2015

The Goldilocks Variations: A Pop-up Book by Allan Ahlberg

Diana Harter
diana_harter@byu.edu

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

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol35/iss1/8
Author: Ahlberg, Allan
Title: The Goldilocks Variations: A Pop-up Book
Illustrator: Ahlberg, Jessica
Year of Publication: 2012
Publisher: Candlewick Press
ISBN: 9780763662684
Number of pages: 40
Rating: Excellent
Reading/Interest Level: All
Keywords: Goldilocks and the Three Bears; Aliens; Fairy Tales

Review:

Goldilocks and the Three Bears, a beloved and well-known fairytale, receives a couple of variants to its story in this book. First of all, Goldilocks is much cheekier and goes into the bears’ house on purpose to create a mess. So, if the story tries to confuse Goldilocks with thirty-three bears, three aliens, or all the characters from Snow White, Little Red Riding Hood, and Three Little Pigs combined, will this mischievous Goldilocks be able to keep to her part of the story? What if the chair, the bowl of porridge, and the bed all turn on her, defending their owner Baby Bear? Even with all this thrown at her Goldilocks handles all the variations of her story.

Father and daughter duo created this hilarious pop-up book full of silly characters to retell Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Everyone will enjoy the tabs and pop-ups, especially the miniature play with its own mini pop-up found in the middle of the book. However this feature often makes the illustrations very small. It is clear the story is the most important element of this book and would be best read aloud; however, the pop-ups and tabs make this book more suitable for interaction. Overall, the stories are charming and engaging despite the mini artwork, so even a reluctant reader would enjoy engaging with this book.

Reviewer: Diana Harter

TEXT © The Children’s Book and Play Review 2014