



Please Mrs Butler

Allan Ahlberg

Download now

Read Online ➔

Please Mrs Butler

Allan Ahlberg

Please Mrs Butler Allan Ahlberg
Happy 30th birthday, *Please Mrs Butler*!

This witty collection of school poems by Allan Ahlberg, re-jacketed for its 30th anniversary and for a whole new generation of school children to fall in love with, is full of typical classroom events that will be recognized and enjoyed by everyone. From never-ending projects, reading tests, quarreling, making-up, excuses and 'Please, Sir, it isn't fair.'

Fritz Wegner's line drawings beautifully complement the hilarious and poignant verses.

Please Mrs Butler was voted the most important twentieth-century children's poetry book in a *Books for Keeps* poll.

Please Mrs Butler Details

Date : Published August 30th 1984 by Puffin (first published April 28th 1983)

ISBN : 9780140314946

Author : Allan Ahlberg

Format : Paperback 96 pages

Genre : Poetry, Childrens, Humor

 [Download Please Mrs Butler ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Please Mrs Butler ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Please Mrs Butler Allan Ahlberg

From Reader Review Please Mrs Butler for online ebook

Jennifer says

I have been reading the poems from this book over and over from my own childhood as I enjoyed them so much from a young age. Now, as a teacher, I see them for more than their entertainment value.

For example, I have used 'Scissors' to indicate that it was time to clear up in an Art lesson and 'Picking Teams' to begin a difficult PSHE lesson dealing with bullying.

The poems are as relevant today as they were when I was a child and when they were written. Great for Literacy and Drama as well as aiding teaching across the curriculum not forgetting the all important - Reading for Pleasure! Enjoy.

David says

Allan Ahlberg's collection of witty and comical poems about the trials and tribulations of being at school is superb. Although some of the content is pretty dated, having been written in 1983, the comedy contained within still manages to produce laughter in the classroom. Children of all ages can relate to the various aspects of school life such as friendship, breaking up and making up, misbehaving and getting into trouble, and mean and unsympathetic teachers.

From the opening verse of the first poem it is easy to see how beneficial such a collection is to a child's understanding of the features of the literary form such as structure, verse, rhythm and rhyming couplets:

Please Mrs Butler
This boy Derek Drew
Keeps copying my work, Miss.
What shall I do?

The poems vary in length and style from the short two verse, eight line, twenty words of Eating in Class, to the rather epic seven pages of The Ordeal of Robin Hood. Favourites include: As I was Coming to School, Complaint, Scissors and the title poem Please Mrs Butler.

The subject matter is universal, and the language simple, and is therefore suitable to be read by a teacher to children throughout primary school. It is a great book for the younger children to have as their first introduction to poetry, and for the slightly older children to obtain ideas from and improve their poetry writing skills. It has long been a favourite of teachers, parents (many who read it whilst they were in primary school!) and children alike, and is a must for every classroom!

Khalida wahid says

The first time I read Please Mrs. Butler was as a year 6 pupil. .it is a journey through the school day - School time, Play time, Dinner time, School time again and Home time - all from the prospective of the children. It is full of wit and wisdom, each poem heart felt and full of life. brilliant collection of poems written by an ex-teacher all about the prim

Reading each poem made me chuckle, or sigh, and each and everyone made me think back to my own school experience.

Reading again as an adult I notice poems such as Slow -reader with a greater sense of empathy and the poems take me on more of a reflective journey.

Some poems are written to be sung, some to rhyme, but all tell a story.

I think what stuck out to me most when reading the poems this time round is how useful some would be when starting circle time during PSCHÉ lessons. . Poems such as: "small Quarrel" "Picking teams" "The gang" and so on could be read out loud to the whole class to get them thinking about issues in a subtle and non pressured way.

Christian says

Having read this book myself as a child and now introducing it to my class at school I would describe this collection of poems as fantastic. The book can be used to provide children with short poems read aloud when there is spare time within the school day and as an introduction into reading and writing poetry. The poems within the book are humorous and introduce poetry to children within a school based context. The book would be best suited to KS2 children in terms of using the poetry to encourage the writing of poetry independently, in partners or in groups. The poems are very well written and introduce a variety of poetry techniques to children and can be enjoyed by all ages.

Becky says

Please Mrs Butler was a poem book that was read to me while in primary school and i still think it is a really fun book. It relates to school life and highlights different incident within the school. A child continually asks her teacher what to do about a boy who is constantly disturbing her, copying work and stealing rubbers. These are likely incidents all children have experienced while in school which makes it relevant to them. The unexpected responses the teacher gives makes the book humours and comical. The Short paragraphs and the repetition allow the children to anticipate what will come next, encouraging their participation. It is also a book children can easily read independently.

The book is recommended for children 8 and above which i believe is a suitable age. The book could be used as a tool in helping children write their own poems or as an aid for discussion during circle time.

Tuyet Truong says

A book packed full with funny poems about life at school as if seen through the eyes of a child. Whether it be poems about friends falling out, who's to blame, being late or kids with nits, there's something in this book for everyone - even teachers!

I remember how my primary school teacher would read this to the class during story time. We loved the rhyme and being able to relate to the poems so much that we kept reciting the "Please Mrs Butler" poem for weeks.

This would be a great book to read with early KS2 children to help give them ideas for writing their own poems.

Charlotte says

This is a brilliantly child friendly book that they can relate to due to the wording and the way the poems are written. Children will really love the poems as they are focussed around children's everyday lives and their lives within school. The poems are also written in a way that adults can relate to, as quite often the poem is from the view point of the teacher or the adult. There are many types of poetry used throughout the book, mainly written to sound like children speaking, and also full of humour.

Some of the poems seem a little old fashioned and out of date, but I think that children can still relate to them. They are also very repetitive which makes them good for children learning to pronounce words and for phonic awareness. Small illustrations are also on each page to add more background and visual imagery to the poems.

I think they can easily be read to the class, probably a year 2 or 3 class, as well as children reading them to themselves or in guided reading. I loved the poems!

Jamila says

This is a very amusing and comical collection of poems, all centred around the on-goings of the classroom and the daily life at school. What makes these poems original is the way that they are written, in that they can appeal to children, teachers and parents. The poems are categorized into the following sections- School Time, Play Time, Dinner Time, School Time Again and Home Time. This structure also cleverly mimics the outline of the primary school day.

The poems featured in this collection are particularly relatable for primary school children, as a variety of topical issues are explored, such as dealing with a supply teacher, picking teams at playtime, losing items of clothing and even visiting the school nurse. The way that these topics are explored is interesting, as they are not enforcing "goodness" or morality, but rather humorously and accurately depicting feelings, experiences and occurrences. For example, in "Supply Teacher", the "rules" for dealing with this situation are stated. "Always remember, you must say this: 'Our teacher never does that, Miss!'". The light-hearted ways in which these issues are presented allows for the reader to laugh at the content, rather than take it too seriously.

What is brilliant about this book, is the way that Ahlberg transforms rather mundane occurrences like a class losing pairs of scissors, into a funny, relatable situation. Even adult readers can read these poems and be metaphorically transported back to their own school days. This book also shows how school experiences stand the test of time, and that primary school children nowadays can identify with these poems as much as a 50 year old would.

The illustrations featured alongside these poems are excellent also, as they almost look like doodles on the side of piece of paper. They do not distract from the words or content, but rather simply add to the fun of the poems. The doodle-like illustrations also contribute to the theme of the book, and helps to reinforce the idea

of school life.

This book would be suitable for Key Stage 2 students, as the subject matter would be relatable for children aged 7-11. This book could be used as a performance piece, as the rhyming poems would be perfect for children to act out and perform as a creative display. It would also be interesting to see children create their own Ahlberg-style poems as a part of their creative writing.

Deborah Malaponti says

Please Mrs Butler is a great poem book. It is a collection of poems set in a primary school. Within the book are poems such as 'Supply Teacher' and 'Picking Teams'. The poems reflect the aspects of the schooldays such as playtime, friendships, home time, quarrels and tests. The poems are popular within the primary and can be used as discussions in Circle Time. This poem book can be used for various different lessons within the primary school. A fun lesson that I have taught is reading for performance which seems to always go down really well with the children as they really enjoy bringing the poem to life with their own expression and twist on the poems. They are good poems to look at how expression can be used in poems and what makes expression. Rhyming throughout the poems also make the children really enjoy reading them. The poems can also be used to help inspire the children also create their own poems. I am currently studying 'Supply Teacher', 'Picking Teams' and 'Slow Reader'. I think Supply Teacher is a great poem for drama as there is so much going on within the poem that it can be used as a poem to help create a drama piece.

Steven Farmer says

This was another nostalgia driven buy for me. I'm not sure if I remember reading it myself, or having it read to me, but I remember thinking it was brilliant. Reading it again now at the age of 30 it didn't quite do it for me any more. I still enjoyed reading the poems, and it is definitely worth a look for 'Emma Hackett's Newsbook' and 'Dog in the playground' alone.

The book is a collection of verse, all set in the school environment on familiar themes. Organised in to sections that follow the pattern of the school day (school time, play time, dinner time etc), there are nice poems of different sorts about things like supply teachers, telling tales, excuses for being late, notes and parents.

For children now, some of the references might not make sense, so I'm not sure how useful it would be from an educational point of view. Some poems if carefully selected could be suitable, and these might be useful ways of exploring poetry and verse, but I think that some more modern collections would engage children more.

Zoe says

I loved this as a child and read it over and over. I still know many of the rhymes by heart.

Claudia G-D says

I enjoyed these poems when I was at school.

Sabera says

*Please Mrs Butler
This boy Derek Drew
Keeps copying my work, Miss.
What shall I do?...*

This collection of poems is full of many incidents that occur daily within a primary school from children telling tales to the classic issue of the “copycat”! Ahlberg adds a humorous twist to each and every poem, such as the title poem ‘Please Mrs Butler’ where the teacher gives foolish suggestions to the pupils who continuously whine about the behaviour of another child in class (such as “Lock yourself in the cupboard, dear. Run away to the sea...”)

This book would be particularly effective to share with upper key stage two who would not only understand the various issues that are raised in each poem but also understand Ahlberg’s use of humour. The poems would be a good starting point to getting children keen on the idea of writing poetry and the fact that poems do not always need to rhyme. Also, examples such as being picked last for teams could be used as a focus for circle time, particularly in a class where any children many feel singled out.

Lauren says

This is a light-hearted poetry book which children from all year groups can enjoy. It is relatable to all children as explores scenarios which could occur within every school, for example "Back to school" and "Excuses". The poems can also be used to introduce pupils to basic poetry techniques, and therefore inspire pupils to write their own poetry based upon school experiences.

Alice Martin says

‘Please Mrs. Butler’ is very entertaining for both children and adults. Reading it is like a trip down memory lane, and for children it is entertaining whilst effective in making them reflect upon rituals such as "picking teams" and "Swops".

Through rhyming couplets and short punchy lines Ahlberg creates a fun yet informative read for children of all ages. Younger children can enjoy the musicality of the poems when read aloud, whilst older children can appreciate the rhymes and relatable content of the verses.

'Supply Teacher' is one of my favourites. Ahlberg uses an introductory verse followed by two verses concluded with the all too familiar phrases;
"Our teacher never does that, Miss!"

"Our teacher always lets us, Miss!"

The final line is perfect as it breaks from the pattern of the two previous verses, but maintains the effective structure;

"That other teacher told us to, Miss!"

The italics used to emphasise the "our" and "other" make the verse very effective for reading aloud to a class, and the children can have great fun joining in with this. The rhyming words and structure of the poem can be demonstrated in a literacy lesson.

'Picking Teams' is a very emotive poem. The rhyme on every other line creates a very musical and rhythmic verse. The reader cannot help but read it aloud quickly and enthusiastically. The reader is made to empathise with the persona, hopefully in turn engraining in a child the moral message behind this poem.

'Haircut' depicts a common fear in many children's lives - standing out. At school consistency is key; the minute you change your appearance someone will have something to say about it. Ahlberg captures the annoyance at being told the blatantly obvious;

"What I can't stand

Is being told I've had it cut -

As if I didn't know!"

What is so interesting about Ahlberg's verses is that they are still so relevant today. They are timeless, in that they capture the day-to-day experiences of ordinary children in a primary school in a realistic, witty and sympathetic way, reflecting both the insights of the teacher and child, but as it was a quarter of a century ago. However, attitudes towards "slow readers" and the probably authentic response of Mrs. Butler herself, worn out by endless questions, to declare "don't ask me!" wouldn't be the expected response of the contemporary teacher, would it?
