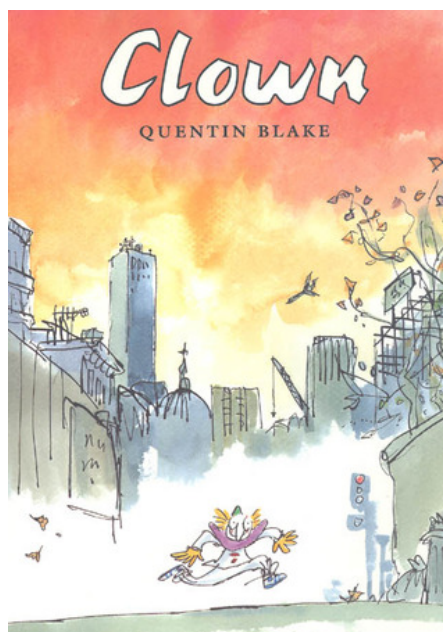




Clown

Quentin Blake

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One day, Clown is thrown into the trash, but he doesn't stay there long.

He tries to find someone to take care of his friends, but no one listens.

Then Clown finds someone *he* can take care of, and together, they make a home for everyone.

Follow the fortunes of Clown-- who starts in a garbage can and ends up in a happy family-- in this perfectly pitched picture book.

Master illustrator Quentin Blake has created an irrepressible character, an action-filled plot, and an eloquent story that can be read on several levels-- all without the use of a single word.

Best Illustrated Book of 1996, *New York Times Book Review*

Horn Book Fanfare Book

Clown Details

Date : Published September 15th 1998 by Henry Holt and Co. (BYR) (first published 1995)

ISBN : 9780805059335

Author : Quentin Blake

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books



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From Reader Review Clown for online ebook

Jami says

A story without words by the guy who illustrated all the Roald Dahl books. My four year old 'read' me this story, wonderful.

Emily says

I loved this book! A visual narrative with no words used except for the title. The author creates effect by the choice of colour used in each illustration- when uncertainty/fear/sadness wanted to be portrayed the colours on the page were mostly greys. When happiness wanted to be expressed the colours on the page were bright and vibrant. The author allows the reader to follow the story easily by the spacing of the pictures- when the reader's attention needs to be drawn to a specific picture it is surrounded by a white background. The plot to the story I find it easy to follow but you can explore the choice of pictures and colours used in greater depth too.

Eleanor West says

'Clown' illustrated by the infamous Quentin Blake is an endearing story about a toy clown who is put in the rubbish. Escaping from the bin he's put in, Clown goes on an adventure through the city to find a new owner. On the way he meets a young girl and explains his story, she decides to take him home but her mother refuses to let her keep him so he is thrown out again. After surviving a dog he is then thrown out again only to land in the bedroom of a babysitter and a baby who can't stop crying. Clown manages to calm the baby and persuades the babysitter to let him stay if he helps her clean and tidy up the house. They even go to collect his friends who were thrown in the bin with him. When the mother returns she is so pleased with the result and how happy her baby is she doesn't notice the new toys sitting on the bed including Clown.

This illustration-only story depicts the importance of caring for our belongings but also how someone else can enjoy what we don't want. I would suggest this story for Reception and a Year 1 class. It also provides the opportunity to discuss the importance of charity. Yet most of all I believe this story is an excellent resource for SEN and EAL students. For those who may be just learning English, having an illustrated story read to the whole class would ensure everyone is included, as they would all understand the story. In regards to SEN, 'Clown' could be a resource used for children who are hard of hearing.

Randie D. Camp, M.S. says

A toy clown and some other toys are thrown away. The clown comes to life and ventures out into the city to find someone to save the other toys-- but no one seems to want old, worn out toys. Clown is not discouraged. His determination and devotion to his friends is inspiring.

Blake's squiggly ink lines and water-colored illustrations are not only brilliant but are fascinating enough to capture the action, emotions, and message of Clown's story without words.

****A side note:** I was eight-years-old when Disney/Pixar's Toy Story came out. I loved it. I grew up with this beautiful notion that toys are real, they have feelings, they go on adventures, and they love unconditionally. My son is also growing up with the movies (fyi- a 4th movie is in the works) and as an only child, his toys are even more loved than mine were. Blake's Clown captures this idea without all the hoopla of a fancy animated movie. It is an instant favorite!

David says

Clown by Quentin Blake is a wordless book about a stuffed clown who comes alive after being thrown into the trash with his stuffed animal friends, and has an adventure trying to find a home for himself and his discarded friends.

After Clown and his stuffed animal friends are tossed into the trash, Clown finds shoes and runs around the city trying to get help for his discarded friends. He approaches a couple children, is put into a costume contest, brought home by a child, but tossed away out the window by the mother. Clown is chased by a dog, whom he scares, then tossed into a window by its bully owner. Clown finds a child and her little brother, who helps him rescue his friends after he helps clean their apartment. Her mother allows all the toys to stay.

The detailed ink and water color illustrations portray a clear story despite the wordless format. Many pages feature several images per page, some with borders and others without. The action filled plot could be interpreted at different levels, according to the maturity of the reader. It's a dark, funny imaginative story that will please many.

For ages 4 and up, wordless, clowns, fantasy, family, rescue, trash, home, toys, and fans of Quentin Blake.

Sandra Vicars says

A cute wordless picture book that follows the adventures of a clown that is tossed in the trash with a few of his toy friends.

David Arrozo says

Sem palavras. Literalmente...

Jessica Cox says

Blake is famous for his illustrations, so it unsurprising that this book is full of wonderful artwork, though there are no words!

As this picture book is purely illustration, the reader has to make up the narrative based on the pictures. This is inclusive of children who are struggling readers and/or perhaps EAL and therefore perhaps have not fully learned English yet. Additionally, 'Clown' helps the children develop their story telling and characterisation

as there are no words to rely on, therefore helping the writing process and demonstrating to the children you do not need to be a good reader to be a good story teller. Also, the book could be a great stimulus for drama. Children could look at the feelings of the clown or use physical theatre to become different objects found in the city. This would also help with their writing, but also their empathy.

Furthermore, the colours in the city are generally dull and muted, possibly a reflection on what living in a city life is like. This city looks as though it is New York. However, the clown and the children are often in bright colours. Teachers ask children to discuss why they think this is? Has Blake chosen to do this or has it simply just gone down on the page like that? From this, other art could be introduced. For example, how has tones, lines and texture help tell the story and so on.

Andy Verschoye says

An epic. You only have to look at the number of times the book has been checked out of the library. Must have been an inspiration for toy story. Clown's search for a home for himself and his friends touches all the buttons. Reading it (reading ???) you get the confidence a good picture book inspires in the reader / parent / teacher / performer to tell / share / explore. It's all there in the pictures.

Morgan says

I really wanted to like this book. I definitely tried to. However, I honestly got a little bit lost reading this book. I think that I would have liked it more if there was a story to go along with it. I didn't care for the art style. The style of this book was very sketchy, and used what looked like watercolor and pen. It seemed a bit busy, and I couldn't focus on what was going on. Particularly with the amount of detail that was in the background that was in some of the pictures. When I was able to focus on the story of the book, I became a bit more open to the plot, and indeed it was very cute. However, I don't think I can get passed the illustrations of this book. Like I said before, it was just too busy. :[

Ronyell says

I have actually heard of Quentin Blake's works from the many Roald Dahl books I have read as a child and I was actually surprised to read a book written by Quentin Blake himself. "Clown" is a children's book by Quentin Blake and it is about how a small toy clown comes to life and tries to help the other toys that were thrown in the trash can find a new home. "Clown" is a cute story that children who love reading about toys will enjoy, but the illustrations might take some time getting used to.

Since this is a wordless picture book, I loved the way that Quentin Blake tells the story through his illustrations. Quentin Blake's illustrations effectively told the story about a small toy clown trying to find a new home for the other toys and I loved how the illustrations told the story such as having an illustration of the clown running around the city or an illustration of the clown being chased by a large yellow dog. I especially loved the way that Quentin Blake illustrated the clown as having a white clown suit with a purple necktie, blond hair, a small blue hat and a smile on its face as it sort of represents the hope that it brings to the story. I also loved how Quentin Blake made this story extremely cute and heartwarming, especially of the scenes of the clown trying to find a new home for the other toys. I loved the theme about how being kind-

hearted towards others has its own rewards and even though the clown had gone through so many obstacles in his quest to help the other toys, his deed is rewarded towards the end and it was the ending of this book that really made me feel so warm inside.

The reason why I gave this book a four star rating is because of the illustrations. While I liked the fact that the story was really cute and heartwarming, the illustrations sort of contrasted that by being a bit dark and dreary. The illustrations are not so dark and dreary that it would scare smaller children, but it would make children who read this book think about what kind of story this is. Also, there are a lot of grey coloring around the backgrounds that sort of gave this book a dreary feel. Even though I have always enjoyed Quentin Blake's illustrations, especially with his work in Roald Dahl's books, I felt that they sort of clashed too much with the story of this book and probably the only illustration that I felt fit the sweet nature of the story was of the clown itself as it has a white outfit and has a smile on its face on every page.

Overall, "Clown" is a really cute book about the importance of performing kind deeds for people and how having a kind heart can produce its own rewards. I would recommend this book to children ages five and up since the illustrations might be too dreary for some small children to handle.

ABC says

In this book, a toy clown gets thrown away. He gets out of the trash and thrown around by people. In the end, the message is about recycling toys rather than throwing them away.

Kareem Mckenzie says

This book is an endearing story about a toy clown who is put in the rubbish. Escaping from the bin he's put in, Clown goes on an adventure through the city to find a new owner. On the way he meets a young girl and explains his story, she decides to take him home but her mother refuses to let her keep him so he is thrown out again. After surviving a dog he is then thrown out again only to land in the bedroom of a babysitter and a baby who can't stop crying. Clown manages to calm the baby and persuades the babysitter to let him stay if he helps her clean and tidy up the house. Then they go to collect his friends who were thrown in the bin with him. When the mother returns she is so pleased with the result and how happy her baby is she doesn't notice the new toys sitting on the bed including Clown.

This story depicts the importance of caring for our belongings but also how someone else can enjoy what we don't want. This book provides the opportunity to discuss the importance of charity. Yet most of all I believe this story is a great resource for SEN and EAL students as there are no words in the story how you perceive the story is purely subjective.

June says

An adorable story about a clown that is tossed out. Clown gets out of the trash can and then begins a search for someone to rescue his friends.

The sneakers are adorable!

I love Abigail's theme posted on Children's Books, December 2011 Toys discussion: "by helping others, we often help ourselves as well."

The theme has been done before. I remember using the filmstrip of *The Night After Christmas* for a story time. I think this is a simpler story, but wouldn't work for me now with groups around 30-50.

Dolly says

Reading this story with our girls was somewhat of an act of bravery for me because I HATE CLOWNS (*shiver*). Ever since I read *It* by Stephen King (and even worse, saw Tim Curry portraying Pennywise the clown on the made-for-tv miniseries), I have been petrified of clowns. And seeing the movie *Poltergeist* when I was a child didn't help. I don't even want to take our girls to the circus, although I mainly will hide behind the veil of an animal rights protest in that case and not just my fear of the painted ones.

And I recently read *Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Circus Clown*, too, so perhaps I am becoming braver in my old age. Two clown-themed stories in less than a month - I never would have imagined it.

Now that my confession is behind me, I must admit that the story was entertaining and very touching. The fact that the little clown toy comes to life didn't even creep me out like I thought it might. The wordless tale is at times humorous, sad, frustrating, scary and happy. I love that the pictures alone evoke an emotional response and that we shared the telling of the tale in our own words as we followed the illustrations. The book has a bit of a graphic novel feel to it, with a mixture of framed and frameless ink and watercolor images on each page, depicting action and a change of plot.

This book was featured as one of the selections for the December 2011 Toy-themed reads for the Picture-Book Club in the Children's Books Group here at Goodreads. I know for sure that I would never have discovered this book on my own, especially given its title, so I'm very glad that it was chosen through this book club. It is a sweet story and we really enjoyed reading it together!

Beverly says

Wordless story in panels and small, unbordered sections on each page.

Vicki Purbrick says

This book has no words, just beautiful illustrations. The pictures throughout the book tell a story that anybody can understand, in this case there are no need for words. The story is based around a bunch of toys that are thrown away in a bin, and the clown decides to go on an adventure. The clown goes in search of a new family so he and his friends can be loved once more and the group of toys can remain together and continue their friendship.

The clown, the main character is a constant figure throughout every page within the book and is in every illustration apart from six illustrations which is towards the end of the book. The clown appears smaller than

the other characters within the book, which may suggest he is less powerful. The clown is thrown away more than once by other characters that appear much bigger, this gives the impression the clown is powerless which is matched by the illustration he is being tossed to one side.

The position of the clown is varied within the book, but is often towards the edge of the page which could give an impression the clown is not in control, and the illustrations match the mood of the clown perfectly. The story flows from left to right throughout the book and the pictures do the same. When the story reaches a turning point only then does the clown move from right to left, however there is a reason for this, to collect something he has left behind. The story then resumes the traditional theme of left to right.

Most of the illustrations that are within the frames indicate an unhappy time for the clown, with facial expressions matching the mood of the picture. In each frame the clown is either unhappy or is being thrown away once more and his chance of happiness with a new family alongside his friends seems further and further out of reach. The majority of the the illustrations are icons but there are a few symbols of grey buildings, although they are not complete the reader can assume they are buildings and presumably are within a city.

The white background is prominent throughout the book and makes the clown the focus of the book. Emotions run high in this book due to the repeated rejection the clown is experiencing by adults, but it really engages the reader and perhaps get them to empathise. It is not until the clown helps a baby to stop crying does an older girl take notice. The girl seems young in age and finds herself smiling at his entertainment, young at heart however burdened with household chores. They agree to work together to complete of the chores and an unspoken bond/friendship seems to have been created.

Colours used within the book are mainly a dull nature, lots of grey, brown and unpleasant green. The clown himself is mainly white, but does have a green hat, purple collar with yellow hands and hair. It is not until the last four pages of the book is there a real burst of bright colour. Bright pink is used on the forth page from last, as the young girl, clown and his friends run back to the girls house. Although this illustration is set within a frame, the burst of pink, the yellow from the street lights, the smiles on their faces and the flowers than that clown is holding represents happiness. The last two pages are yellow in colour which suggests to the reader warmth, with an illustration of a tidy household with dinner ready on the table which would be welcoming for any visitor.

The last two pages within the book have a mixture of both straight and curved lines, both of which complement each other and allows the reader to feel a calm and warm feeling for the end of the book. A use of bright colours make the reader feel warm and cosy. Set within a frame that you do not want to escape, it is complete and has everything the clown and his friends and the young girl have been searching for.

Although this book has no words, the fantastic illustrations speak for themselves. This book can be read by a child or can be read to a child. Children will become curious from the illustrations which will generate conversation in order for them to understand and apply meaning of the book. This book I think would be suitable for most children over the age of three and beyond.

Sarah says

This is a wordless book about a toy clown who gets thrown out and separated from his fellow toys in the trash can. He wanders through the city trying to find a way back to them. A heart-warming ending provides a satisfying conclusion to a story that ambles along. Blake's signature sketchy style captures the floppiness of the clown and the chaos of the city (NYC?). Themes about the meaning of "home" and wants vs needs would

make for good discussion.

Kelly says

Through a series of only illustrations tells the story of a thrown-away clown and his adventures.

Charlotte says

This cool, dark and funny story lacks words but not heart.
