



Rain Makes Applesauce

Julian Scheer, Marvin Bileck (Illustrator)

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The stars are made of lemon juice...

...and rain makes applesauce.

Elbows grow on a tickle tree...

...and rain makes applesauce.

Oh, you're just talking silly talk.

This is a book of silly talk. It doesn't pretend to be anything else. And yet it is an extraordinary creation, in which author and artist speak to children in a very special way. The fanciful nonsense and marvelously intricate pictures are full of sly subtleties and happy surprises for both eye and ear.

It is a book of absurd delights, of tiny, fey graphic details, of captivating scenes and lyrical phrases that stretch the imagination. Children will return to it again and again for new meanings, new images, new responses.

Rain Makes Applesauce Details

Date : Published September 1st 1964 by Holiday House (first published June 1964)

ISBN : 9780823400911

Author : Julian Scheer , Marvin Bileck (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Humor



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From Reader Review Rain Makes Applesauce for online ebook

Angela Burke says

The illustrations are what made this book, hands down. The rhyming wasn't my favorite thing in the world, but it is visually pleasing.

Leslie says

One of the most beautiful -- and liltingly poetic -- children's books I've ever seen. This is one of the essential books for anyone looking to create a library of the very best picture books; it would also be a unique present for anyone who appreciates good illustration. And it's a great read-aloud book, but be prepared for a child to want to stop and pore over the pictures.

Marvin Bileck's illustrations are detailed and intricate, delicately colored, and wonderfully inventive. And although this book was published in 1964, the drawings look completely contemporary.

Kelly says

Silly talk, silly talk. But beautiful and whimsical.

Bvlmc Buchanan Verplanck Elementary School says

The beautiful, whimsical illustrations serve to propel this simple, nonsense poem forward. Using dual illustrations of both the "silly talk" of the poem and corner illustrations detailing the growth of an apple tree, its harvest and the process of making apple sauce the pictures move the poem along on its indiscernible path of imagination.

Lorna says

1965 Caldecott Honor

Favorite illustration: The title page with the view of the town and the title suspended on or by umbrellas.

Favorite line: Hmm. Hard one; they are all pretty odd.

Thoughts: Kids, especially ones taken to wildly imaginative imagery, might like this more than I did. The pattern of the text is that some nonsense activity is followed by the phrase, "but rain makes applesauce." None of the activities struck me as cute or clever, but just rather odd.

Robin Faith says

my all time favorite

Sandra says

A delightful, nonsensical book with lovely, whimsical, appropriately silly drawings - one of my kids' favorites - after each wildly silly statement (e.g., monkeys eat the chimney smoke), "oh, you're just talking silly talk - but the rain makes applesauce!"

Miriam says

"It is an extraordinary creation, in which author and artist speak to children in a very special way" ... Yeah, a "special way" that gave me the creeps when I was a kid. The nonsense repetition and surreal illustrations in this totally freaked me out. I couldn't stand how they kept saying "rain makes applesauce" over and over. This book is why I've never tried hallucinogens. I'm giving it three stars purely for the talent shown by the illustrator.

Melissa Griffith says

An odd book this was, being a folklore I wouldn't expect much else. Rain Makes Applesauce was a runner-up for the Caldecott Medal in 1965 and was one of the top 10 best illustrated children's book of 1964. This book has little words making it good for young children. This could also be used as a first reader. Honestly, the book did not have much of a story just silly words paired together to make you laugh. I absolutely love the illustrations however, the attention to detail was amazing. Everything was hand drawn and looked to take time to do so. For that I gave it 4 stars, even though it did not have much of a story the book worked well together and I would recommend it to anyone.

Angie says

I'm a sucker for a book that has some sort of gold or silver award medallion on the cover. This one is a Caldecott Honor recipient. I have learned, however, that I'm not always on the same page as the award committees. Silly, nonsensical books can be fun, and I try not to let my own tastes dictate what I read to my children. I've suffered through plenty of repeated readings of stories that have a nails-on-a-chalkboard effect on me. But even my littles didn't like this one, and they are very into "silly" these days. They sat there in a confused silence during the reading. While very detailed, the illustrations weren't engaging to my children

nor to me. The whole thing feels like it wanted to come across as fanciful and imaginative. Instead, it just came across (to us, anyway), as...well, weird. It is a rare thing to read a library book only once before returning it, but there were zero requests for this one again while it was in our possession.

Katherine Austin says

1) Book summary, in your own words (3 pts)

-There really is no storyline or plot to this book. Basically, it's all just silly talk that, in some sort of way, makes sense to children in a hilarious way. Though a book about nothing sounds quite boring, it is captivating and promotes even a mature reader's imagination.

2) Grade level, interest level, lexile (1 pt)

-Kindergarten-1st Grade

3) Appropriate classroom use (subject area) (1 pt)

-Science, learning about the weather but mostly for entertainment.

-Johnny Appleseed lesson.

4) Individual students who might benefit from reading (1 pt)

-Students with great imaginations or students that maybe need help exposing their creativity.

-Students who love silly things.

5) Small group use (literaturecircles) (1 pt)

-Students could look through pictures and determine what they think the book is about. Hearing their responses of what they think it's about would be hilarious.

6) Whole class use (read aloud) (1 pt)

-Carpet reading.

7) Related books in genre/subject or content area (1 pt)

-The Apple Pie that Papa Baked by Lauren Thompson

8) Multimedia connections (audio book, movie) available (1 pt)

-None available.

Michelle says

Thought I would like this more, and I can't believe I've never read this one!

Antonia says

For little ones. Not particularly special.

Jim Erekson says

Thanks for sharing this, Lu! I love the illustrations, and how they complement the rhythmic free verse feel of the single line text. There's something about the quilted, patchwork look of Bileck's illustrations that reminds me of Arcimboldo's paintings. My favorite one was "The wind blows backwards all night long..." Most of all, I loved reading the inscription inside and knowing it was your copy and that it has a history with your

family.

There's a prescient, or on the edge psychedelic thing going on here--about 3-4 years too early to be part of the Seymour Chwast, Yellow Submarine style. Maybe it's more neo-folk? Anyway, I always think of John Lennon instead of Edward Lear when I read nonsense literature.

What do we make of nonsense literature if we can't make sense of it?

Maria Rowe says

• 1965 Caldecott Honor Book •

I really just didn't get this book and the illustrations were a little weird for me - however, I did really love the idea of a jelly bean jungle!

What really fascinated me was when I read the cover flap about the author, Julian Scheer. He was the Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs at NASA from 1962 to 1971! Fascinating. I wondered if this book that's mostly nonsense grew out of having such an intense job??

Lorie says

I was just asked why I like this one so much. So, I guess I'll write a real review.

One of my biggest factors in judging a picture book is the effect on the kids. And the kids LOVE this book. We read this today in story time for 3-5 year olds, and they laughed and laughed all the way through at the nonsense talk. Then we spent another 5 minutes with them making up their own nonsense sentences.

It encourages the kids to use their imagination; and that is something that is being slowly but very solidly pushed out of the picture for kids these days. They need a reason to wonder. I paired it with First the Egg and it was a great segment of fun and thinking at the same time.

Kevin Doyle says

Oh, the 1960s. I was not born then and did not see the 60s, but I wish I had experienced the spirit of those years. These days, I really enjoy seeing picture books from decades past and "Rain Makes Applesauce" (published 1965) is definitely an old one you'll want to check out.

The book is full of "silly talk", plain and simple. In fact - that's one of the delightful reoccurring phrases in the book - "Oh you're just talking silly talk." That and the title phrase "rain makes applesauce" appear several times in the text and little ones will love repeating these words during read aloud time.

As with most picture books, the art is the star here. It's full of big, double page spreads that are busy, mixed up drawings and collages of sketches and paintings and line art and just all sorts of different wackiness. I imagine the artist made several separate illustrations with different tools and said - "these are the types of

artwork I'll put in the book." And then, instead of choosing just one, he put them all in there - stacking, layering and mixing everything together!

This gives the book a refreshing sense of freedom, a wild and eccentric spirit that - as far as I know - is very indicative of the 60s.

On one hand, younger kids will like the rollicking, repetitive text but they may not fully appreciate the intricate illustrations. On the other hand, older kids and parents will certainly love the artwork. So this is a fine gift for all ages. But particularly for those who like a bit of magic, whimsy and nonsense in their life!

Sophia Triad says

My 5 year old daughter picked this book from the library. I asked her why and she said "It is pretty".

I asked her "why is it pretty?"

She said "there is a rainbow on the cover".

We read it together and she didn't really like the lyrical phrases of the book, although she really enjoyed the illustrations.

Personally, I think it is interesting if you are a grown up and you can appreciate the silliness of the lyrics. As a child it is harder to understand and to engage to something that has no meaning for your age and it is not particularly funny.

My daughter was only giggling with the repetition of the phrase: "Oh, you're just talking silly talk"

Patrick Resse says

Knuffle Bunny is the winner of the 2005 Caldecott Medal, and no wonder, as it is a simple but wonderful book. This book written by Mo Williams is particularly appropriate for young children from about kindergarten to first grade. Many kids in early elementary can relate to the feeling of losing a beloved stuffed animal. At the beginning of the book the main character and her father run some errands together which includes going to laundromat, and during the time they are at other locations, the kid realizes that he doesn't have his doll. He is very frantic when they got home, so his mom and dad rush to the laundromat where they find Knuffle Bunny in one of the machines. This is certainly a unique book due to the illustrations as they are highly detailed and highly individualistic people, but the background scenery is all real pictures which gives it a much more real feeling. Any kid reading, or being read this book can relate to losing their stuffed animal, but seeing the illustrations can make it much more relatable as they are everyday pictures that they see and can therefore more adequately translate into their head. Kids will love this book because of the story and its illustrations, and it is definitely worthy of the Caldecott Medal. There are a multitude of uses in the classroom, as you can use it to play a mystery or memorization game, and reason where things are in the classroom like the characters did in the book.

Emmalee Carter says

For my Babies
to teach them about magic

