



I'm Bored

Michael Ian Black , Debbie Ridpath Ohi (Illustrator)

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There is NOTHING boring about being a kid, but one little girl is going to have to prove it in this anything-but-boring picture book from comedian Michael Ian Black.

Just when a little girl thinks she could not possibly be more bored, she stumbles upon a potato who turns the tables on her by declaring that children are boring. But this girl is not going to let a vegetable tell her what is what, so she sets out to show the unimpressed potato all the amazing things kids can do. Too bad the potato is anything but interested.

This tongue-in-cheek twist on a familiar topic is sure to entertain anyone who has ever been bored or had to hear about someone else being bored, and is filled with comedian Michael Ian Black's trademark dry wit, accompanied by charismatic illustrations from newcomer Debbie Ridpath Ohi.

I'm Bored Details

Date : Published September 2012

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Author : Michael Ian Black , Debbie Ridpath Ohi (Illustrator)

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Barbara says

So many children and adults find it hard to entertain themselves and complain about how bored they are. In this picture book a young girl finds herself in that exact state until she happens upon a potato. Although she can't think of anything to do with the spud, she tries desperately to show him all the neat things can do with their time, but he remains unimpressed. I liked how her efforts are simple at first (turning cartwheels) and then escalate to elaborate fantasies in which she fights a dragon. Through it all, though, the potato remains unmoved until a flamingo arrives on the scene. Turnabout is fair play, though, since he, too, is bored. The digital illustrations have just the right colors to allow the potato to have something of a personality while also showing the little girl working hard to impress him. All three of these characters remind me of folks that I have known over the years. As my parents always told me, "Only a boring person can possibly be bored. Find something to do."

KC says

Too funny with a great message...

Cheryl Rainfield says

I loved this book so much I bought two copies--one for myself and one for a three-year-old boy I love. The story interested me and is well written, but for me it was the lively, expressive illustrations that really made the book.

In I'm Bored, a little girl is bored until she finds a potato that talks to her. The potato is not any potato--it's a talking potato--and it's bored, too. The potato thinks kids are boring, so the little girl sets out to prove that kids are NOT boring. In trying to convince the potato, the little girl realizes just how much she can actually do and what fun she can have. She doesn't change the potato's mind--but the grumpy potato is in for a surprise!

Black has written a dryly funny text that both kids and adults will enjoy. Kids will love joining in with the potato's expected response: Boring, boring, boring! I loved how Black showed how kids can do both real-world things to have fun (turn cartwheels, skip, spin around) and use their imagination (be a ballerina, lion tamer, or fly), and also how he has the child realize that she's glad she's a kid. And the twist at the end was perfect! I was also so happy to see a mixture of things the girl could be, that kept it from being really sexist (such as that she could be a lion tamer).

Ohi's illustrations are so full of life and emotion. Think a potato can't have expressions or look like a person? Open up I'm Bored and you'll see differently. With just a few lines Ohi makes the potato come alive just as she does the girl. Ohi's style reminds me a bit of Mo Willems; I think Ohi will become just as well known and loved.

The illustrations are done in bold black lines, filled out with some color, and the characters really stand out; there is little to no background in most of the spreads. Where the background comes in is when the girl is using her imagination, and then we see dragons and lions, etc in pale blue lines that help the reader understand she's using her imagination. When the girl uses real-world objects, like a paper box with the faceplate cut out for an astronaut's helmet, it's also in bold lines like the girl.

The girl and the potato are both very expressive; I love the expressions on the potato's face, especially, when he's bored or surprised. I also love how Ohi gave the girl a pretend sword when she's a fairy princess with dragons and unicorns, which for me helped that page not be sexist.

I'm Bored is a funny book that will encourage imagination, play, and remind kids that they can do anything they want. It may also help kids (and adults) see that while not everyone may not find you interesting, everyone experiences that, and you can have fun all by yourself. Highly recommended!

karen says

okay, this book is adorable.

and it was pretty awesome of ariel to give this to me on her birthday, all because i saw it in a bookstore window one time and knew i needed to read it, and she delivered.

the drawings in this book are so freaking cute. so. cute. the book tells the tale of a girl who is bored bored bored, and when she is bored, she gets LOUD ABOUT BEING BORED. which is maybe something i do. maybe.

but instead of having a greg to try to cheer her up and distract her out of her LOUDLY EXPRESSED BOREDOM,

she has a potato who rolls up to tell her that HE is bored because SHE IS BORING! which if you ask me, is just asking to get turned into a mash, but instead, she tries to reason with it, showing it all the things she can do that are fun.

but he is a stubborn ole potato.

it is a very clever book, in which a mean tuber eventually gets comeuppance.

oh my god, and it turns out, the illustrator is adorable, too!

i bet she is never bored...

Kate Bretey says

This book made me smile. All the time we hear little kids say that they are "so bored". Many of us adults are guilty of those words as well; atleast I know I am! The book begins with a little girl who is bored. She is so bored that she starts to talk to a potato. The potato tells her that she is in fact boring; all kids are boring. The little girl gets a wee bit offended and makes it her mission to prove to the talking spud that kids are anything but boring. She shows all the fun things that kids can do and all of the things that kids are capable of from pretending to fly to yodelling on top of the dirty clothes hamper, (it is the Swiss Alps, you see).

The book is a wonderful representation of just how imaginative and creative kids can be. I plan on being an elementary teacher, probably k-3. This book would be great to have in the classroom because it would show all of the possibilities that kids have today, in the way of entertaining themselves. The kids just might rethink their comments of "I am so bored." It will jumpstart their own creativity and imaginations. Being a kid is better than being a potato, after all.

Black, Michael Ian., and Debbie Ridpath Ohi. *I'm Bored*. New York: Simon & Schuster for Young Readers, 2012. Print

Angela says

So this is actually really cute. A *very* bored girl comes across a potato that's just as bored, and she goes to prove to the potato that kids aren't boring but FUN.

I found this book through Karen, who wrote this adorable review.

This book is actually really simple and it's probably something anyone can come up with but point is, *they didn't*. So this book is very enjoyable. :P

I love the illustrations! And hahaha, the ending is very cute too. This is worth a read.

midnightfaerie says

I had to add this to my favorites, my 5 yr old son and I enjoyed it so much! Reserved it at the library after reading a review here on Goodreads. So glad I did! It's about a little girl who's bored but then meets a potato who is bored as well. When she asks it why it's bored, he says it's because he has to hang out with her, a kid, which is boring. She then proceeds to list all the reasons why kids aren't boring. (You can see where this is going) You think I would have seen the end coming but I didn't. I won't give it away. Thoroughly enjoyable and highly recommended! I loved the illustrations as well. I can't imagine any child not enjoying this.

Kelli says

This book is absolutely brilliant! With fantastic illustrations, a bored potato, and a bored (but not boring) little girl, this book uses humor to make an important point. A new favorite. 5 stars.

Lisa Vegan says

The last few pages had a couple humorous twists, and those elevated the book enough for me so that I can give it 3 stars, but barely. I do like the "I'm bored" refrain and kids will certainly identify and understand. I don't know any kid who's never complained about being bored. However, the bulk of the book is too didactic and obviously so, and until the last few pages, I was rather bored. The pictures are very cute and expressive. The potato angle is unique, I admit.

Coranne says

The Illustrations: The illustrations in this book are simple and straight forward. The focus of the illustrations are on the main characters, with little detail or no detail given to the background. the images look like simple pen drawings with touches of color. I really enjoyed how simple these images were- they really went well with the feel of the story and complemented the humor in the story well. My little one laughed at the pictures and found it easy to follow along with multiple pictures on the same page.

The Story: What parent hasn't had a child who was bored and nothing would do? The little girl in this story (unnamed) has that very problem, and when she meets a bored potato, it turns the problem back to her. The little girl tries to convince the potato that kids aren't boring, while the author cleverly shows the reader that the little girl is actually entertaining herself in the process. The story as few words on each page and is sure to make even the smallest readers laugh along with their parents. I am usually skeptical about "celebrity" kids books, but this one was absolutely a winner. I will be picking up a finished copy of this book for my little one for Christmas. I recommend this for ages 2+, but it would make a good read along for even younger readers.

Alecia says

Very cute and clever way of giving kids ideas of things to do in an age where technology is sometimes a child's activity of choice. My five year old asked to read this daily for quite a while, and we had fun drawing faces on old potatoes as an activity to go along with the story.

Gigi says

Excellent for a summer storytime or call & response storytime.

Deborah says

Child vs potato. Very funny.

Brook says

That potato just cracks me up on every page! Cute story with the sweetest and funniest drawings! A great story for anyone who has ever uttered those two words, I'm bored, or shuddered when they heard them! :)

Dolly says

This is a very funny book about a little girl who tries to entertain a potato by coming up with myriad different activities and inventive ways to entertain themselves. The narrative is entertaining and the pictures are fun, too. We just loved the potato. So odd, yet funny.

Our youngest read this book aloud to us and it couldn't have been more perfect. I loved hearing her change her inflection throughout the dialogue, using different voices for the little girl and the potato. We really enjoyed reading this book together.
