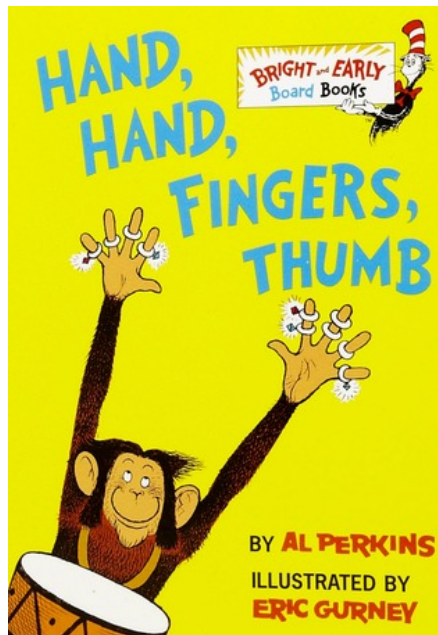




Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb

Al Perkins , Eric Gurney (Illustrator)

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Illus. in full color. A madcap band of dancing, prancing monkeys explain hands, fingers, and thumbs to beginning readers.

Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb Details

Date : Published January 20th 1998 by Random House Books for Young Readers (first published 1969)

ISBN : 9780679890485

Author : Al Perkins , Eric Gurney (Illustrator)

Format : Board Book 24 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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From Reader Review Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb for online ebook

Bam says

My grandson loves the repetition of sounds.

J Austill says

This book deserves 5 stars just from the sentimental value. It was one of two books that I bought for my daughter while she was in the womb and it was the very first book for her to become infatuated with.

It is a very simple book, with a great rhythm. It's about drumming and the words perfectly mimic drumming. For target ages, my daughter still loves it and she is 4 but she started liking it pretty much immediately after birth.

So, this is a great first book.

Kellee says

Trent loves this book so much, and we read it over and over, so I really should want to give it 4 or 5 stars, but.... GOSH DARN IT, THOSE AREN'T MONKEYS! THEY ARE APES! I'm sticking by my convictions and giving it only 3 stars!

Cat says

What child or adult can resist reading this rhythmic story? Love all the monkeys drumming! great rhyme, great illustrations!

Aileen says

I actually really enjoy this book.

Its rhyming is fun, repetitive and catchy and a little bit silly which all means my son has loved it ever since I started reading it to him (probably when he was about 6 months old) and aged four he still loves it (and knows it off by heart).

The reason it gets such a low rating is because the pictures, although great, are obviously of chimpanzees. Chimpanzees are not monkeys they are apes.

It annoys me every time I read it.

I do not believe in the primate nested theory that says all apes are monkeys.

My When I was at university just a few years ago they were recognize as a distinct group (and yes I did graduate with a Bachelor of Science) so did understand at least some of what was being taught in lectures. In the words of Beyonce
"if its a monkey then you should've put a tail on it" (or something like that).

Books Ring Mah Bell says

hands play fiddles zum zum zum. hand in hand more monkeys come!

I hope someday my son will appreciate all the books I read to him.

Becky says

First sentence: Hand hand fingers thumb. One thumb one thumb drumming on a drum. One hand two hands drumming on a drum. Dum ditty dum ditty dum dum dum.

Premise/plot: What starts out as one monkey joyfully drumming ends with millions of monkeys jamming away on their drums. Perkins' book is a jazzy treat that delights readers old and new.

Favorite quotes:

"Hello Jack." "Hello Jake." Shake hands shake hands. Shake! Shake! Shake!

Hand in hand more monkeys come. Many more fingers. Many more thumbs. Many more monkeys. Many more drums. Millions of fingers! Millions of thumbs! Millions of monkeys drumming on drums!

My thoughts: Everything I learned about rhythm and rhyme I learned by reading this one. An exaggeration perhaps, there is also Dr. Seuss. But I tend to judge the quality of all other picture books attempting rhythm with this one. Most fail horribly. There is just something magical about this one. Yes, I grew up with it. Yes, I quote it all the time. I think the book is timeless and just about perfect.

Have you read it? What did you think?

Text: 5 out of 5

Illustrations: 5 out of 5

Total: 10 out of 10

Sean Gibson says

This book gets bonus points for being my son's first favorite book (granted, he was all of 12 months old at the time). This tome's got rhythm, though--I'll give it that...

R. says

The biological limitations of anthropoids. A hand, and another hand. Fingers on each. The thumb; the opposable thumb. An anatomy lesson for your little tommy, your little leslie and, ultimately, a primate primer, a reminder, *por vous*.

Jim says

I remember this one so well that I had to chant it aloud with a smile on my face. It's been a while. I got a couple of the dum ditty's & hum ditty's confused, but not bad after 20 years. I guess I read it A LOT for most of a decade. Cute pictures, too.

Marg bought 4 of these books for the upcoming grandmonster & asked me to mail them. I had to read them first. They're in a nifty 4"x6" thick cardboard format, unlike the ones we had for our kids. Hopefully harder for little fingers to tear.

midnightfaerie says

With Dr. Seuss like illustrations, the best part of this book was the rhyming rhythmic poetry that made the kids repeat every page. They added their own drumbeats by beating on the table and loved the bring colors that accompanied each page. One our whole family could enjoy.

Julie Mesquita says

I love it since I was 8 months old. Mommy sings the words like a song and I keep tapping the book with my hands or thumbs accompanying the story. I don't read it often anymore, now that I am 2 and a half, but I sure loved it for a while.

Mariah says

An easy starter book for kids.

Suzanne says

27 years later my kids can still recite the verses. My husband always found the last pages a disturbing imagemillions of fingers, millions of thumbs, millions of monkeys drumming on drums. A classic.

Dustin Luke says

I wanted to like "Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb." I'd heard the mumurs. Read the hype. EVERYONE has been talking about it. While it wasn't bad, it doesn't deliver on the hype.

I started off enjoying the book just fine. The first act is solid. Meandering a bit, maybe, but I was with Mr. Perkins. (Yeah, Perkins. Not Seuss. We'll get to that.) But then I get a little lost. The narrative thread is weak. As soon as you get to know one monkey they bring in another. Now, I'm not opposed to having a large cast of characters, I love "12 Angry Men" and "Game of Thrones," but it's almost as though Mr. Perkins doesn't really have a sense of the inner lives of these drumming monkeys. I get the sense that he hasn't done the work on them, hasn't done the character studies. Where did they come from? What was their family life like? Shoe size? What's their favorite kind of pasta? Gnocchi? I don't think Mr. Perkins knows.

That really only gets us through act 2, to be honest. The third act is just a mess. Suddenly there are millions of monkeys and they're all drumming on drums. I really lose track of our main character — who, I might add, is never named, Cormac McCarthy much? — and it's almost as though you can't hear the story of these monkeys over the racket created (figurative and literal) by all the monkeys and all the drumming.

Though the third act really fails for me, I do love the twist ending. Just so you don't hate me I'll throw this out there — SPOILERS AHEAD: Mr. Perkins removes all the millions of monkeys drumming on drums and we end with our original character, "The Monkey," if I may. The Monkey we came to love at first and he sends us out with a quiet, glacially paced "dum ditty dum ditty dum dum dum." It's a beautiful turn on our expectations of the genre, it's tendency toward always getting bigger, grander, wanting more. So, while it lost my for large swaths of the book, I give it three stars for a strong opening and helluva close.

One last note: I was dismayed to realize that this isn't even by Dr. Seuss. Theo is now outsourcing his work? Who does he think he is? James Patterson? I'm not buying it. Boo on you, Mr. Suess.
