



2002

### You Read to Me, I'll Read to You

Nancy C. Evensen

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Hoberman, Mary Ann. *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You*. Illustrated by Michael Emberley. Little, Brown, and Co., 2001. ISBN 0316363502. \$15.95. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Nancy C. Evensen

Reading Level: Preschool

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction; Poetry

Subject: Children's poetry, American--21st century; Children's stories, American; Folk poetry; Books--Reviews

Here is a book with something new—"You read to me! I'll read to you!" Thus begins the two-voiced poetry book. The book contains twelve poems about friendship, family, pets, and other favorite topics. Person one reads the words on the left, in purple; person two reads the words on the right, in pink, and together they read the blue words in the middle. Each story ends with the refrain, "You read to me! I'll read to you!" The book contains simple rhythms and repeated patterns—all favorites of young readers. The author's note suggests that this book can be enjoyed by a pair any level readers: beginning readers, or one beginning and one more advanced reader—children or adults, whoever likes to read. The illustrations are in ballpoint pen, watercolor, and dry pastel. They are clever and funny, and align nicely with the text. A portion of the proceeds of the book is being donated to the Literacy Volunteers of America.

Along with the simple, short sentences, which are inviting to beginning readers, the rhythm of the poems shows language at its best. Books like this make reading fun.