



# Happy

*Mies van Hout*

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## **Happy Mies van Hout**

Clear, strong lines and radiant colors that seem to smile at the reader characterize Mies van Hout's drawings. In *Happy*, Mies shows all the emotions a young child encounters. Each double page spread is devoted to one fish, showing a particular emotion with its name in lettering that expresses the same feeling. Swim into *Happy* where the dazzling fish sparkle against the dark background and let the images spark laughter and empathy.

## **Happy Details**

Date : Published April 1st 2012 by Lemniscaat USA (first published 2011)

ISBN : 9781935954149

Author : Mies van Hout

Format : Hardcover 52 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals

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## **From Reader Review Happy for online ebook**

### **Jackie "the Librarian" says**

So cute!!! Expressive fish demonstrate a wide range of emotions, from HAPPY to ANGRY, from BORED to DELIGHTED.

Here's CURIOUS:

The crayon drawings of the fish have huge kid appeal (and adult appeal, too).  
This would be great to use in a storytime, or as writing prompts, or to spark art projects with kids.  
Delightful!

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### **Jon(athan) Nakapalau says**

Pictures of brightly colored fish express different emotions...I loved the art!

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### **Darinda says**

Colorful illustrations of fish and an accompanying emotion - glad, angry, astonished, curious, etc. No story, just a word on one page and fish on the other page. Simple, colorful book for little ones.

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### **Aaliyah says**

I really like this book. My daughter was able to identify the right emotion to the fishes facial expression.

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### **Erin says**

Happy lists twenty different emotions; such as curious, brave, and surprised, and each is depicted by an expressive fish. The stunning illustrations are what really stand out in this book; the bright, vibrant, hand-sketched pastel drawings really bring the emotions depicted alive for the reader. The fish are set against a black background, making their colors even more pronounced and powerful; while the hand-lettered emotions set against various colored backgrounds help depict the emotions as well. "Nervous" is written in shaky and squiggly lines with the same squiggly more subtle blue background, while "furious" is set against a red scratchy background with the word "furious" scratched frantically. This book is a good, short, read-aloud that would be useful in talking to children about feelings. Its simplicity in text makes it ideal for children to page through and understand the basic feelings being portrayed on their own. Happy offers a unique and striking portrayal of feelings through vivid and simple artwork that most little ones will enjoy.

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## **Tanya says**

I picked this up for my 2yo daughter, but the simple bold-colored fish on a black background appealed to the whole family. The drawings have the appearance of colored chalks on a blackboard, the media itself of course children can relate to. Our lovers of sidewalk chalk here certainly were enthralled.

Each 2-page spread shows a colorful fish on one side and an emotion word on the other page, simple, clear, elegant. The 2yo loved the pictures, and we went over putting a word to the expression depicted by the fish. For the older kids (ages 5 and 7), we talked about what specific features of the fish were able to tell us the emotion (smile, eyes, eyebrows, etc). This is an important concept for kids, and being able to dissect and pinpoint the different aspects of facial and body language is difficult for them, especially if they suffer from some types of neurological disorders. My 10YO with his ADHD finds this especially difficult.

This book appeals obviously to young children as simply fun and an introduction to emotion words, but can be used in a more advanced way with young school age children, and even older children needing a very simple visual of face and body clues (even on a fish!) to help decipher emotional cues.

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## **Richie Partington says**

Richie's Picks: **HAPPY** by Mies van Hout, Lemniscaat USA, April 2012, 44p., ISBN: 978-1-9359-5414-9

“How does it feel?  
How does it feel?  
-- Bob Dylan, “Like a Rolling Stone”

It was such a beautiful morning, and I was SURE that I would be BORED sitting in the auto repair shop waiting room for a couple of hours while the car was being serviced. So I headed off on a hike around the area (which is a new area for me).

When, a couple of miles down the road, I stumbled upon the Midland Park Memorial Library, I walked in. I am always CURIOUS to see public library children's rooms, so I aimed my high tops down the stairs to the lower level. And I am so GLAD that I did. For, on display, I found an absolutely great new picture book about emotions.

On the cover of **HAPPY** is a happy fish against a black background...a really happy fish from the looks of him (or her). And the letters of the title are drawn and colored so as to also exude a sense of happiness.

Inside the book are 20 two-page spreads. On one side of each spread is a fish, against a black background, that is clearly depicting an emotion. On the other side is the word for the emotion that the fish is exhibiting. The word is drawn and colored so as to emphasize the emotion being shown.

Here are the twenty emotion words for the 20 two-page spreads:

curious  
nervous  
brave

shy  
surprised  
sad  
furious  
proud  
jealous  
loving  
angry  
glad  
confused  
content  
afraid  
sure  
shocked  
astonished  
bored  
delighted.

The thought that the talented Mies van Hout has put into the depictions of these emotions gives HAPPY a great entertainment value. It is a total crack-up. (After reading through the book three times and taking a bunch of notes, I turned the children's librarian -- who hadn't yet read it -- onto it.)

Beyond all of this entertainment value, you can be SURE that there are going to be teachers who can draw months of nifty writing and improvisation activities out of a book like this.

And so I am DELIGHTED to find HAPPY, and I bet that you will feel the same way, too.

Richie Partington, MLIS

Richie's Picks <http://richiespicks.com>

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Moderator [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/middle\\_...](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/middle_...) <http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/people/facult...>

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## Sue says

Happy is a beautiful picture book about emotions! Mies Van Hout has artistically rendered fish displaying different emotions using pastel illustrations. On one page, there is an emotion word, and on the other page, there is a fish expressing that emotion. Both the fish and the word attempt to convey this emotion. Color, technique, texture, and design all contribute in subtle or bold ways as well. The "Curious" fish, for example, is bright and yellow and gazes at something off the page, while the word is scrawled in different colors using water, scratched away, and layered. The "Sad" fish is rendered in dark blue tones with drooping eyes and a downturned mouth, while the word is smudged with downward strokes. The "Proud" fish has a bright green eye and a bright pink body with a red glow that radiates from the inside, while the word is depicted with a vibrant pink background and tall, straight letters.

I loved this book because it is simple, yet complex. This book is a great example about how art can be a way to express oneself with and without words. The drawings are child-like in their simplicity and you could

even ask "what could have made the fish feel this way?" This book could not only encourage creative story-telling, but also art projects!

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### **Kapila says**

Just when you think all the ideas in the world that mattered have already been, there comes a simple and profound book like this that lends itself truly to much happiness, delight, surprise, astonishment, and more! I would so love to use this book in a storytime - just-fer-the-heck-of-it; and also what a lovely book to share with children about feelings....and mindfulness...and recognising that feelings come and go....hmm...a very useful tool for Buddhists big and small!

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### **Beau Maton says**

Mooi vormgegeven prentenboek en goed inzetbaar in het onderwijs. Kijk voor mijn volledige review op: <https://jufbeau.com/2018/04/13/vrolijk/>

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### **Anna Lina says**

ist nicht wirklich schummeln um meinen reading goal für dieses Jahr zu erreichen, aber ist auch nicht nicht schummeln. das buch beinhaltet vielleicht 15 worte aber ist sehr sehr cool.

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### **Heidi-Marie says**

That is talent!! I love it. The words were not always easy for me to read, but everything had a child-like flare while doing so well in simply illustrating emotions. Using fish! Brilliant. So glad a patron pointed this out to me. This could be made into an activity for young 'uns--whether at home or in a small ST group.

5/1/13 & 5/2/13: I thought I'd try this in the "Time for School" theme. Kids need to learn what emotions are. I brought down my definition to "feelings." At the beginning, you could tell the adults were skeptical about how this would go, and the kids got my examples of "happy and Sad" but you could see they weren't sure how this would go. By the 2nd emotion, every one of them was hooked. I had the kids make these faces with me. I would explain some of the lesser-known-to-them emotions. And they LOVED it! They totally got it in the illustrations and they had so much fun trying to make the faces themselves.

With more time to think, I could have come up with more (and better than what I came up with on the fly) examples of when they might feel the emotions. Maybe next time. But this time was still fabulous!

9/30/15 Used as literacy moment in Art Time! theme. I had the kids come up and tell me what letter the emotion started with, and then we used our fishing pole and fished for the letter. I had them make the emotions with me as we went along, so when we were through with kids, we just kept going with the book and the emotions. I think I did pretty well in giving examples of the emotions. And the kids (and adults) were

right there with me--totally getting it all. A great success.

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### **Juf Yvon says**

Een prachtig boek van Mies van Hout waarin heel veel emoties langszwemmen. De vissen zijn echt heel mooi getekend en beelden heel goed de emotie uitdrukken. Ook een aanrader voor in de klas bij de kleuters. (1e boek voor boekenbingo 2016)

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### **Cheryl says**

Irresistible. No plot, just a list. Not clear enough, I imagine, to help people on the Asperger's/ Autism spectrum much. Not every emotion is absolutely perfectly distinct. But gosh, I can't mark it down for stretch quibbles like those. It's absolutely delightful. I see it used in classrooms for art, story prompt, talk about feelings, etc... but I think I like it best for vocabulary. I'd tell the students: Write whatever story you want, but use juicy words like Astonished and Shocked!

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### **Barbara says**

Happy, by Mies van Hout, is a great book to build vocabulary about feelings. Colorful chalk drawings of emotional fish against a black background set the stage for discussion about words like jealous, nervous, content and confused. Giggles will erupt when children see the shocked and nervous fish. Kids will love an extension activity creating drawings of their own to portray feelings. For ages 3 - 10.

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