

Monkey Business

Wallace Edwards

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Wallace Edwards : Monkey Business before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Monkey Business:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Monkey Business By Wendy H. Bell One of the most original and droll presentations of idioms you will ever find. The detailed illustrations are beautiful and very, very funny. Mr. Edwards invites interaction by hiding a monkey within each one so that even though a toddler may not appreciate the sophisticated humor of the picture, he can still enjoy what he sees while searching for (and usually finding) the monkey. All ages will love this book. Wallace Edwards is a master illustrator. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Imaginative book for 2nd/3rd graders By HeidiBee This book has fabulous artwork and the idioms are a lot of fun. The info says it is for a reading level of 4-8 year olds but I would say it is probably too challenging for some 7 year olds to read on their own. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great for Aspies By SwanI teach

children with Asperger's Syndrome (high-functioning autism) who can be very literal. This book is beautifully illustrated and helps the children learn about odd expressions (idioms) in a fun way. Highly recommended for any age.

From a fish opening a "can of worms" to a tap-dancing octopus putting his "best foot forward," these familiar idioms are re-imagined by award-winner Wallace Edwards in hilarious and unexpected ways. To help readers "stay on the ball," the idioms are used in a sentence that accompanies each illustration, and the meaning of each idiom is explained at the end of the book. Every page is so richly illustrated that it is sometimes a challenge to find the hidden monkeys -- some are more easily spotted than others! A playful introduction to idioms, a clever eye-spy book and a gallery of stunning animal portraits, this collection is more fun than a barrel of monkeys!

From Publishers Weekly As he did in *Alphabeasts*, Wallace pairs deadpan text with multilayered illustrations that are at once humorous and absurd, likely to elicit grins from both adults and children. His latest title focuses on idioms (a definition of the term appears on the first page), with a cast of anthropomorphic animals set in bizarre situations. All the scenes make jokes that should have easy kid appeal. Owen, the literal "bull in a china shop," unconsciously manages to entwine his horns, tail and cane around several ceramic pieces ("Not again," he sighs). A walrus who "had no intention of sharing his cupcake" sports a candy cane in place of a tusk (a "real sweet tooth"). Attentive readers can also spot a monkey hidden in each scene—these visual tricks and other hide and seek-type games echo Graeme Base's works. Among his more obvious gags, Wallace also inserts references and items aimed squarely at adults, which will assuredly be lost on young readers. Visual impossibilities and intricate patterns tucked into a number of scenes echo Escher, while a "fish out of water" (named Gloria) happens to be riding a bicycle in a nod to Ms. Steinem. The detail and humor that Wallace packs into each scene should help ensure the book won't be just a flash in the pan. All ages. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From School Library Journal Grade 1-5—Edwards uses a variety of idioms as a jumping-off point for a collection of elaborate, imaginative illustrations. An alligator, for example, "eats her words" by sweeping books off a shelf directly into her mouth. There's great variety in the watercolor, pencil, and gouache drawings, along with understated humor. The animal characters have human names and subtly amusing facial expressions that fit the silly situations just right. Closer perusal always reveals a bit more. It's obvious that the well-dressed "bull in a china shop" will soon destroy a couple of fine pieces with his horns. Sharp-eyed viewers will spot other dangers presaged by the poor fellow's misplaced cane, wrapping tail, and untied shoelace. For further diversion, at least one monkey is hidden in each full-page picture. In some cases, the relationship between idiom and illustration works very neatly. Quentin the penguin literally "rises to the occasion" when he is catapulted high enough to serve drinks to a giraffe bride and groom. The visual scene is funny, but at the same time actually conveys the sense of the idiom, since the penguin has found a creative way to meet a challenge. Other times, the illustrations have a less direct tie to the meaning of the phrase, but still work as humorous pieces. The idioms are defined at the end of the book, but in this case the main role of the words is to set up an impressive collection of inventive scenes of visual comedy.—Steven Engelfried, Beaverton City Library, OR Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist Gr. 4-8. A monkey in a jeweled robe, sitting amidst a delightful clutter, adorns the jacket of this picture book for older children, looking so real he might be in a photo. This enticing illustration opens a collection of idioms that's equally intriguing. Edwards has collected some of the most common (and easily illustrated) sayings and given them hilarious new life. Some are predictable: "'Not again,' said Mr. Owen. 'It isn't easy being a bull in a china shop.'" Others take a bit more imagination: "The Amazing Schuman always tried to put his best foot forward" shows an octopus wearing eight different shoes. Always, the pictures are a delightful mix of painterly and amusing. The definition of idiom that begins the book is so dictionary-like that kids may need help connecting it to the examples, but once they catch on, they will enjoy the richness of both the art and our language. Teachers will find many uses for this—in English class, of course, but also for creative writing and art studies. There's also the fun of finding the monkey hidden in each picture. Ilene Cooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved