



This Is Not A Book

Jean Jullien (Artist)

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A playfully deceptive format that encourages young readers to see things differently. Selected by Publishers Weekly as one of the Best Books of 2016, Picture Books category

This is not a book - it's a laptop, a pair of hands to clap, a toolbox! Each spread of this book is actually something else entirely, challenging young readers to see things quite differently!

Turning the page and finding a full-sized image of piano keys will invite children to swing the book on its side for imaginative play; turning the page again to find a monster with its mouth wide open will prompt children to use the book to chomp everything around them! The result stretches beyond the pages of this book, prompting readers to think creatively about other objects in their daily lives.

Created for ages 2-4 years

This Is Not A Book Details

Date : Published March 28th 2016 by Phaidon Press (first published March 21st 2016)

ISBN : 9780714871127

Author : Jean Jullien (Artist)

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From Reader Review This Is Not A Book for online ebook

L.H. Johnson says

Shall we start the week off with a very good book indeed? Yes. Of course we should.

This is Not A Book by Jean Jullien is an outstanding thing; a board book that defies conventions and expectations by resolutely refusing to be a board book. There's no linear narrative here, rather there's a series of double page spreads where the book is something *other* than a book. It's a set of piano keys with the sheet music for Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, or it's a man walking across a tightrope, or it's the inside of a tent, a girl sat on a chair reading a book to her pet dog, or a gorgeously simply rendered pink bottom.

This is a delightful book because of its ability to give a constant surprise. It's so defiant of convention and expectation that it manages to deliver something quite extraordinary. Not quite book, not quite toy, but rather wonderfully creative experience. I loved it. This is classy, brave and smart work.

Amy says

This book is so clever! The reader needs to bring with them a knowledge of common objects. It really isn't a book at all but to me a collection of things enclosed in pages. It's impossible to predict what is coming which made it exciting and fun to read. I didn't want it to end!

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

Cybils nominee for best board book. More later.

Lost Darren says

Pretty fun non-book

Kristen says

Clever, but I don't know. I would need to try it with a child. And is that one page a person's naked bottom?

Sam Bloom says

So awesome.

Leilah Skelton says

Without doubt, this is the best board book I've seen in a very long time. Each page turn transforms this book into something new. It is a theatre stage, an open fridge, a laptop. It even steeples into a little tent that you can peep inside. I've watched a little girl play a lovely recital of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star on the 'piano' that's inside it. I've seen a little boy giggle delightedly at a surprise bottom. I've had a lovely conversation with a monster, too.

This is Not a Book may have lots in common with other titles aimed at very young readers – tough, glossy pages, vivid colour and bold illustration, but Jean Jullien has produced something quite fantastically different here. Every page is an invitation to think. This book becomes whatever its reader wants to make of it. It invites you to play. So, when is a book not a book? When it several things besides. This is hours of imaginative, creative play cunningly disguised as an ordinary book. Don't believe me? Pop it into the little hands of a small child and just watch...

Natalie says

This is a fantastic interactive book... or is it even a book at all? It is a frightening monster, a laptop, a fridge, a piano, and even a cheeky bottom! A brilliant book for engaging children and challenging the notion of a 'book'. It can be turned around and used in imaginative play as a laptop or piano, shut quickly (all pages are hardback) at the sight of a scary monster, on even positioned open upside down to form a tent. A very unique and interesting book.

James Benham says

This is not a review.

Penny says

What a unique and clever book!! One needs to look it over a few times to totally find and understand all that Jean intended for us to see and experience! It is a great book for young and old alike. Great job Jean!!

Sarah says

An adorable board book that creatively uses the two facing pages to imagine that it is, indeed, not a book. For example, one set of pages have a drawing of a computer screen on the left and a keyboard on the right. If you rotate the book, you are looking at a paper laptop, definitely Not a book!

Leonardo says

No entiendo porque está en Goodreads: no es un libro. Gracias Dani, está buenísimo!

Bernice Seward says

Very clever concept for a book. A book is not just paper and pages--it is an exciting adventure full of beauty, food for the "soul", games, shared experiences, etc. I would have rated it 5 stars except for the naked bottom picture, which wasn't appropriate for the age group for this book.

Karin says

Interesting concept. This is a board book. It shows scenes that are clearly not books, like the inside of a refrigerator, a piano and sheet music, an open toolbox. Then, last page fold out reveals a boy sitting in a chair holding a book with the words "This is a book" on the cover.

Mathew says

A highly witty, playful form of the board book. Jean Jullien, known for making us rethink form, space and place with his artwork does it with great aplomb here. Although we think of board books a reading material for the very young, I think anyone will find the book funny and intriguing.

Jullien has about 16 double-page wordless spreads tell very different stories with their scenes, none of which are linear in their telling or even connected. Instead, the illustrator is playing with form of the book and this is made clear in the title itself.

You open the page to the open jaws of a monster, a laptop, tennis court, fridge, butterfly and, among others, my favourite, a tent, which asks the reader to use the book rather than just read it.

Both children AND adults will enjoy this clever play on form and it could encourage some to think more abstractly about the things around them.
