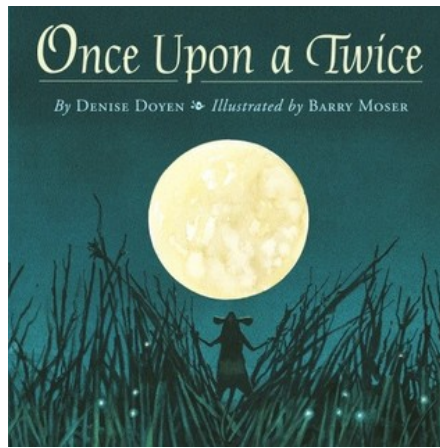




Once Upon a Twice (Picture Book)

Denise Doyen , Barry Moser (Illustrator)

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A cautionary tale for mice reminiscent of Carroll's Jabberwocky!

*Out in the open, in the clear,
Where any wisenmouse would fear,
Jam licks his paw, he grooms an ear,
And never hears approaching hisssss . . .*

What will happen to the brave mouse Jam when he breaks the rules and goes for a moonlit adventure against the advice of the elder mice?

Award-winning illustrator Barry Moser has created a dark and vivid mouse world to complement this cautionary tale full of clever nonsense words and rhyming prose that will keep kids on the edge of their seats.

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Once Upon a Twice (Picture Book) Details

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Author : Denise Doyen , Barry Moser (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Once Upon a Twice (Picture Book) for online ebook

Denise Bucklew says

I read this book last night at bedtime to my granddaughters who stayed over night. It was a rhyming book. A quick read that kept the girls interested until the end even though it was nonsensical.

Kaitlin says

This is a tale of Jam the brave, yet foolish mouse who refuses to be cowed by anything or anyone. When Jam is repeatedly told not to go to the place by the water, he decides to ignore the Elder's warnings and continues on his foolish adventure. Jam reaches the forbidden reeds and let's his guard down as he basks in his victory over the elders. Yet, what lies in wait for Jam could bring an end to this new and exciting adventure with a sssssnap of the mouth. Will Jam get the chance to realize his mistake before it's too late?!

'Once Upon a Twice' is very similar to the book "Jaberwocky" by Lewis Carroll. There are many words created in this book that are made to rhyme and not make sense. The new words are fun to say while they also encourage the reader to really use their 'sounding out' abilities. I had a hard time reading this book the first time and I had to reread the same phrase multiple times in order to understand the meaning of several of the 'new' words that the author created. The text is very well placed and helps you see the order of events happening as you follow the text from top to bottom and left to right. The genre is fiction with the plot being the average kind with rising action, climax, and falling action. The story is told well and there is a great meaning behind the text. Later on, Jam becomes an old elder himself and begins to warn the young children in his family of the danger that awaits them if they dare to ignore their elder's warnings. This picture book reinforces the message that your elders usually know that they are talking about and that youth would do well to follow their actions and dispositions. (Although, many of us know that some people have to find out things the hard way such as Jam did) This book revolves around poetic lines the author uses to weave this powerful story. The illustrations are all dark with a full moon shining over each scene and lighting up the fair colored mice as they travel in their reed clouded world. The many predators of Jam are all created with dark colors that hint at a trace of darkness that accompanies each predator. The story creates the characters personalities and we can all identify as a Jam at some point in our life when we didn't want to listen to our parent's advice on a matter.

Shelli says

Unless you're interesting in discussing the meaning behind the layered text to a five year old (which is about the interest level for this book) this is not a fantastic read to share with your kiddo. Maybe this would be a wonderful bedtime tale to share, guaranteeing sleeping toddlers before books end?? It would have been better received if it were in a different format like a compendium of poetry for older children.

Chris Callaway says

Fantastic wordplay, reminiscent of jabberwocky. Would be great for reading aloud. I can take or leave the cautionary tale, but maybe the point is that the dangerous near-misses make for a great story to tell the young-uns.

Charlotte says

Fantastic wordplay.

Stefanie Burns says

Though it's a picture book, I was reminded of Roald Dahl's, *The BFG* with the mixed up words. Found them and the rhyming words to work against each other which resulted in a complex text. It made the reading more stilted than than it should have been as both the rhyming text and made up words needed to be deciphered. Not for beginning readers.

Marie says

What wondrous fun with words this plays,
Mice hide beneath the moon-strous rays,
Doyen and Moser duet amaze,
A book worth reading thrice twice!

DJ Librarian says

Lovely, evocative, LITERATURE for children.

The mistake I see being made by folks giving this book 2 stars or so, is the feeling it has to be translated for children. It doesn't. Kids live in a world where they are constantly figuring out the meaning of words and situations by association or context. The flow of language and the masterfully done nonsense-word-portmanteaus will make sense to children (the wonderful art helps) if you just "let it flow" over them. It'll take a pre-read or two for YOU the parent/teacher/grandparent to get the rhythm and language down -- but once you do, the experience is magical.

Think of all the sophisticated things your child already listens to and gets the gist of: *The Night Before Christmas*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Bible*. Feeling like you have to parse each nonsense word and steal away its magic and mystery WILL ruin the book. That is not the writing's fault, but the undermining work of a distrustful adult reader. Really, just let go and let the children enjoy.

My toddler to kindergarten Storybook Time listeners loved this book. Because I read it with gusto and we talked a bit about the overall story (not each challenging word.) Good luck and adventure!

blueMeridian says

I loved the artwork, the word choices, and the way the story was told. Not sure I'm entirely on board with the message -- good for mice! 'Never take chances or question your elders' feels like not-so-great life advice for humans.

Terri says

Unlike my sister, who unfairly gave this book only 2 stars, I love this piece! Lyrical poetry with beautiful language, even the nonsense words (which I prefer to call derived words); tone that's just right; nice theme; character development; beautiful illustrations. What more could you ask for? How about a teaching connection?

This is perfect for teaching context clues with upper elementary and middle school students. Give students the derived words on index cards prior to reading, and have them predict the meaning from the clues they find within the words themselves (scoutaprowl, runtunnel, etc.) Read the book aloud (maybe even twice!) then let them decide from the full context if their predictions were accurate. Ask them to substitute a synonymous word or phrase for each of the derived words. Read the book again with the substitutions. Discuss whether the book is better with the derived words or their substitutions. I would venture that the verdict will be unanimous in favor of Doyen's beautiful wordplay. Close by reading the original one more time because once just isn't enough for *Once upon a Twice*!

Ruth says

I love Doyen's way with creating words that you've never heard before but are completely intelligible.

Lisa Vegan says

The title is the best thing about this book. I love it.

The illustrations of the moon and water and foliage were lovely, the snakes and turtles and frogs were nice too, but I didn't like the way the mice were drawn.

The story just didn't do it for me. The message of a warning not to take stupid risks seems as though it should work okay enough, but I don't like the way it was told, and I wasn't wild about the poetry that makes up the story.

I see that I'm very much in the minority here. Perhaps it was my mood when I read it. I'd give it another try, but there are too many other books I'd rather read.

Lupine says

Reminded me of Lewis Carrol and reading it aloud was delightful!

Regina says

Jam goes against the advice of his elders and decides to take a moonlit walk. In doing so, he finds out that the warnings they made were for a good reason - the world can be a dangerous place!

Doyen uses a fun rhythmic language and made up words reminiscent of Lewis Carrol or Dr. Seuss. I enjoyed the poetry of the book but not as much as the illustrations. They were rich and dark, conveying the sense of fear and the risks that Jam was taking.

However, this book may be a little too dark or scary for some children.

Todd Strader says

I like to have fun with wordplay, nonsense verse and rhyme. At times I have come up with some rather brilliant snatchets. But to weave it all together in a meaningful, poetic and well paced narrative that tells a great story takes mastery. And Denise Doyen shows it in spades with Once Upon A Twice. Her nonsense defines itself. You find yourself speaking this new language that you understand perfectly well. And it teaches a great lesson... Jamagination can be a good thing but you don't want to let it runscurry away with you.

Once again it was the intriguing title and incredible cover art that first grabbed me. Barry Moser's cool night shadows with just enough warm light painted the world of Jam Boy perfectly.

It must be read aloud. Sure that is true of most every picture book. It is especially true of this one. Have fun with the wordplay, the meter and the lyrical quality. And then... do it again... I intend to.
