2004

Monkey Business

AnnMarie Hamar

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar  
Reading Level: Preschool, Primary  
Rating: Excellent  
Genre: Humorous Stories;  
Subject: English Language-Idioms--Juvenile Literature;

Edwards offers his interpretation of twenty-six English language idioms in this collection of illustrations. His colorful and detailed watercolor and gouache paintings depict animal characters in humorous situations. For example, the idiom "to play by ear," is depicted by a basset hound playing a one-stringed bass with his ears. The illustrations are quite clever, particularly the facial expressions on some of the animals. The book begins with Edwards' definition of "monkey business," and the observant reader will notice that he has included thereafter, one monkey in each of his paintings. The actual definitions of each idiom Edwards uses are listed at the end of the text. This book is reminiscent of Fred Gwynne's series, *The King who Rained*, and *A Chocolate Moose for Supper*, which also visually define idioms. Due to the clever illustrations and humorous subject matter, this is a very imaginative collection.