



A House Is a House for Me

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In a rollicking rhyme, the author introduces us to all types of homes for both people and animals. The poem engages in flights of fancy - what about a husk being a house for an ear of corn, or a throat being a house for a hum? "And once you get started in thinking this way,/ It seems that whatever you see/ Is either a house or it lives in a house,/ And a house is a house for me!" whimsical drawings color the imaginative text.

A House Is a House for Me Details

Date : Published July 29th 1982 by Picture Puffin (first published 1978)

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Author : Mary Ann Hoberman , Betty Fraser

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From Reader Review A House Is a House for Me for online ebook

Charlie Moses says

This book is full of cleverness - but the cleverness will be more appreciated by adults than children. That's not a bad thing, of course - I'm much more enthusiastic about reading a book to my grandkids that I, personally, also enjoy! But I'm thinking that this one is rather over their heads.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

This bouncy rhyme makes a great readaloud. At first glance, you think it's a book about different homes for different types of animals, and, indeed, the poem starts out that way. However, toward the end it becomes more of a description of different types of containers, some more abstract ("my head is a house for a secret...") than others. The text is accompanied by Betty Fraser's charming, highly detailed drawings that lend an old-fashioned feeling to the poem. Hoberman here has taken a concrete concept--the house--and lead the reader to extend that concept to containers in general--very clever! Little wonder that it was a 1983 National Book Award winner. Highly recommended.

Lisa Vegan says

Fantastic!!! This is a wonderfully imaginative, playful, and delightful book.

The illustrations are truly amazing. A reader/listener could carefully view the book multiple times and continually notice more and more in each intricate picture.

The story rhyme is wonderful. My favorite is probably "A book is a house for a story." I also loved all the various playhouses for children that show up in the illustrations.

I am very tempted to buy this for myself (to share too, not just to reread) but I think I will resist. However, this would make a lovely gift book for baby gifts through gifts to kids up to age 7 or thereabouts.

A perfect read aloud book, especially if participation by the listener(s) is encouraged. It's so much fun to think up and notice other houses and those housed.

Claire says

I'm so excited, have just ordered this and am patiently playing the waiting game. We used to sing this in school in England (talking more than 20 years ago, wow I feel old) and I sing it to my kids. Very excited to revisit! =D

Julianne Doucet says

A House is a House for Me written by Mary Ann Hoberman is a lovely book about all of the different things and their homes. This book is a very repetitive book so when I first started reading it I was not a fan. But by the end I had a huge appreciation for what I just read because it made you realize that everything is a home to something and it illuminated about how humans and nature are all tied together in a somewhat magical way. The repetitiveness of this book gave the ending more of a dramatic impact on the reader. Moreover, the illustrations in this book are made up of light earth tones and delicate drawings of what the text is describing. The illustrations expand upon the text immensely and tell a story that is simply lovely to follow. This is a book that I would love to have in my future classroom because it shows the reader how this the planet and nature is our home and how everything is connected.

Krista Lineweaver says

A House Is a House for Me, written by Mary Ann Hoberman and illustrated by Betty Fraser, is a book of poetry for children in the Primary years (five- eight years old). It was awarded the National Book Award. It is a story about different animals and objects and where they live. The story lists all of these things in rhyme, so the children will have fun listening to the story and the reader will enjoy reading the story to children. The rhyming and the extensive vocabulary used in the book will extend the children's knowledge. It could be a fairly lengthy story for the really young children, so you may want to break the story up into two parts so that the children wouldn't get bored listening.

I enjoyed this story and I think children will too because of the various animals and objects that are included in this story. I think they will have fun pointing out all of the different animals that they recognize and naming where they live. There are not any specific characters or plot in the story, but I still really enjoyed it and think the children would too. The illustrations fill the pages, illustrating the animals and their homes. Children will be able to point out where they live as the story is being read. As an outside activity, a teacher could have the children add a page to the story by drawing where they live.

Wendy says

A lot of people in the children's book biz advise against writing rhyming picture books, not because they're against them per se, but because when they're bad they seem extra bad. And there's so much to get wrong - not just avoiding overused rhyming words (can we get a ban on "nose" and "toes"?) but also perfecting the cadence and rhythm and strong beats, etc. A House is a House for Me shows what happens when everything goes right, though. It's simply delightful.

Bekka says

Very very fun! The rhyme is great and will have kids singing along. The illustrations are very cute and very detailed. Kids will enjoy finding all the items in each picture. Its got a great message, and parents can get a lot out of this as well. This would be a great story time or bedtime book!

Kathryn says

I love everything about this book! It is informative and imaginative and fun-fun-fun. The illustrations are enchanting. This is one that I adored as a little girl--it's so neat to see all the different types of houses for people and creatures and even things! I'm so grateful to Chandra for reminding me about this gem!!!

Gabby says

Although I did think this book was a bit lengthy and weirdly structured in terms of having some rhyming pages and then none, I did love the illustration and the characters within the book. This would be a fabulous book to read when exploring habitation or even living things in the world around us.

Lindsay says

This would be great if not for the misrepresentation of American Indian homes (and who exactly are the Mohee?).

Oh hey, Debbie Reese wrote about it!

Mellanie C says

I like the idea of this book, but it goes on a bit too long. Even getting the kids to repeat things and asking them questions or having them guess the rhyming word that comes next, they still got fidgety well before the end.

Julie says

This was my mother's favorite book to read to me when I was young. I recently contacted the author and asked her if I sent her the copies of the book with a self addressed stamped envelope would she sign one and return it for my mother. She DID! It was the perfect gift. Very cool.

SaraLaLa says

O.M.G. I love this book! Unfortunately, I like it more than my daughter and my husband. I'm hoping that they will grow to love it as my 2.5 year old gets older.

The illustrations are very intricate. My daughter had so much fun looking at the pictures and pointing out every little detail. She was so involved in the pictures that she didn't let me read more than 3 pages (and kept going back to previous pages so it was impossible to move forward).

There is a great rhythm and rhyme to the story. I felt like I was practically singing it to my daughter.

There was sooooo much information in the book. It will full of vocabulary and creative phrasing. I WILL MAKE MY DAUGHTER LIKE THIS BOOK, MWAHAHAHAHAHA. =D

Sophia Triad says

This is a very good book for KG children.

It is creative and it helps children's imagination.

The illustrations are awesome.

The book displays houses of different animals, insects, humans, living creatures in general:

“A hill is a house for an ant.

A hive is a house for a bee.”

And also more sequential conclusions:

“A kennel’s a house for a dog.

A dog is a house for a flea....

And then it may move in on me!”

But it does not stop there. It also gives you an idea about more abstract conceptions:

“A box is a house for a teabag.

A teapot’s a house for some tea.

If you pour me a cup and I drink it all up,

Then the teahouse will turn into me!”

The bottom line is a global message:

“And the earth is a house for us all”

The book can easily create questions that will make a game between a parent and his/her child.

For example: “So, what is the house of?”

Everything eventually will be a house of something.
