



I'd Really Like to Eat a Child

Sylviane Donnio , Dorothée de Monfreid (Illustrator)

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A scrawny little crocodile wants the opportunity to bite off more than he can chew. He's tired of bananas; today he'd like to eat a child. But he's smaller than he thinks, and the little girl he chooses for his first meal puts him in his place—she picks him up and tickles his tummy! The little crocodile is going to have to eat a lot of bananas and grow a lot bigger before he can add children to his menu! Simple yet hilarious artwork brings this droll story to life.

I'd Really Like to Eat a Child Details

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From Reader Review I'd Really Like to Eat a Child for online ebook

Kate Petrocione says

Cutest animal ever.

Johanna Huang says

Although it seems like a scary title for a children's picture book, if you pick it up and read it through - there is a good chance that you will like this book. It's one of the picture books that my kindergarten students would beg me to do another read-aloud. The children can easily relate to the story line which is really about how a little kid (in the book it's the baby crocodile) sometimes just get tired of their parents telling them what they should eat and what they shouldn't. I read it once in front of a group of parents during an open lesson and everyone laughed at the end of the story when the little girl started to tickling the little crocodile. The illustration used a lot of bright color, simple lines, and the background looks like the story is happening by a little village somewhere in Africa.

R.M. Donaldson says

This is one funny book, and little kids see things differently, and this little animal really doesn't want to eat his healthy food, but he wants to eat a child, but has he taken on a task too big for his little mouth?

E. says

De boodschap van dit boek (dat een kleine krokodil een kindje wil eten) ontging M. compleet, maar het was wel een leuke conversatie-starter. Met duidelijke afbeeldingen, zoals de grote krokodillen (mama en papa) en de kleine (M? Of zus W?), bananen, worstjes, tanden etc. Niet voor bang kinderen!

Julia says

finally someone had the courage to say what we've all been thinking.

E says

It's cute, witty and, by virtue of adeptly mixing those two elements, very clever.

Or it's crass, fear-inducing and inappropriate for children.

What's the answer? That parents shouldn't conservatively assume children can't handle dark humor, but also that parents shouldn't liberally assume all children of all ages can.

As with the brilliantly dark works of Jon Sczieska and Roald Dahl, I would not give this book to any child under the age of six. Depending upon the child, I might not give it to them until they are nine. Get to know the child and when in doubt, don't burn it. Just wait a while.

I recently gave it to a twenty-seven year-old for Christmas. She enjoyed it tremendously. My fifty-eight year-old mother? Not so much.

Brandi says

Achilles is a baby crocodile with a dream. Instead of the bananas his mom and dad feed him for breakfast, he would prefer a child. In an attempt to convince his parents to stop feeding him bananas, little Achilles refuses to eat. The tears and bribes of Mama and Papa Crocodile do not convince Achilles to give up his dream. When Achilles finally does come face-to-face with a child, it does not go quite as he planned.

Students will relate to not wanting to eat what their parents give them. Achilles' refusal to eat does not get him his way—another important lesson for those young elementary students. Achilles even starts to feel weak and sick from not eating. When he goes off on his own, he finally encounters what he wants most. A young girl is playing with a toy boat in the river. As Achilles creeps closer and closer to the child and bares his teeth. This could almost be scary except for the fact that Achilles is so small that he doesn't even reach the girl's knees. She calls him cute and comments that he must be so small because he doesn't eat very much. After tickling his belly, the girl throws him in the river. Instead of being upset by his failure, Achilles returns to his parents with a new found hunger for bananas. He must eat what his parents tell him so he can grow big enough to eat a child someday!

This picture book makes a great read aloud. The illustrations are simple and engaging, with several details that students may notice after multiple readings. The story is probably set in Africa, so it would fit well in a unit about African animals or villages. This title also lends itself to studies about health and nutrition, as Achilles learns he must eat the right kind of food to get big and strong. The silliness of the story is also very enjoyable for students and teachers alike.

This and other reviews by Brandi Meineke can be found on Booksource.com

Amelia says

A+ 10/10 would read to tiny humans again.

Maria Burel says

I'd Really Like to Eat a Child tells the story of a little Alligator, Achilles, who is tired of his daily fare of bananas and decides he has a hankering for a small child instead. Mama and Papa Alligator find this idea ludicrous, and try to dissuade him by offering sausage or a chocolate cake. No dice. The hungry Achilles finally wanders down to the river for a swim, and lo and behold...there sits a child. What happens next is a

hilarious lesson in perspective. The story is clever, though make sure your child can appreciate the humor before sharing.

Gregory Walters says

Sometimes a book's title is too perfect. When I discovered this book on a shelf in a toy store in Seattle, I knew it would make a most amusing addition to the collection I keep in the principal's office. (Runner up that day: Monsters Eat Whiny Children. Oh, how I'd love to meet the store's buyer!)

One clever young office visitor spotted the book and fought unsuccessfully to repress his grin. It was a command reading.

Achilles the crocodile is seemingly content to feast on bananas and the occasional chocolate cake until one day he stages a hunger strike. He wants to eat a child; nothing else will do. Mama and Papa Crocodile are distraught as their weakening offspring cannot be swayed. As they console one another, Achilles sneaks off to the river for a swim. Lo and behold, he spots a child! Dinner! Suffice it to say the hunt doesn't go as planned.

This amusing book provides an inventive way of supporting picky eaters. More than that, it's just plain fun. How can it not become a repeated read?

For more of my reviews, check out the Boyz Read blog at <http://boyzread.blogspot.com/>. Comments are most welcome!

Janni says

I especially love how the protagonist's desires aren't in any way undermined at the end of this book. He still wants to eat a child; he's just rethinking his plan for how to get there. :-)

Benji Martin says

This is one of those books that I liked when I read it silently to myself, but once I read it out loud to some students, I knew immediately that I love it, and that it's a book I'll be reading to kids for years to come.

Heidi-Marie says

I'd heard this book was great and even picked it for my Food theme ST. Can't believe I waited until the day before to read it. But it is fabulous as so many said. Adorable pictures. Hilarious story. Best part for me was when he found a child. I hope I do it justice when I read it.

2/15/12 This went quite well in both storytimes. Loved the crocodile. Wide-eyed about him wanting to eat a child. Seemed the river part was their favorite, since the ending was just OK with them. Still--fabulous

choice for the kids and adults.

12/3/14 I had a bigger crowd than I've been getting. Averaging around the age of 3. They liked the book. I'd done 5 Little Monkeys before, which was a great lead in. And we had time, so I did Silly Bananas song after. This was part of the Dreams theme.

11/23/16 Used as closer in food/Thanksgiving preschool theme. It was great. They liked the pictures and the story. And I totally had them on the suspense when the crocodile was ready to pounce--eased it a bit by having them pretend to get ready to pounce. And they liked the ending.

2/7/18 Used as opener for E theme. Lots of newbies, and many of them young. But they did so well! They sat still and paid attention. They got involved with actions. Wonderful! Going to send this with Hubby to read to the kids.

2/9/18 Read for bedtime story. Daddy had already read this with SD. She described the book perfectly to SS to convince him he would like this one. He sat well through it. She still smiled.

Tiffany says

I saw this book recommended at the bookstore and then had to endure it during story time with my 3-year-old at the museum. It's bizarre and frightening - nightmarish stuff, really. What child wants to think about alligators who are plotting to gobble them up? I figured the end would be somehow redeeming, but no - at the end, the alligator plans to eat more bananas to grow big and strong "so I can eat a child." My 3-year-old kept giving me wide-eyed looks through the whole book - I wish I had just left. She had lots of questions later - will alligators really eat me? Where are they? and etc.

Perhaps it's funny to an adult, but there is nothing amusing, thoughtful, or fun about planting such ideas in a kid's head, particularly when they are too young to distinguish fantasy from reality.

Jeremy says

Haha.
