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I'm A Manatee: (Book & CD)



Synopsis

From time to time I dream that I'm a manatee, Undulating underneath the sea. A little boy dreams of becoming a manatee, and what a dream it is! With his new gigan-atee manatee proportions, he sets off on an underwater adventure with his manatee friends.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Little Simon; Reprint edition (May 22, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689854528

ISBN-13: 978-0689854521

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.3 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 66 customer reviews

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Not blessed with the adorable good looks of a koala, the mythic mystery of a dinosaur, or even the useful familiarity of a dog, the manatee is an infrequent hero in the world of children's literature. It doesn't help matters that the poor thing has a name that's so difficult to rhyme. But the unnamed hero of John Lithgow and Ard Hoyt's *I'm a Manatee* (really, a boy dreaming he is a manatee) sees plenty of upside to the life of the animal that's been indelicately nicknamed the "cow of the sea." And when rhymes are unavailable to state his case, he simply makes some up: "Encumbered by my lumbering gigan-atee,/ I'm thought to be an ocean-going brute!/ The least appealing creature on the planet-ee,/ But to a manatee, I'm cute!" The words in the book are the same as the lyrics in the song version of *I'm a Manatee*, which is included on an enclosed CD featuring a singing Lithgow as well as in musical notation in the back of the book. The verses sound more natural in their original musical form than they do read aloud in the pages of the book where they can clunk a bit. Still, there's much to like about in this aquatic flight of fancy, including the kind of wordplay moms and

dads will enjoy (very few kids' books contain the phrase "immune from human folly and inanity") and Hoyt's illustrations of the title animal, which manages to be simultaneously homely and adorable. (Ages 4 to 8) --John Moe --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Grade 2-4-Lithgow applies his facility with music and language to create a witty, whimsical underwater fantasy. Based on the premise of a boy who dreams that he is a manatee, this song has sophisticated vocabulary and a dignified cadence and rhyme. Many elementary school children will not understand words like "inanity," "urbanity," "idle vanity," and "encumbered," so adults may need to translate the verses. Also, reading aloud requires practice in order to master the rhythm. However, music is the universal language understood by all, so just pop in the accompanying CD and stride along with the humorous lyrics and steady beat. Done in colored pencils, pen, and ink, the full- and double-page illustrations are fun and engaging. Hoyt's smirking manatees are positively endearing. An amusing accompaniment to units on this popular species. Be Astengo, Alachua County Library, Gainesville, FL Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I buy this book for every baby shower I am invited to, every child birth I am part of. I am obsessed with manatee's and John Lithgow really bring this book to life. He voice is just so entertaining. It's hard to imagine all the criminals/psycho's/murderer's he has played when you listen to this book. But it also just shows how amazing he is because you don't think of those people at all when you listen to this. Nor do you think of this book when you are watching him on tv or in a movie.

My grandson (almost 4) loves it, and plays it over and over..

The audio of John Lithgow singing the book is hysterical and odd. Worth it.

This one of my son's favorite book, it's a song. At first we where like man that stinks but it quickly became a family favorite.

Delightful book even for 10 year olds!

My sons pre-school uses this series of books for their music program. My son requested them and they are now part of his bedtime rotation.

So previous! The kids at the school where I teach love it!

Some of the rhymes are a stretch, But i couldn't help but laugh reading it. My 2 yr old nephew likes it (i think). Havn't listened to the CD, but overall this made a good gift, i feel.

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