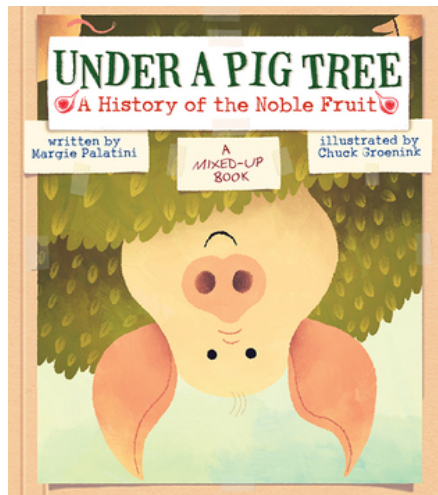




Under a Pig Tree: A History of the Noble Fruit (A Mixed-Up Book)

Margie Palatini , Chuck Groenink (Illustrations)

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The publisher and author of *Under a Pig Tree* seem to be having communication issues. The author has written a clear, no-nonsense history of *figs*. But the publisher is sure she meant *pigs*. After all, what's the difference between two measly letters? What results is a hilarious illustrated history of pigs, from the earliest times ("Pigs were presented as 'medals' to the winners of the first Olympics") to the present day ("There is nothing better than enjoying a cup of tea or glass of milk with one of those famous Pig Newtons"). The author, needless to say, is not happy about this "little mix-up" and makes her feelings very clearly known—by scrawling all over the book!

With sticky notes from the publisher, angry scribbles from the author, wrinkles, and pages askew, *Under a Pig Tree* is a playful peek into a book in "midproduction" and a humorous look at the consequences of small mistakes, by industry pro Margie Palatini and up-and-coming talent Chuck Groenink.

Under a Pig Tree: A History of the Noble Fruit (A Mixed-Up Book) Details

Date : Published April 14th 2015 by Harry N. Abrams

ISBN : 9781419714887

Author : Margie Palatini , Chuck Groenink (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Under a Pig Tree: A History of the Noble Fruit (A Mixed-Up Book) for online ebook

Beverly says

Very funny!

Matthew says

The story of an outraged author and her uncompromising editor/publisher who refuses to run a reprint of a book with a fairly important error. Margie Palatini makes herself a character in this book as she argues back and forth with her publisher that replacing the word fig with the word pig changes the inflection of the entire book. Essentially, the editor has already had the book illustrated and printed and is now beyond the point of no return. The book is going out as is whether Palatini likes it or not, and Palatini certainly doesn't like it. If you liked the playful nature of books like Chloe and the Lion or the three Chester books, then you're bound to be a fan of this one. It just goes to show you how much one misprinted letter can change the meaning of an entire book. Very funny read.

Jeanie {coffee girl} says

This was an interesting read, a mixed up book that made my daughter laugh out loud! Picture book, Under a Pig Tree: A History of the Noble Fruit by Margie Palatini is written as if the publishers made a huge mistake and the author responds via editing notes. According to the authors note in the front of the book, the book was supposed to be about Figs; however, the publishers saw it as about Pigs and created the illustrations in regards to the new subject. Which makes this a very hilarious read aloud. Focusing on the illustrations and making sure to note the editing comments adds to the story tremendously.

Allison says

Definitely buying this for my grandmother's birthday. Such a weird little treat.

Jenny says

The kids thought this was hilarious and I could hardly read it for the interruptions of excitement where the 8-year-old, who had already read it, told me to look at different things and read it aloud over me. If you like books that break the fourth wall, this book does that. It is a written argument between the author, who knows about figs, and the editor, who thinks that the mix-up of using a p instead of an f is no big deal. Whereas the book was to be about figs, it is now about pigs. At first the sentences make sense when pig is substituted for fig, but it gets weirder and sillier.

Sarah says

Hilarious!

Misbah says

A weird book. Supposedly the facts in it are about figs and not pigs but they don't apply to figs either i think. The stars for being unique.

Anna Nesterovich says

That is hilarious! Well over the head of a 6-year-old, but still hilarious.

Barbara says

It's only one little letter-a p instead of an f. Why would the author care? Well, as this humorous picture book reveals, the author cares a lot since her book is supposed to tell the history of figs, but because of a publishing error, it ends up replacing all the figs with pigs. Although the book is published, the author is clearly not happy, and she communicates her annoyance through sticky notes, red-lined corrections on the title and illustrations, and notes scrawled all along the book's pages. When one publisher's note requests that she check for accuracy, she explodes in annoyance. The battle rages on throughout the pages of the book. Even the author's information stating that she is "a real pig enthusiast" results in a denial. The illustrations, created through Photoshop, gouache, and pencil, are filled with details paying tribute to pigs, not figs, while the author keeps insisting that things need to be changed. I don't know how much truth there is to anything presented in this book, but I do know it amused me thoroughly, even the Also Available titles, including A Clockwork Orangutan and Sheepspeare Classics. Wonderful for sharing with youngsters as well as their elders, who will probably get more of the references than the younger ones, this picture book even includes sly humor in the use of the publisher's last name: Cochon, which is, of course, pig in French.

Rainey says

A very funny book. Young readers show enjoy jokes will like this book.

Rebecca Ann says

This book was hilarious in the same vein as The True Story of the Three Little Pigs. The book has accidentally been printed with the word Pig instead of Fig all the way through, and there are pig illustrations that are subsequently zany. I love the author asides and corrections.

Rachel says

A huge "boo-boo" by the publisher has made this potentially boring history about the fig, into a hilarious story about the pig. By replacing each instance of the word "fig" with "pig", not to mention all the illustrations, some rather unusual things occur; early Olympic medals portrayed their image, the best ones hang from the lowest branches, and "Pig Newtons" have those funny wigs. The poor author is in fits, this is not what she intended and she makes sure that we know it, scrawling her displeasure across most of the pages. This can get a bit repetitive because many are just variations of the same sentence. When we reach the page of recipes, her red pencil takes on a new feverish pitch, maxing out with an endpage full of the colour, and ending with drawings of figs as if to say, "how could you mix these two things up!". Adding insult to injury are the post-it notes left by the editor, and their mistakes with the titles in the "also available" section. Many of the illustrations make references to famous works of art, or figures, and because the artist uses a versatile style, he can shift it slightly to capture these images while still maintaining a unified look. This unique picture book will leave kids in fits of laughter.

Katy Wilmotte says

One of my new favorite children's books, right up there with 'Dragons Love Tacos.'

Sharon Tyler says

Under a Pig Tree: A History of the Noble Fruit (A Mixed-Up Book) is a picturebook written by Margie Palatini and illustrated by Chuck Groenink. The publisher and author of Under a Pig Tree seem to be having communication issues. The author has written a clear, no-nonsense history of figs, but the publisher is sure she meant pigs. The final product is a hilarious illustrated history of pigs, from the earliest times ("Pigs were presented as 'medals' to the winners of the first Olympics") to the present day ("There is nothing better than enjoying a cup of tea or glass of milk with one of those famous Pig Newtons"). The author, needless to say, is not happy about this "little mix-up" and makes her feelings very clearly known, by scrawling all over the book!

Under a Pig Tree: A History of the Noble Fruit is a highly entertaining picture book that had me chuckling aloud as I read it. this would not be so bad if I was not processing the book for library cataloging in a crowded office. The author's not at the beginning of the book really sets the tone for the book, which is full of sticky notes with corrections and commentary from the author remarking on the absurdity of replacing fig with pig. The result is a book that will have young readers giggling at the silliness of it all and adults equally (if not more) amused by the book.

I cannot recommend Under a Pig Tree: A History of the Noble Fruit enough. It will entertain readers of all ages, and has inspired a staff story time at my library to share it with those that might not otherwise get a chance to enjoy it.

Stefanie Burns says

Clever book with a different style. The editor/publisher begins with a letter to the reader explaining there has been a mishap to the book. The author claims the book is about figs, however, the book has been made about pigs. Every time the word pig is in the book it should have said fig, yet the illustrations are all about pigs.

The author has written little notes in red all over the title to correct and show her displeasure. The editor/publisher has added more notes in the book as well.

I think this is one of those picture books that is funnier for the adult than the child. Adults will get a lot of the puns that children don't, yet the illustrations will appeal to both. I would save this for students 7 or older. At times, it is confusing because the story actually makes some sense even though it says pig instead of fig. This book will most likely get funnier with re-readings as readers will notice more and more of the jokes and details.
