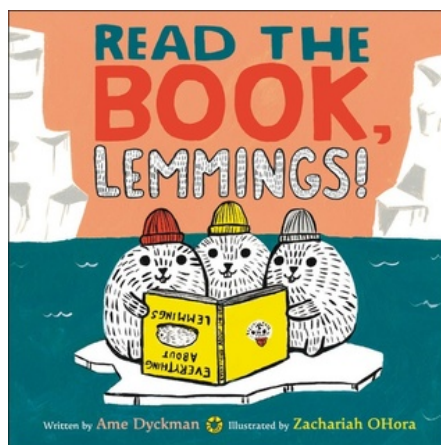




Read the Book, Lemmings!

Ame Dyckman , Zachariah OHora (Contributor)

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Aboard the *S.S. Cliff*, First Mate Foxy reads an interesting fact: "Lemmings *don't* jump off cliffs." But Foxy can't get the lemmings on the *Cliff* to read his book, too. They're too busy jumping off.

After a chilly *third* rescue, exasperated Foxy and grumbly polar bear Captain PB realize their naughty nautical crew *isn't* being stubborn: The lemmings (Jumper, Me Too, and Ditto) *can't* read. And until Foxy patiently teaches his lemmings to read the book, he can't return to reading it, either!

Read the Book, Lemmings! Details

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From Reader Review Read the Book, Lemmings! for online ebook

Katya Vinogradova says

This book is a scream! Told and drawn in a very expressive way so that the action jumps off the page - just like those pesky lemmings. You could practically hear their tiny voices: Jump? I'll jump! Me too! Ditto! So hilarious, but also so annoying if you have to fish them out every time.

The lemmings reminded me of the mice who constantly annoy Mother Bruce - and you know how much I love them.

This would be a really funny read-aloud, especially if you're good at doing several different voices at once.

La Coccinelle says

No, the title is not an instruction for some excitable fandom. This is a book about actual lemmings, who continually find themselves plunging into the sea because they are just so darn stupid.

While the premise is cute, there seems to be a bit of a plot hole: the lemmings aren't actually jumping off cliffs. They're jumping from a cargo ship called the *S.S. Cliff...* but since the lemmings can't read, how do they even know what the ship is called? Hmm...

The pictures are just okay for me; I'm not a big fan of the limited colour palette. I also don't quite believe that the lemmings, as stupid as they are, could learn to read in one afternoon. Let's not give kids unrealistic expectations here.

The title is actually the most amusing part of this for me. Kids might enjoy the repetitive nature of the jumping and rescues, but I found it all just a little bit silly.

Quotable moment:

Donna Mork says

Fox reads a book that says lemmings don't jump off the cliff, but every time he says it, the three lemmings jump off the boat and have to be rescued. He asks why they didn't read the book. They say they can't read. So fox teaches them to read.

Chelsea says

This book was interesting. I am not quite sure if I enjoyed it or not. I would definitely say that this book is for children who are Preschoolers or a bit older. I do not believe that Toddlers would sit for the duration of the story.

Laura G says

Original and creative! Readers will more fully appreciate the story if they understand the connotations of calling someone a "lemming" AND if they are familiar with "lemming migration". I didn't know, but was inspired to research and learned that the myth of lemmings committing mass suicide by jumping off cliffs was largely due to a show that Disney produced in 1958 called "White Wilderness." "According to a 1983 investigation by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation producer Brian Vallee, the lemming scenes were faked. The lemmings supposedly committing mass suicide by leaping into the ocean were actually thrown off a cliff by the Disney filmmakers." One can certainly enjoy the story without that background, but it was all the more enjoyable to me with this background.

I love that the lemmings are named Jumper, Me Too, and Ditto! And of course, I have to love that Foxy teaches the lemmings to read. The illustrations are fun and tell a lot of the story.

Jason says

It's been awhile since a picture book has made me laugh out loud like this. And this many times. So delightfully silly innately that it doesn't have to try so hard to impress its audience. Does that make sense? I feel like there are picture books out there that everyone loves that are like "Look at me, I'm so DIFFERENT. My humor is UNIQUE and still CONNECTS with preschoolers! Hey, librarians, have you read me? you're all going to love me and talk about me with each other because I'm just so SPECIAL. I might even win the CALDECOTT."

Yeah, I probably need some counseling.

Nick says

Lemmings don't really jump off cliffs on a regular basis, other than in Disney nature documentaries. The thing is, did anyone ever try to teach the lemmings about the truth of this destructive rumor about lemming behavior?

The cover has a clue to one of the reasons that lemmings have trouble learning this concept, but their reactions to certain words within the book are quite funny. It's very cartoony, very silly, and the payoff to the story is that sometimes it's dangerous to teach lemmings to overcome their folkloric limitations.

Tasha says

Head out on an Arctic adventure aboard the S.S. Cliff with Foxy, Captain PB and three little lemmings. Foxy is trying to read a book about lemmings but the problem is that the lemmings themselves haven't read it. As Foxy reads aloud that lemmings don't actually jump off of cliffs, the three lemmings immediately jump overboard. Foxy tries again to show them the information, but still, the three lemmings jump overboard again. Eventually Foxy realizes why the lemmings won't read the book, but they have one more trick for him! Dyckman has an impeccable sense of timing in this picture book, creating moments of true hilarity that are a pleasure to share aloud. The book is simply written which adds to its appeal. The illustrations have

great sense of style to them with a pink sky, deep ocean-blue water, and lemmings that wear hats so you can tell them apart. Funny, deeply silly and heart warming, despite the cold water. Appropriate for ages 3-5.

Alyssa Gudenburr says

I laughed out loud many times while reading. This picture book is about a fox who is reading about Lemmings and the nearby Lemmings keep doing the opposite of what they are supposed to do. Gives a great lesson about following and giving directions. Would make a great Elementary read aloud.

Lindsey says

This is a hilarious premise!

Peacegal says

Cute, silly, madcap fun as lemmings have to learn the hard way they really don't leap off cliffs. Reading is necessary, even for lemmings!

Veg*n parents note: The polar bear character is a fisherman, and a bucket of dead fish must be repeatedly utilized to rescue the lemmings.

Lisa says

Nate's made me read this book about 10 times already and he STILL won't let me return it to the lib. I think it's kind of awkward and odd but not without its charm. Nate, on the other hand, thinks it's the last word in humor, and since he is the intended audience, I'm going with 5 stars.

Sharni says

This one made me laugh out loud, repeatedly.

Mallory Hoffman says

I could read same Dyckman's books to my kids over and over, and they would sit and listen like it's the first time. This one is no different. Love these little lemmings!

Bethe says

What a hoot! Love all the jokes and funny business, from the cover art, to case cover, to names of the lemmings!
