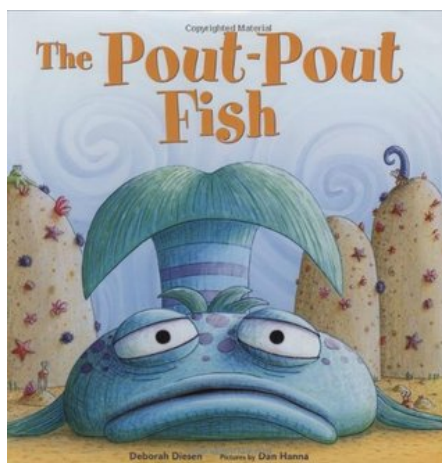




The Pout-Pout Fish

Deborah Diesen (Illustrations) , Daniel X. Hanna (Illustrations)

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A NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER

*Deep in the water,
Mr. Fish swims about
With his fish face stuck
In a permanent pout.*

*Can his pals cheer him up?
Will his pout ever end?
Is there something he can learn
From an unexpected friend?*

Swim along with the pout-pout fish as he discovers that being glum and spreading "dreary wearies" isn't really his destiny. Bright ocean colors and playful rhyme come together in Deborah Diesen's fun fish story that's sure to turn even the poutiest of frowns upside down.

The Pout-Pout Fish Details

Date : Published August 6th 2013 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) (first published 2008)

ISBN : 9780374360979

Author : Deborah Diesen (Illustrations) , Daniel X. Hanna (Illustrations)

Format : Board Book 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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From Reader Review The Pout-Pout Fish for online ebook

Donna Davis says

It's a hard thing, buying board books (cardboard pages less likely to be ruined by tiny hands that might tear paper pages) online. I've finally got a grandchild, and obviously the thing a good Grammy buys at Christmas, is books. But I've been away from tiny people for over 15 years, and so once I bought him the good ones not already in my awesome kiddy collection, I was stumped. I saw that this one was popular, but we're only allowed to look at one or two pages on Amazon, and that makes it hard to get a sense of cadence and vocabulary, as well as whether this is just a cute story, or one of those overly preachy types that can kill an early love of books with a huge, heavy handed lesson that comes across more like a hammer than like warm arms and a soft lap.

Thank goodness for other reviewers. I bought the book, and it is now a favorite for 9 month old Sammy. It's equally useful for any gender, with no assumptions made.

In the end, we learn that the pout pout fish has incorrectly identified itself and when another fish slides up and gives that fish a kiss, it exclaims that it realizes "...I was wrong! I'm a kiss-kiss fish with a kiss-kiss face..."

My spouse and I gifted our new grandson with five board books, but this one is the runaway fave, and my daughter-in-law's family sat under their own tree Christmas Day, flipped open their phones, and ordered the other toddler in their family a copy also, once Sammy and his parents had shared this magical little book.

One final bonus: it has absolutely nothing to do with bedtime. Some of us like to read at other times, and until I retired, I hadn't realized how skewed babies' books are toward bedtime. So if the baby you're buying for has a stay-home parent or grandparent, or if you're buying books for a daycare, this one will suit you down to the ground. Or the sea.

Lee says

So rhythmic it reads itself -- love the phrases ("a kaleidoscope of mope") and the smooching finale. The best of the bunch so far.

Darcy says

The rhymes here are simply dazzling. Mom said the ending seems to suggest the titular fish has some boundary issues. Mom is frequently a Grade A killjoy.

Hannah Notess says

This is basically a children's book version of "Hey gorgeous, why don't you smile more?" Thbbbbhtht.

As anyone who knows either of us might imagine, neither Sam nor I appreciated that message. So. back to

the library it goes.

Also. Consent! We can teach kids about consent! This book does not.

Cute illustrations though.

Samantha says

It was pretty cute, but I also had some consent questions for the kissing fish. You can't just go around kissing grumpy people.

Dolly says

This is a fantastic book; a song that is catchy, with its repetitive lyrics and hilarious onomatopoeia as well as illustrations that are colorful and silly, yet still expressive. And we absolutely loved the ending. We really enjoyed reading this book - a perfect book for bedtime!

December 2015 update: I borrowed this book again from the library to share with our two-year-old niece during her visit with my brother-in-law just before Christmas. It has the same bouncy rhythm as Bear Snores On, and is just as fun to read aloud.

Anne says

The **Pout-Pout Fish** is a hauntingly realistic portrayal of one fish's journey through depression and self-loathing.

Much like what happens in real life, his well-meaning friends try to help him by giving him sage advice like, "*turn that frown upside down*" , but their words of wisdom go unheeded.

Ultimately he realizes that only the love of a good woman can lift him out of his sadness. It brought tears to my eyes when he realized that he was a **Smooch-Smooch Fish**!

Ok. Maybe not. **But** my little girl *did* think it was hysterical when I made the *Bluub...Bluuuub...Bluuuuuuuub* sounds!

Cassandra Gelvin says

Don't Read This To My Kids

This book sends absolutely the wrong message, in more ways than one. I hated it so much that I posted a video review of it on YouTube. You can find it on my channel, "Don't Read This To My Kids". Basically, the main character is upset, and the only thing his "friends" tell him is that he should smile for them, oblivious to the possibility that he might have a legitimate problem of some kind, or that feeling sad is even okay in this aquatic world. They don't want to deal with his feelings. Then a stranger arrives and kisses him on the face, which magically fixes the problem, suggesting to impressionable kids (as other reviewers here have pointed out) that going around kissing people you don't know is acceptable and in fact desirable. My video review goes into more detail. <https://youtu.be/-Ja9OZBC71c>

Luann says

Perfect to teach children (and perhaps a few adults!) that they can CHOOSE to be happy. Perfect for reading aloud in a library storytime - with some repeated parts allowing for audience participation and also some wonderful vocabulary and fun rhyming words. The illustrations are also VERY fun, with a wide cast of underwater sea creatures. My favorite illustration shows the pout-pout fish just after being kissed looking directly out of the center of a two-page spread - and he's actually still upside-down from the page before if you look at the background and the other creatures behind him. Just fun all around!!

Justin Pauls says

Would be 5 stars but that squid is super rude.

Jerzy says

So, here's the thing. My 1-year-old loves the rhyming patter and the Blub Bluuub Bluuuuuub. And we can treat it as a cute, well-illustrated story about a fish affected by the dispositional attribution fallacy.

But.

If you imagine swapping the gender roles, it is CREEPY:

"Hey there, girl, why don't you give me a smile?"

"Uh, I'd really rather not."

"C'mon, cheer up, luv."

"Please stop pestering me."

[A stranger swoops in making unrequested, nonconsensual advances.]

"Oh, wow, now I am liberated! I'm gonna make out with everyone!"

So yeah---not sure how we'll feel about the book once the kid is old enough to understand more than Blub Bluuub Bluuuuuub.

Kayla Edwards says

A cute little story about a fish with an ever-present pout and how everyone in his life tries to convince him to be happy. Not the biggest hit with my students, but a few were into it.

Davis says

The Kiss-Kiss Fish needs to have a refresher course on consent before I read this book again.

Lanica says

I have young twin boys who get a story every night, so we try to get a good selection from the library. This is one that has passed the twins test and will have to be purchased for our home library.

It's sing-songy and has a repeated refrain which the boys love, and the pictures are active enough that they are not always reaching to turn the page, they actually look at the pictures as we read.

It only gets four stars instead of five because the ending is a little weak.

The story is this: A Pout-Pout fish is bringing everyone around him down. Each of his friends ask him to cheer up in a different way. He keeps saying that he's a Pout-Pout fish, and that's just the way he is. Until one day a beautiful fish he's never seen before swims over and gives him a kiss on his pouting lips. Ta-da! Now he's happy and a Kiss-Kiss fish. *smooch*

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

P-P F is a funny story that will teach young children that they have control over how they interact with others - very important lesson.
