



The 3 Little Dassies

Jan Brett

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The Three Little Pigs with a twist! In the tradition of her bestseller *The Three Snow Bears*, Jan Brett finds inspiration for her version of a familiar story in Namibia, where red rock mountains and vivid blue skies are home to appealing little dassies and hungry eagles. Mimbi, Pimbi and Timbi hope to find "a place cooler, a place less crowded, a place safe from eagles!" to build their new homes. The handsomely dressed Agama Man watches from the borders as the eagle flies down to flap and clap until he blows a house down. But in a deliciously funny twist, that pesky eagle gets a fine comeuppance!

Bold African patterns and prints fill the stunning borders, but it is the dassies in their bright, colorful dresses and hats that steal the show in this irresistible tale, perfect for reading aloud.

The 3 Little Dassies Details

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Author : Jan Brett

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From Reader Review The 3 Little Dassies for online ebook

Rachel says

Interesting twist on 3 little pigs story, with twist to creation myth at the end. Love the fabrics and patterns in the illustrations and how some of the side bars tell the story.

Ashley Lester says

Text to Text

This book is considered the African version of the Three Little Pigs. I love the twist that Brett added to the story. The three little daises Mimi, Nimbi, and Pimbi are searching for a safe place in which I feel is the main concept of both plots. The daises want to find a place across from the desert in Africa to build houses. In other similarity, the wolf in the plot of The Three Little pigs tried to outsmart the pigs when building their homes. There were also characters as such in this story. While building their homes, each daisy encountered a witty character that did not succeed. In both stories, both the daisies and pigs used problem solving skills to outsmart the witty characters.

I did not care much for this read. However, the plot is very similar to the Three Little Pigs.

Brigitte says

Post-modern picture book: The 3 Little Dassies, By: Jan Brett

I love, love, love this book! The last page was by far the best. I like how the three little pigs story can be presented with many other animals. The detail of the images makes it seem like you are seeing real life images. The reading level of 'The 3 Little Dassies' is grades 1st-3rd. The story is a fun, adventurous book. In each page in the book had an image on the corners of the characters being absorbent, which was neat to see because they weren't directly mixed with the other characters, but they still fit perfect in the image. I would defiantly recommend this book!

10TX says

Fun story of sisterhood...and of course The Three Little Pigs meets Africa.

I had no idea there were such things as Dassies. I enjoyed reading this book to my children over and over until it had to go back to the library.

Amber Bronder says

The Three Little Dassies written and illustrated by Jan Brett, is a twist on the classic Three Little Pigs fairy tale. This fairy tale has dassies for pigs and an eagle in place of the big bad wolf. The setting in this tale is the African desert of Namibia, and the dassies are dressed to fit the part. Their colorful print outfits and matching Namibian hats add to the setting so the reader always remembers that they are in Africa. Mimbi, Timbi, and Nimbi must survive the hunt of the eagle, as the slyly dressed Agama man watches nearby. "I'll flap and I'll clap and I'll blow your house in!" A creation myth is added to the ending of the story, explaining why eagles' feathers are black and why you will now find dassies and agama lizards living together in the African desert rocks. I found this version to be a fun cultural twist that adds teachable concepts and vocabulary. However, the Agama Man's character seems unnecessary, as all he does is watch nearby. His presence could have been built up to be more of a present character instead of a random bystander. According to the "About the Author" notes, Jan Brett gets her ideas for her multicultural stories and adaptations from her trips to places like South Africa and the Arctic Circle. She is an award winning author and has written/illustrated such classics as The Mitten and Town Mouse Country Mouse. Recommended for ages 5-8 as a read aloud, and ages 7-9 as a reader due to the unfamiliar names and more advanced spelling patterns.

Donna Mork says

A retelling of the three little pigs, but in Namibia. Three little dassies (like a gopher of sorts) move to the mountain. The eagle (wolf) gets the grass hut and the stick hut, but can't break down the stone hut. He falls into the chimney and gets his feathers burned which is why the eagles have black feathers there.

Erin Mcneil says

"The 3 Little Dassies" is a play off of the traditional story of the three little pigs. This story features an interesting twist for young readers, as it centers around three young animals called dassies. The story line is simple for children to follow, yet the change in dynamics of the story add a great twist. The illustrations in this book also add to the appeal of this book. This is a great read for young children!

Tasha says

This fresh version of the classic The Little Pigs tale is set in Namibia and features cuddly, cute dassies instead of pigs. Dassies are also known as rock hyraxes or rock rabbits. In this book, the dassies wear bright colored dresses and Namibian headwear. The story starts out with the three dassies heading out to find their own place to live. The three sisters reach the feet of the mountains after crossing the Namib Desert and decide that it is a perfect place for their homes. A friendly agama lizard welcomes them. One sister builds her house of green grasses. Another builds hers out of driftwood. The third builds hers from rocks. The wolf is replaced by an eagle intent on eating the dassies, who not only knocks over the grass and wood houses but takes the dassies up to his nest to be eaten. The rock house stays up despite being buffeted by the wind of the eagle's wings. And the other two dassies find a unique way back to safety. But the eagle does not give up easily, allowing Brett a great way to explain why eagles are black in Namibia.

Brett has created another of her trademark books. The text reads aloud very nicely, with the rhyming names of the dassies, the rhythm of the classic tale, and the use of just enough detail to bring the Namibian setting

to vivid life. Of course Brett uses her illustrations to great effect here as well in creating Namibia on the page. Readers will glimpse vistas across the desert sands and to the mountains. Brett's illustrations are finely detailed. She uses images on either side of the main illustration to tell readers what is happening to others in the story. Brett has framed the images with African textiles, beads, and native plants. These are illustrations to spend time with and enjoy.

A clever take on a classic story, this new version will be a welcome addition with its feisty heroines and interesting setting. Appropriate for ages 4-7.

Marlene says

Another version of the Three Little Pigs filled with the culture of Africa. The dassies are looking for a cooler place to live that will keep them safe from the big eagles. But even in the desert where one false move can cost you everything, some creatures still make poor choices.

Sarah Westgate says

Genre: Traditional Literature

This book can be used with Kindergarten and up. One unique feature of this text is there are picture predictions and flashbacks on each page that students pick up on very quickly!

Becky Aughenbaugh says

This book would be great to use when studying The Three Little Pigs. It is also set in another country so it is multicultural.

David says

Jan Brett finds inspiration for her version of the 3 little pigs in Namibia, where red rock mountains & vivid blue skies are home to appealing little dassies & hungry eagles. Mimbi, Pimbi & Timbi hope to find a place that's cooler, less crowded, & safe from eagles to build their new homes. The handsomely dressed Agama Man watches from the borders as the eagle flies down to flap & clap until he blows a house down. But that pesky eagle gets a fine comeuppance!

Bold African patterns & prints fill the stunning borders, but it's the dassies in their bright, colorful dresses & hats that steal the show in this tale, perfect for reading aloud. (Goodreads summary)

Jan Brett's signature detailed borders surround this variation on the 3 little pigs set in Africa, with an eagle as the villain. The Three Little Dassies is fun, but the art, done in watercolors and gouache, with airbrushed background, is the highlight. This should be fun as a read-aloud. For ages 4 to 7.

Shawn Deal says

Here is a beautifully illustrated retelling of the three little pigs, only with a Southern Hemisphere feel. Wonderful how Jan Brett is so multicultural with her variety of stories.

Nicola says

This is a beautifully illustrated book (with triptych panels) that has feels like both an origin myth and a retelling of the Three Little Pigs. The tale is set in Namibia about how three dassies set off from home and build three houses (of woven grass, sticks, and brick like rocks). An eagle is determined to turn them into dinner and a friendly lizard is equally determined to help his new friends. At the end we find out this is the reason why present day dassie live in rock homes and the eagles that soar above them are coloured black.

Miss 2 chose the book at the library and loves it because her favourite cuddle toy is a meerkat. The dassie are a different animal but the illustrations do look awfully similar to meerkats!

Britt Guild says

I adore Jan Brett. If I want to show children how to take a folktale and change the characters and setting of the story to create an even better version of the story, I use Jan Brett to illustrate the point. The 3 Little Dassies takes the folktale of the Three Little Pigs and changes the pig characters to dassies and sets the story in Africa. My daughter and I were able to learn about animals we had never heard of while reading a familiar story. As always, the illustrations grab the reader and bring them into Africa with baobab trees and desert plains. The dassies are dressed in colorful traditional African clothing. This story became a multicultural experience without much effort for the reader. I loved being able bring in a global viewpoint through a loved and common tale.

This is an example of traditional as it is a the tale of The Three Little Pigs except which is a folktale told time and time again. I could use this story to model the genre and to show how a common tale can be told in many different ways and from many different perspectives. An exercise after reading this story would be to have students write their own traditional story that has the same theme and plot but with different characters and setting. Students could choose from an array of traditional tales and then create their own traditional tale with pictures and in paragraph form. I would use this reading/writing experience in the middle to upper elementary levels.
