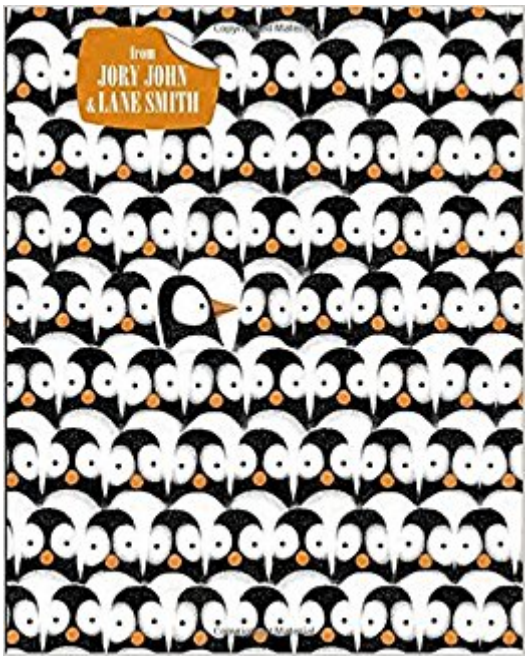
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Penguin Problems



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Synopsis

Ã¢Ëœâ | An Best Children's Book of the Year selectionÃ¢Ëœâ | "Well-paced, bursting with humor, and charmingly misanthropic."-- Kirkus Reviews starred reviewA penguin levels with human readers about what penguin life is really like--and it isn't all fun and games. A hilarious first collaboration from Jory John (All my friends are dead. and Quit Calling Me a Monster!) and Lane Smith (The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales). Ã Â Have you ever considered running away to Antarctica? Of course you have! Because it's a land free of worries and responsibilities! All of your problems will surely be blown away by the icy winds of that lawless paradise! . . . Won't they? Ã Â Think again, my friend. This penguin has come to tell you that his life down there is no more a picnic than yours is here. For starters, it is FREEZING. Also, penguins have a ton of natural predators. Plus, can you imagine trying to find your mom in a big ol' crowd of identical penguins? No, thank you. Ã Â Yes, it seems there is no escaping the drudgery of your daily grind, whatever it might be. Or perhaps we've just learned that grumps are everywhere. . . . Ã Â Jory John and Lane Smith let us decide. This book is sure to tickle kids' funny bones and will elicit appreciative sighs from the adults reading it aloud.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (September 27, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553513370

ISBN-13: 978-0553513370

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 114 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #17,577 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Animals > Birds #235 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings #914 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Humor

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

Penguin Problems View larger View larger View larger

PreS-Gr 2Ã¢â ¬â •It’s not easy being a penguin. As a world-weary avian narrator points out, there’s plenty that can (and does) go wrong: "My beak is cold." "It snowed some more last night, and I don’t even like the snow." "The ocean smells too salty today." An even chillier fishing expedition does not improve his demeanor: "Oh, great. An orca. Oh, great. A leopard seal. Oh, great. A shark. What is it with this place?" Smith’s sponge-textured illustrations expand upon the text’s downbeat doldrums with visual humor and delightfully deadpan facial expressions. Still hungry, the penguin pulls out of the water just before being gulped down by the bigger seal (which is about to be consumed by the even larger shark, about to be swallowed by the huge orca). His melancholy monologue continues until a stately walrus catches his attention and delivers a wise (and lengthy and slightly bombastic) oration about appreciating the good things in life. Grudgingly, Penguin embraces a new perspective. He sits on a pristine peak, gazes at gracefully falling flurries, and muses, "Maybe things will work out, after all"Ã¢â ¬â •or not (the page turn reveals that the gentle snowflakes have turned into a full-fledged storm and Penguin has resumed his grousing). This sublime pairing of author and artist results in a rib-tickling exploration of what it means to look at the unsunny side. VERDICT Share this book with Claire Messer’s Grumpy Pants for a storytime starring persnickety penguins.Ã¢â ¬â •Joy Fleishhacker, School Library Journal

Ã¢Ëœâ | An Best Children's Book of the Year Ã¢Ëœâ | Editor's Pick: Best Books of the Month Ã¢Ëœâ | National Indie BestsellerÃ¢Ëœâ | Junior Library Guild Selection Ã¢Ëœâ | IndieNext top selectionÃ¢Ëœâ | Barnes & Noble National Storytime selectionÃ¢Ëœâ | Target BestsellerÃ¢Ëœâ | Scholastic Teachers selectionÃ¢Ëœâ | A Powell's Pick of the Season Ã¢Ëœâ | An Irish Times Best Children's Book of the YearÃ¢Ëœâ | A Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Books of the Year"Funny and acerbic. Evocative illustrations." -- The New York Times"Hilarious and filled with super-stylish illustrations, it's sure to tickle your funny bone." -- Little London Magazine"If you want hilarity no matter how many times you read a book, Penguin Problems written by Jory John with illustrations by Lane Smith is a marvelous selection. This first collaboration by John and Smith is a triumph. There is not a missed beat in this cadence of comedy." -- Margie Myers-Culver, Librarian's Quest"Misanthropic penguins make for comedy gold." -- School Library Journal "A triumphant first for this picture book pairing, we truly hope there'll be plans for more from this dynamic duo. John's intrinsic humor, coupled with Smith's matchless illustrations is destined to beÃ Â a resounding success and a story that will resonate with both children and adults, perhaps for many different reasons." -- Picture

Books Blogger"The voice here is downright hysterical. Penguin Problems is one of my top-shelf picture books in recent memory." -- Danielle Davis, This Picture Book Life"This penguin is ... basically Larry David in Antarctica! Who wouldn't love that?" -- The New York Post "This book is hilarious." -- The Clarion-Ledger "Stunningly beautiful." -- Read Brightly"The perfect mix of humor and aesthetics." -- Books of Wonder"This is such a hilarious book that all kids of any age can relate to. I especially like the zen perspective conveyed in the end to the young penguin by a wise walrus. There should be a special children's book award for humor, and if there was one, this book would cinch it." -- Pragmatic Mom (blog)"Hilarious." -- The London Evening Standard"Charming and hilarious." -- Powell's"Picture book masterpiece." -- Nerdy Book Club"Well-paced, bursting with humor, and charmingly misanthropic."Ã¢â ¬â • Kirkus Reviews starred review"The temperature may be below freezing, but the snark level is cranked up high in this collaboration between funnymen John and Smith."Ã¢â ¬â • Horn Book starred review

I've enjoyed every single book Jory John has put out so far. But don't take my word for it. My now six-year old daughter is one of his biggest fans and laughs hysterically during almost every page of his books. Penguin Problems really captured her imagination and she immediately fell in love with the main penguin in the story. She told me the penguin reminds her of how we both complain about things at times. She especially loves (SPOILER ALERT) the section when the penguin is looking for his parents. It's about two pages and there's just so much hilarity there. (Guess that wasn't a spoiler after all.) Penguin Problems is a great conversation starter for any kid who may feel grumpy at times or for any kid who likes to laugh. If your kid is none of these, then you may need more than just this book to help you through the coming years. But what I especially love about Jory's characters in this book and in the others is how universal and relatable they are. I've read hundreds of children's books to my daughter the past six years, and few get as much love and are requested as often as Penguin Problems. In fact, my daughter now requests books by author, and Jory John is one of her top 3. Buy it! Gift it! I mean, Lane Smith is the illustrator! You can't go wrong.

This is a beautifully illustrated book, full of bright colour and wintery landscapes. I gave it four stars because I felt that the penguin was a little on the grumpy side and who needs another Entitled Penguin. I re-worked the story a little so that the penguin forgets his grumpiness and becomes happier with his lot in life and this satisfied my 2 1/2 year old grandson who needs everyone to be happy, especially just before bedtime.

This book is laugh out loud funny with unassuming charm as can be expected only from Jory John. The story is sweet and relatable to anybody who has ever woken up on the wrong side of the tundra and just needs a little perspective. Lane Smith's illustrations are brilliantly and humorously done and accomplish a seamless, cohesive design throughout. Absolutely loved it!

My 4-year-old daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in December. I got her this book for Christmas. Our whole family loves the way that this book acknowledges crappy situations and puts them into perspective. This is the only life we have. We might as well make the best of it...even if it is really cold right now and everything is trying to eat us.

Great grand daughter loved it!!

I bought this to read to my preschool classes and they liked it a lot - but the teachers liked it even more! The humor was a little above the heads of the 3-year-olds but they loved the story and the illustrations! The teachers laughed out loud so it's a keeper!

This is such a funny book and really relatable for adults, even though it's a children's book. In fact, I bought it for a childless adult friend and we love reading it at parties because it's exactly how we all complain on a day-to-day basis. Too cute!

Bought this for my eight year old for Christmas. She put this on her Christmas list so of course it was a must buy. She's outgrown most picture books but enjoys short reads once and awhile. Very cute book.

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