott Honor Book The creator of Home turns a droll eye to the natural world, with gorgeous art and a playful invented language. Du iz tak? What is that? As a tiny shoot unfurls, two damselflies peer at it in wonder. When the plant grows taller and sprouts leaves, some young beetles arrive to gander, and soon "with the help of a pill bug named Icky" they wrangle a ladder and build a tree fort. But this is the wild world, after all, and something horrible is waiting to swoop down "booby voobeck!" only to be carried off in turn. Su! With exquisitely detailed illustrations and tragicomic flair, Carson Ellis invites readers to imagine the dramatic possibilities to be found in even the humblest backyard. Su!

## Book Information

Series: E. B. White Read-Aloud Award. Picture Books

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (October 18, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763665304

ISBN-13: 978-0763665302

Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 0.5 x 12.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 83 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #10,071 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bugs & Spiders #64 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature #173 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 3 "Using intricate illustrations supported by spare dialogue in an invented language, Ellis elegantly weaves the tale of several square feet of ground in the insect world as the seasons pass. Multiple story lines intersect: a mysterious plant bursting from the soil, the rise and fall of a spectacular fort, and a caterpillar's quiet then triumphant metamorphosis into a shimmering moth. The illustrations demand to be pored over, with exquisite attention to detail, from the extravagantly dressed anthropomorphized insects in top hats to the decor of Icky the pill bug's tree-stump home. Much of the book's action occurs on the lower halves of the pages, the ample white space

emphasizing the small world of the critters. As the flower and fort grow together and larger animals come into play, the illustrations take up more vertical space until the climax, when the plant blooms and is revealed to be a "gladenboot" (flower) and all of the insects come out to rejoice. As the weather cools, readers are treated to a delightful nighttime spread of the moth finally emerging and flying to a cricket's tune as the decayed flower's seeds dance all around. Though this could nearly work as a wordless book, the invented, sometimes alienlike language seemingly contains real syntax and offers readers the opportunity to puzzle over the meanings of the words and tell the story using their own interpretations. VERDICT This is a title that calls for multiple readings, as there is something new to be discovered each time. Perfect for one-on-one or small group sharing.â Clara Hendricks, Cambridge Public Library, MA

Carson Ellis has created a fantastic microcosm with her usual grace and inventiveness...I was completely captivated by Ellis's wonderful creatures, their charming little world and their droll language.â The New York Times Book Review Ellis (Home, 2015) elevates gibberish to an art form with her brilliant account of a few bugs, who discover a green shoot sprouting from the ground...Readers and pre-readers alike will find myriad visual cues in Ellis's splendid folk-style, gouache-and-ink illustrations that will allow them to draw meaning from the nonsensical dialogue, as well as observe the subtle changing of the seasons. The entire story unfolds on the same small stretch of ground, where each new detail is integral to the scene at hand. Effortlessly working on many levels, Ellis's newest is outstanding.â Booklist (starred review) Viewers follow the unfurling of an exotic woodland plant through the actions and invented language of beautifully coiffed and clothed insects...This is certain to ignite readers' interest and imaginings regarding their natural surroundings. Following the minute changes as the pages turn is to watch growth, transformation, death, and rebirth presented as enthralling spectacle.â Kirkus Reviews (starred review) In a wordless coda of successive double-page spreads we are comforted by the cycle of the seasons. By the final words, "Du iz tak?" we are fluent speakers of Bug. Completely scrivadelly, this is a tour de force of original storytelling.â Horn Book (starred review) Ellis's (Home) bewitching creation stars a lively company of insects who speak a language unrelated to English, and working out what they are saying is one of the story's delights...Very gently, Ellis suggests that humans have no idea what wonders are unfolding at their feetâ and that what takes place in the lives of insects is not so different from their own. Has there ever been anything quite like it? Ma nazoot.â Publishers Weekly (starred review) It's a genuinely charming story with brain-tickling interest from the dialogue, and it earns a satisfying edge from the silent and decisive victory over the spider. Ellis is

best known as an illustrator, and her oversized gouache and ink spreads deftly balance playfulness and precision, intricacy and airy background...Readers-aloud will want a practice run to ensure their intonation carries the meaning of the words, but it will all make perfect and pleasing sense to imaginative listeners.â Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review) Using intricate illustrations supported by spare dialogue in an invented language, Ellis elegantly weaves the tale of several square feet of ground in the insect world as the seasons pass...This is a title that calls for multiple readings, as there is something new to be discovered each time. Perfect for one-on-one or small group sharing.â School Library Journal High drama ensues in the clean, odd, beautiful pages ahead. A marvel.â Shelf Awareness for Readers Ellis's precise and detailed illustrations of bespectacled bugs and an elaborate fort utterly beguile...It would be easy to make such a story clever for the sake of being clever, but instead Ellis has created one of the smartest, most original and most endearing picture books of this year. Du iz tak? It's a keeper is what it is.â BookPage Sophisticated, curious, well-dressed bugs watch as a plant shoot grows and blossoms into a magnificent flower. Their miniature world is alluringly well-realized and includes an invented language, which young readers delight in decoding.â The Boston Globe There's an elusive yet distinctly joyful quality to Carson Ellis's picture book that feels like suspended glee, or a laugh caught halfway in the throat. As in her 2015 debut, "Home," the gouache and ink illustrations in "Du Iz Tak?" are chic and subtly witty. But this time Ms. Carson matches them with dialogue in the enchanting foreign language of the elegantly dressed beetles and insects that live on a small, eventful patch of earth.â The Wall Street Journal Written entirely in the playful and amusing language of bugs, it isn't necessary to speak fluent moth or ladybug to enjoy the growth and metamorphoses creatively combined through Carson Ellis's delightful words and fanciful illustrations as the seasons subtly transform.â ForeWord Reviews With minimal text and crisp images, Ellis's book is deceptively simple, but don't be fooled; this whimsical story requires a close reading to truly absorb all its subtle delights.â Globe and Mail Here's a bright, refined fantasy world to be lost in, and one that has its dark, seasonal drama to boot. Good for kids who like to imagine miniature worlds.â Toronto Star A bold retro color palette and lots of white space allow a big beautiful story plenty of room to breathe.â Chicago Tribune A discerning eye and ear are prerequisites for decoding this elegantly esoteric concoction, and they are outcomes, too.â San Francisco Chronicle

Wow! I am a grandmother now and have been collecting children's picture books for decades. This book is a masterpiece! The execution, words, pictures...I studied it over and over, and each time I read it, I found it to be more and more delightful. All ages would enjoy it: little ones for the

illustrations, older folks for the clever use of language. I suspect English teachers in the elementary grades could use it as the basis for a lesson plan in linguistics. If you collect children's picture books for their artistic value as I do, and have only a shelf or two to display the best of the best, then this is a MUST purchase.

This is an amazing book! I am a speech-language pathologist who works with K-5th grade and I can tell you that this book worked for all of these grade levels. The students interacted with this book so much that it took me two sessions to get through the whole thing. They loved finding the details and making inferences and predictions. The imaginary insect language was fun to de-code using the picture clues. I would recommend this to any educator.

Such a fun, original, imaginative book and such beautiful illustrations. I bought one for my niece AND one for my adult daughter because I knew she'd love the fantastic invented language and detailed illustrations.

This a gift that we received and we have in turn given it to a number of our closest friends. Highly recommend it - it will stand out among the sea of Dr. Seuss books!

Amazing. I would especially recommend to any parent who values language and communication, or is raising a child with more than one language at home.

Excellent book to teach context clues! I am a School Librarian and used this with small groups of 3rd and 4th graders. I gave them a chart to keep track of the bug language and what it means. They had to keep flipping back and forth in the book to figure out the words. They loved it!

Very interesting book. It got my kids attention. Especially 4 year old loved it

One of the best books I've ever read for children....and I'm a mother, grandmother and K-5 educator! My grand babies LOVE this book!

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