



Oh, What A Busy Day!

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Pictures and brief text illustrate the myriad activities which fill the days of young children.

Oh, What A Busy Day! Details

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Author : Gyo Fujikawa

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From Reader Review Oh, What A Busy Day! for online ebook

Robin says

The four stars are for Fujikawa's illustrations -- I really love the style. Looks retro -- but that's because it is retro! Poems are uneven quality, and I'm not sure about reading Babes in the Woods to preschoolers, but some are really charming -- "Happiness is a goeey mud puddle," "Susie's secrets" about secret places, and "Guess What?" bout the imagination & pretend play.

Dianna says

The busy-ness and variety of Richard Scarry meets the whimsy and randomness of Ruth Krauss meets animé-like cuteness, with a little bit of Eloise Wilkin's homey charm thrown in for good measure. How have I never read anything by Gyo Fujikawa before?

Shelley M. says

I found this book at the Goodwill and bought it for the beautiful pictures. I read it last night and was completely blown away. A listing of "jingles" includes the classics "Marguerite, go wash your feet, the Board of Health's across the street" and "Christopher Columbus, what do you think of that? A big fat lady sat on my hat!" There's a sad story of two children who wandered into the woods, got lost, laid down, and died. There's the enticing, "Turn the page to see a dream come true for some animal lovers..." (there was a dream come true on the next page!) And the advice that it's okay to do mean or mischievous things, as long as you apologize after. AMAZING.

Angela says

My favorite book from my childhood. My mother just gave it to my daughter. I'm so excited to share it with her!

Andrew says

It is written as poetry, which covers themes such as eating, playing, gardening, grown-up jobs, secret hiding spots, and having a bad day. Some themes offer wisdom, such as it's OK to sulk some times, but it makes a person's face look ugly, while another theme describes how we sometimes fight with a best friend. Young readers can relate to the themes and engage with the detailed pictures of children engaged in activities. While typically more playful or light hearted, there is one especially dark theme about two children that were lost in the woods, cried bitterly, and died.

Carissa says

I love that the book was one of my favorites as a kid and is now my daughter's favorite. I love that it deals (beautifully) with fights children have, fears- and dealing with it. This is a true reflection of what kids go through rather than a sugar coated lesson on how they should be at every step.

7jane says

This was bought to me in 1976, when I was a child. It's been well-used and I recently found it again. The rhymes and texts are easy, and the pictures are beautiful - not too busy but full of fun details. The book doesn't completely shy from sad stuff, but it's only a few instances. Various seasons, celebrations, times of day, activities and hopes/wishes are mentioned. The emphasis is on fun and enthusiasm, not forgetting to mention good manners now and then. I loved the book back then, and do so even now. I cherish this book.

Tiffany says

My absolute favorite book as a child. I stared at the pictures for hours. My mom had to tell me over and over that I couldn't do this book as a book report AGAIN.

It is mainly a picture book, with few words. Fujikawa knows what children want. There are so many details in every page that you are bound to find something new every time you read. It is out of print now and I found it on Amazon for my sons. Worth every cent of the \$30 I paid for it.

Manny says

I simply don't understand why some terrible children's books become famous, while others, which are quite brilliant, are virtually unknown. This was one of our kids' favourites when they were very small, and it is terrific. Most children's books that attempt to instil wisdom and moral principles are nauseating, but *Stora Bilderboken* delivers.

The page I like best is about uncontrollable emotions, and, I am honestly not exaggerating, is just one of the best and most insightful pieces of writing I have ever seen on this subject. The title is *Ibland* ("Sometimes"), and it is a series of single sentences, each with an accompanying picture. Typical examples, I translate, are the following:

Sometimes you just want to annoy people and be bad.

Sometimes you feel shy and don't dare talk to anyone.

Sometimes you have scary dreams.

Sometimes it feels nice to cry.

At the end, there's a couplet often quoted in our household:

Ibland gråter killar, ibland slåss en tjejer
Så är det för alla, för dig och för mig

Sometimes boys cry, and sometimes girls fight
It's like that for everyone, for me and you as well.

Nanci Booher says

I am crazy about black and white. This book had the best of all worlds...black and white, color and such fun. It gets kids, and adults, thinking about all the possibilities out in this great big world. I wish I would have known about this book when my kiddos were little. I loved the rhymes throughout...some of which I had never heard. I will definitely purchase this when I have grandkids.

Jake Yaniak says

Until I became a parent I gave very little thought to the quality of children's books. But when you have to read the same book again and again, sometimes in the same sitting, it becomes VERY important that the book be well crafted, both pleasant to read and pleasant to look at.

'Oh What A Busy Day' is an extremely fun book both for parents and for children. It is a bit long for just one sitting, though. As in most of the children's books I've read by Gyo Fujikawa there are no adults, no parents. My child said that it 'is like Kid-World or something.' The children in the book are completely unfettered as they go through their day, playing, scheming, building, dreaming about the future etc. I think this makes it all the more interesting to the kids - it removes what is probably the chief source of stress in a child's life - their parents!

The content of the book runs the gamut, from poems to games, from stories and whimsical make-believe to stark terror. There is one page of the book that will likely scare your child sober - this is a good thing, and in the context of such a captivating book it offers an excellent opportunity to reinforce certain very important lessons.

Like all of Gyo Fujikawa's works, this book is a work of art, with each page beautifully illustrated. The children are very cute, and their actions are depicted masterfully, revealing not only an understanding of art, but an understanding of children and the nuances of their behavior.

If you are a parent accustomed to hearing, at the end of a LONG day the words, 'Again, again!' I highly recommend you pick up a few of Fujikawa's works. And if you want something long enough to satisfy an imaginative child without repetition, then you will not be disappointed with 'Oh What A Busy Day'.

Christine Smith says

My brothers and sister and I loved this book as a child. My mother and I were remembering it because of the

poem the babes in the woods which she remembers her grandmother telling her when she was a little girl. I was able to find a copy for her on Amazon and now my 3 year old nephew is hooked as well. This is a book that really stands the test of time.

Mary says

Published in 1976, this picture book was ahead of its time with regards to diversity. It takes children through the possibilities of every facet of childhood, from make-believe, to fighting with friends, to enjoying the different seasons. I literally spent years trying to recall the author or title before I finally stumbled across our original beloved copy at my parents' house — I immediately bought a reprint. Her own words describing how she felt about her audience sum up her beautiful work:

“In illustrating for children, what I relish most is trying to satisfy the constant question in the back of my mind—will this picture capture a child’s imagination? What can I do to enhance it further? Does it help to tell a story? I am far from being successful (whatever that means), but I am ever so grateful to small readers who find ‘something’ in any book of mine.”

made my list, "Gorgeous Picture Books Capturing Magical, Independent Childhoods:"
<http://honorsgradu.com/6-gorgeous-pic...>

Adrielle says

Charming and impressively detailed drawings provide a lot to see and talk about with a little one. The prose is clunky and, at times, strange, but serves a good enough excuse to pore over the drawings. There's no need to read the whole book in one setting as each spread is dedicated to its own theme and can quite easily stand alone.

H. Anne Stoj says

I absolutely loved this book as a kid. I couldn't explain why, though it was marvelous to read it again and have the same feelings. It is, I think, probably the first book I read where something particularly macabre was introduced thanks to Babes in the Woods. And in reading it now, I still think it's a particularly sad poem, but I don't think it's gruesome. Of course, I also recall one of my aunts reading Little Orphan Annie and other poems like that to me and those weren't exactly sugar-coated. Just wonderful to look at and read again.
