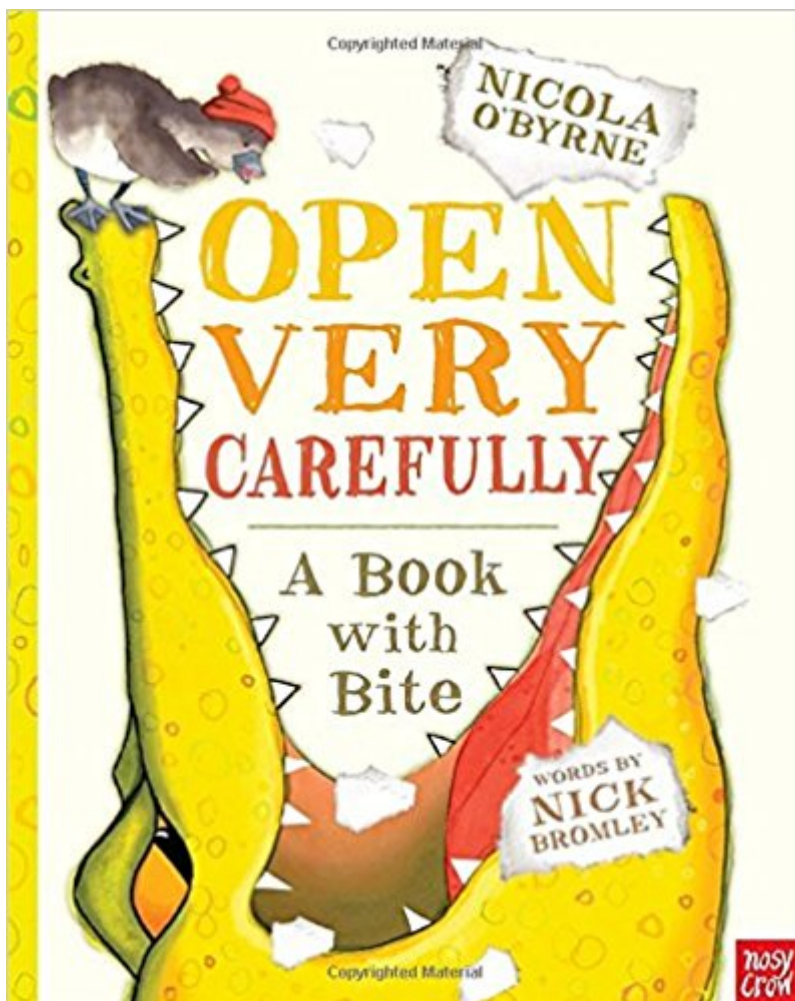


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Open Very Carefully: A Book With Bite



Synopsis

What would you do if you were settling down for a quiet bedtime story and you realized that a crocodile had fallen into your storybook and was not to put too fine a point on it wrecking havoc? Would you slam that book shut and cram it back onto the bookshelf? Or would you be brave enough to peek?

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.4 x 11.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 64 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #86,864 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Alligators & Crocodiles #208 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Interactive Adventures #3153 in Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

A bucolic retelling of "The Ugly Duckling" gets derailed when the book is invaded by a hungry crocodile. "What's he doing in this book?" asks the red-capped ugly duckling. From there, things get meta. The crocodile begins gobbling up certain letters, leaving the duckling to shout, "St p! Mr. Cr c dile!" After the croc begins snarfing up entire sentences, the duckling implores the reader to rock the book from side to side—good, now the crocodile is asleep. But after the duckling draws a tutu on the crocodile with a crayon, the green interloper tries to run away, only to smash up against the side of the page. Is there any other way out? Yes—and it'll take a little audience participation to bring it about. This most recent entry in the self-relexive picture-book canon finds a comfortable niche between the brain-busting of Mordicai Gerstein's *A Book* (2009) and the cute literary investigation of Mo Willems's *We Are in a Book!* (2010). A clever way to get kids thinking about the infinite possibilities of stories. Preschool-Grade 1. --Daniel Kraus

Nick Bromley works in educational publishing. His collaboration with Nicola O'Byrne and Nosy Crow on the words for *Open Very Carefully* is his publishing debut. Nicola O'Byrne was banned from watching Saturday morning television by her parents and she has been drawing ever since. She grew up in Singapore surrounded by the vibrant colors of the tropics and had not even heard of illustration as a career before she discovered the Illustration course at Edinburgh College of Art. She has a masters in printmaking from Camberwell College of Art. Nicola O'Byrne gets most of her ideas for children's books when she should be working on something else, and bases all of her characters on people she knows. She lives in England.

This book has been a total hit with our kids. Cute pictures and they love the storyline! Their favourite part is at the end, when the crocodile bites through the back of the book. There is actually a hole at the back, with zig zaggy edges, that you can literally see through the back of. They love this feature! Having said that, however, there are two things that could be done to improve it. My 7 yr old has suggested that it would be even better if the back of the book shows the crocodile coming out of the book. The last page shows his back end still in the book and it's obvious that the croc has gone out the back of the book, but there is no front end to the croc on the back cover. I agree with my son, that it would be even cuter if the front half of the croc was pictured climbing out of the back of the book, through the hole. Also, the last page, which has the bite out of it should either be reinforced or made out of stronger material, as since there is a hole in the page, it is asking for accidental rips and tears. The kids will want to put their fingers and hands through the hole, and ours was slightly torn after only one day. If the edges at the hole were stronger, this could be prevented. The kids also love the part where the croc gets annoyed at having a tutu drawn onto him...very cute book and we highly recommend!

The presentation, and art, in this offering are terrific. Watch the eyes of your four year old as s/he shakes the book one way, or tilts it another as invited to rid the book of the crocodile! The playful "tension" of the story is delightful for even the very young...after all, this is a very "un-scary" crocodile. I might quibble a bit with his gobbling up of letters and words which might, without some artful reader supplement, be a bit thin for a young ear. I'd have given the book an extra star save for the weak and anti-climatic ending...definitely a whimper not a bang. Way too bad because until the last page the young listener is glued...and then? The end.

Little ones are going to love this story of a crocodile and a little duck.! The ending is great and a real surprise!

This is one of the cutest books I have read! My first-graders loved it! It lends itself quite nicely to **Writer's Workshop!**

My 5 yo daughter loves interactive books. But they are hard to find on her reading level. This one isn't really interactive but is so, so fun. It's a cute story about a crocodile trapped in a kid's book. She really loved me reading it to her. It isn't on her reading level but is on her intellectual level.

My first graders really liked this story.

I have read this book to children ages 2 - 6 both at home and school. They all absolutely LOVED it and could not wait to read it all over again! The book encourages the reader and listener to become part of the process, interacting with the book and characters. Also a great way to get the less interested to understand that books are interactive and alive.

I love this book so much that I have purchased three copies to give as gifts! It is a favorite of my grandchildren, and a nephew to whom I gave a copy takes it everywhere with him. It is lots of fun to read, especially if you are willing to provide a few actions along the way!! highly recommend this book!

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