



I Have A Balloon

Ariel Bernstein , Scott Magoon (Illustrator)

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Monkey desperately wants Owl's balloon and tries everything to get what he wants—this is not a book about sharing.

I Have A Balloon Details

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Author : Ariel Bernstein , Scott Magoon (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review I Have A Balloon for online ebook

Gaia Cornwall says

Readers with small children will wryly recognize their little ones in Owl and Monkey's antics. Bernstein's text is pitch perfect, and along with Scott Magoon's bright and graphic illustrations, they capture the fickle desires of kiddos everywhere. Young readers will find it hilarious and want to read it again and again--witty and clever, their adults will happily oblige.

Kelsey says

Age: Toddler-Kindergarten
Familiar Experience: Sharing
Emotion: Desire

Straightforward dialogue is shared between an owl holding a balloon and a monkey:

"I have a balloon."
"You have a balloon."
"I have a balloon."
"That is a big balloon."

The reader soon finds out that Monkey *wants* that balloon but nothing he does can convince Owl to give it up. That is until Monkey offers a holey, starred sock that finally convinces Owl to trade. But now that Monkey's sock holds value, he's not likely to give it up.

Not exactly the best book to show children how to share, it is a relatable--and humorous--story, nonetheless.

Katie says

Owl has a balloon. Monkey really wants the balloon, talking first about how wonderful the balloon is, then offering all sorts of stuff to trade Owl for the balloon. A sock catches Owl's eye just as Monkey is about to accept defeat. Owl grows excited about the potential of having a sock and tells Monley all the wonderful things that can be done with a sock. It is enough to make Monkey want to keep the sock. Both animals are now happy with what they have. The last page shows a lemur holding an ice cream. We can assume not Owl and Monkey will desire the ice cream and the cycle will continue.

As every child has probably tried to negotiate a trade with another child, these characters are relatable, and their attempts to negotiate are comical. The illustrations show the emotions well, and the text moves at a good pace. A good reader will have some emotion in their voice that will really bring each character alive, and help children understand the emotions on each page as well.

Lauri Meyers says

Such an excellent book about being happy with what you have. Perfect for the child learning to share and the adult struggling with fear of missing out on Facebook!

Chana Stiefel says

Spoiler Alert: This is NOT a book about sharing. That tongue-in-cheek warning in the jacket copy will keep you flipping the pages as we follow the saga of Owl, who has a big, red, shiny balloon, and Monkey, who covets that balloon real bad since "it's the only thing I've ever wanted since right now." Monkey energetically tries to make a trade, but Owl hangs on to that balloon, until...Monkey (pant, pant) comes up with a single sock with a star and a perfectly-shaped hole. Will the pair make a trade? Ariel Bernstein's snarky text synchs perfectly with Scott Magoon's hilarious illustrations. Forget sharing: Kids will be fighting (or at least bartering) over this book!

Jessica ? says

This book is like Nutella for me. Everyone loves it except me and I feel like a huge weirdo for not being in love with it.

I found it repetitive and boring and hard to read. My son and I both got bored about halfway through.

Tracy says

Thanks to the Kid Lit Exchange for the review copy of this books. As always, all opinions are my own.

Owl has a red balloon. Monkey wants it. Only one goofball animal can win. The book summary reads, "Spoiler alert: This is not a book about sharing."

I received this new picture book on Friday and it immediately went missing. Not long after, I found my 6-year-old curled up behind the couch reading it aloud to herself. The book uses repetitive phrases that makes this book funny and perfect for new readers. And although it may not be about sharing well, it's definitely a hilarious lesson in how NOT to share with your friends.

Cute, funny, and excellent for building reading confidence.

Jason Smith says

I found this book to be surprisingly funny and amusing and it definitely didn't take a direction I was expecting. This book is about an owl who meets a monkey. The owl has a balloon, and lo and behold the monkey wants the balloon. IN fact its all the monkey can want right now. So the monkey attempts to trade

all manner of things for this balloon, and eventually he discovers that the owl will accept a sock, with a star and a perfectly shaped hole in it, for his red balloon. But now our monkey friend realizes that what he has really wanted all along was a sock...with a star...and a perfectly shaped hole...The illustrations in this book are large and full bleed, with page breaks right in the middle of each page of illustration. Two pages are devoted to a montage of different images, and the colors leap off the page in spite of the thicker matte paper stock. I think this could be a good tool for teaching kids when it is appropriate to share, and when its not appropriate to badger someone for something they have. Possession and proper interaction of it is something every kid could learn. I found this book amusing and really enjoyed it because of the simple text the writer used to enhance the picture. The owl and his stoic no's and the monkey and his pleading tone...really let me feel the emotion and was something I really appreciated.

Melki says

Owl has a big, shiny, red balloon, and Monkey wants it. He's willing to trade for it, and has a lot of suggestions, all of which Owl rejects . . . *until* . . .

Very funny, very colorful, and BAM! - a surprise ending!

Reminds me quite a bit of classic Dr. Seuss.

Darinda says

Owl has a balloon, and Monkey wants it. Monkeys tried to get Owl to trade, but Owl isn't interested in anything Monkey offers for trade.

A cute and funny book about not sharing. Loved the ending.

Tasha says

A blue owl has a big red balloon. When a monkey sees it, he wants it so badly. He offers several things in trade for it, but the owl doesn't agree. Owl turns down a sunflower, a robot, a picture of balloons and a ball. In desperation, he offers a sock. Suddenly Owl perks up and starts to dream of all the things he can do with that sock with a red star on it and a perfect hole. But the deal is not so easily made! This clever and very funny picture book is written entirely in dialogue between the two animals. It has a vibrant and natural feel to it and is ideal for sharing aloud. The art by Magoon is also hilarious, offering ways to use socks, balloons and more. And the expressions on the animals faces are perfection. A fun pick for story times. Appropriate for ages 3-5.

Katey Howes says

Owl has a shiny red balloon. Monkey never knew just how much he wanted a shiny red balloon. He is willing to trade just about anything for that balloon. Except maybe a sock.

Parents will recognize some familiar "not sharing" behaviors, and kids will relish the surprise twist at the end. With its quick, witty dialogue and hilarious illustrations, this picture book is likely to become a read-aloud favorite in your house. It certainly has in mine!

Emma (Miss Print) says

This might be my new go-to storytime title. A great book about sharing--and not. The text is fun to read aloud and Magoon's illustrations are bold and bright. Also sure to inspire some fun discussions.

Cathy Mealey says

Why I Like This Book:

Kids and their stuff. Littles can become ardently passionate about the oddest possessions, particularly when said items are desired by a member of the competition. Bernstein nails this dynamic perfectly in her dialogue-driven story. Magoon enhances the hilarity with quirked eyebrows, defeated slouches, and exasperated frowns exchanged between the main characters, Owl and Monkey. Packed with funny, charming and oh-so-insightful truths for parents and young readers alike, *I HAVE A BALLOON* is a lighthearted look at the process of negotiation when sharing becomes paramount.

My favorite line:

“All I can do with my balloon is hold it. All day. Just standing here, holding it.”

Teresa says

“I Have a Balloon” has a tone reminiscent of P.D. Eastman’s classic “Are You My Mother” but is more irreverent with modern day humor sensibilities. Scott Magoon’s loose, expressive illustrations complements Ariel Bernstein’s seemingly simple yet deeply meaningful text beautifully. The writing is nuanced and doesn’t hit you over the head with a message even if you want to read it as a lesson on sharing. I prefer to read it as a hilarious observation of toddler (and adult) behavior and thinking. This is a brilliant book that will stand up to multiple readings in one sitting, and for years to come. It is definitely one of my all-time favorites!
