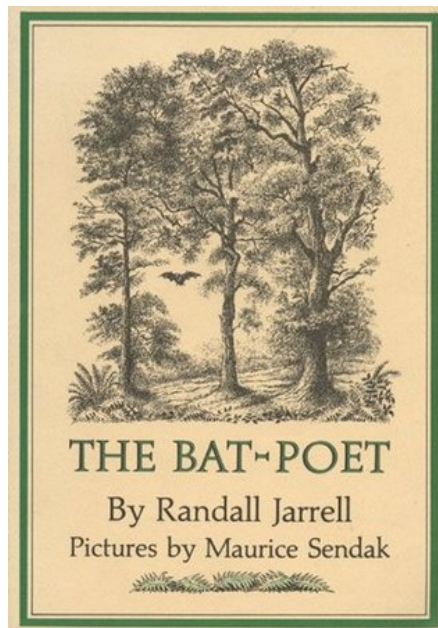




The Bat-Poet

Randall Jarrell , Maurice Sendak (Illustrator)

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There was once a little brown bat who couldn't sleep days—he kept waking up and looking at the world. Before long he began to see things differently from the other bats who from dawn to sunset never opened their eyes. The Bat-Poet is the story of how he tried to make the other bats see the world his way.

With illustrations by Maurice Sendak, The Bat-Poet—a New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book selection—is a collection of the bat's own poems and the bat's own world: the owl who almost eats him; the mockingbird whose irritable genius almost overpowers him; the chipmunk who loves his poems, and the bats who can't make heads or tails of them; the cardinals, blue jays, chickadees, and sparrows who fly in and out of Randall Jarrell's funny, lovable, truthful fable.

The Bat-Poet Details

Date : Published January 1st 1997 by HarperCollins Publishers (first published 1963)

ISBN : 9780062050847

Author : Randall Jarrell , Maurice Sendak (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 43 pages

Genre : Poetry, Childrens, Fiction, Fantasy, Picture Books

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From Reader Review The Bat-Poet for online ebook

Alycia Kelly says

Awwww! Seriously, what a cute book. This was such a fun read, that I recommend all young children have read to them.

Lara says

A wonderful introduction to poetry for young people.

Sweet and sophisticated.

Rachel says

What a sweet little book. I hadn't known about this little gem, but I highly recommend it. As a writer, I can relate. :)

Nancy says

Spot-on portrait of the effort of writing poetry, including even the worry of its uselessness -- or, at least, its lack of audience. The Bat-Poet's poems come in at the moment you need them to, and surprise you with which rules they follow and which they don't. Sweet!

Masked says

i've read this a hundred times but got it out again because of something i overheard on the train. first of all, it's written by randall jarrell. then it's illustrated by maurice sendak. finally, and of course, it's for children.

randall jarrell writes everything so pretty pretty pretty. but this story isn't like most kids books where the strange kid wins because everyone learns to appreciate his strangeness after a spate of cruelty and misunderstanding. this story breaks my heart because the little bat hero finds his voice and knows he's different but in the end goes back to doing what all the other bats do. he stops saying his little bat poems and goes to sleep. oh, little bat! no! at the end you'll feel stupid getting so worked up over an imaginary bat who says poems. but you won't really have any choice. damn you, randall jarrell!

Hilary says

Not really for children? but for the adult sharing it with a child?

Jacquie says

I read this every October to my students. It is such a inspiration for them to be an individual, to create lovely images with words, to be outdoors as look and see.

Gerry LaFemina says

I did not know Randall Jarrell wrote a children's book, illustrated by Maurice Sendak, about the hardships of being a poet. The Bat-Poet is a delight, and not just for poets and their children (but it's sure to be loved by them).

Catherine Hart says

This is my absolute favourite book from my childhood. The Bat Poet is a beautiful Plato's-cave-like allegory about art's role in opening us up to new perspectives, if only we're willing to open our eyes.

Victoria says

I was snooping at the librarian's desk in the Children's Book Room when I spied a copy of this book, The Bat~Poet, with a sticky note on it. Randall Jarrell is a fantastic poet but also the author of my favorite children's book, Animal Family. So I asked if I could check it out and reluctantly, she handed it over but noted that it was water damaged and old and I should be careful.

What a find! A sweet, lyrical book written by a poet, for poets and observers of the world (children!) all. For children, the message is appropriately about independence and the process of finding, and accepting, one's own way of looking at the world. And then sharing that back with community and family. But for writers, this book is a tidy and lovely ode to becoming a writer and the writing process. And this goes without saying with a 5-star review - the writing is excellent.

As a final endorsement, this book made me think hard about my Top Five: was it better than "Animal Family"? I finally decided, no, it wasn't, but the fact that it made me pause and reconsider the standing of one favorite books of all time speaks to it caliber.The Animal FamilyRandall Jarrell

John Mccullough says

In "test-driving" a book for use with my grand-daughter I found this short, charming book and read it. In it, a young bat prefers to keep sleeping in the rafters of the house porch rather than transfer to the barn for the summer. In his isolation he takes to thinking of poetry to describe his world, writing poems for the animals that surround him. He writes poems for the chipmunk, the mockingbird and even for the bats.

This is one of the children's books written by Southern poet and author Randall Jarrell and illustrated by Maurice Sendak. Yes, THAT Maurice Sendak. Both the story and the illustrations are charming. If you have a grandchild of about age 4 or 5 this might be a good book to read on a cold, lonely night. It is 42 pages and attention spans are short for so long a tale, but it can be broken up in segments if you read ahead a bit.

Elizabeth says

Randall Jarrell + Maurice Sendak = charming.

Rosemary says

What a beautiful book. I will be returning to this more than once, both by myself and with my children.

Johnny Trash says

A children's book, illustrated by Maurice Sendak and written in 1963, it's a charming little story of a bat who learns to create poetry by imitating the mockingbird. Of course, the other bats don't really get it so he looks for another audience and has dreams of actually sharing his poetry with his mentor, the mockingbird.

Matt Evans says

Watch the Bat-Poet learn about poetry, write his own (middling) poems, and eventually become a master bat-poet. This is a fun, charming, lovely book.

Miriam says

The little brown bat stays awake when the other bats sleep, and when the weather cools and they move to the barn he stays on the porch, listening to the mockingbird and wishing he could sing, too. He can't carry a tune, but he finds he can describe the world around him with words. Does that make him poet? And will anyone else want to hear his poems?

Mo says

Had I been aware of this book as a child, I think I would have carried it around like a teddy bear, hugging it and nibbling on the corners. I love the matter-of-fact, believable dialogue between the creatures. There's nothing cutesy or after-school-special about the animals. They just have these great discussions about life and art that include the kind of yummy tidbits about animal behavior that I've always geeked out to. Maurice Sendak's black and white illustrations are magical. Even the small drawings of bats in some of page corners

are remarkably expressive and alive.

Matthew says

The illustrations are black and white ink drawings. The mockingbird looks like a mockingbird and the bats look like actual bats and the owl is dangerous and quiet like an owl and the chipmunk looks like a chipmunk and the look and movement of the animals is extremely expressive. The trees are gnarled and many-branched and beautiful. And it is very encouraging to see the progress of the little brown bat's poetic ability as the book goes along (the poems throb with the feeling of the forest). One of the all time greats right here.

Adrienne Harling says

An exceptional read. A fabulous choice for introducing poetry to children.

Kerri says

I had no idea this book existed until a week ago when I was ordering another copy of *The Animal Family* as a gift (also by Jarrell/Sendack and one of my favorite little books ever), and I saw this in the "related books" section. I ordered it immediately.

It's another beautiful little treasure. The words are sweet and simple but beautiful, and the illustrations (closer to illuminations, really) are complex and atmospheric, but again, simple at the same time.

The story is lovely, and really there are so many ways to relate to it. It actually struck me as a designer, and I saw a lot of similarities to the client/designer relationships in the way the little bat interacted with the subjects of his poetry.

Lovely little book. All you mamas must get it for your children. Or, if you're just a grownup like me, get it for yourselves.
