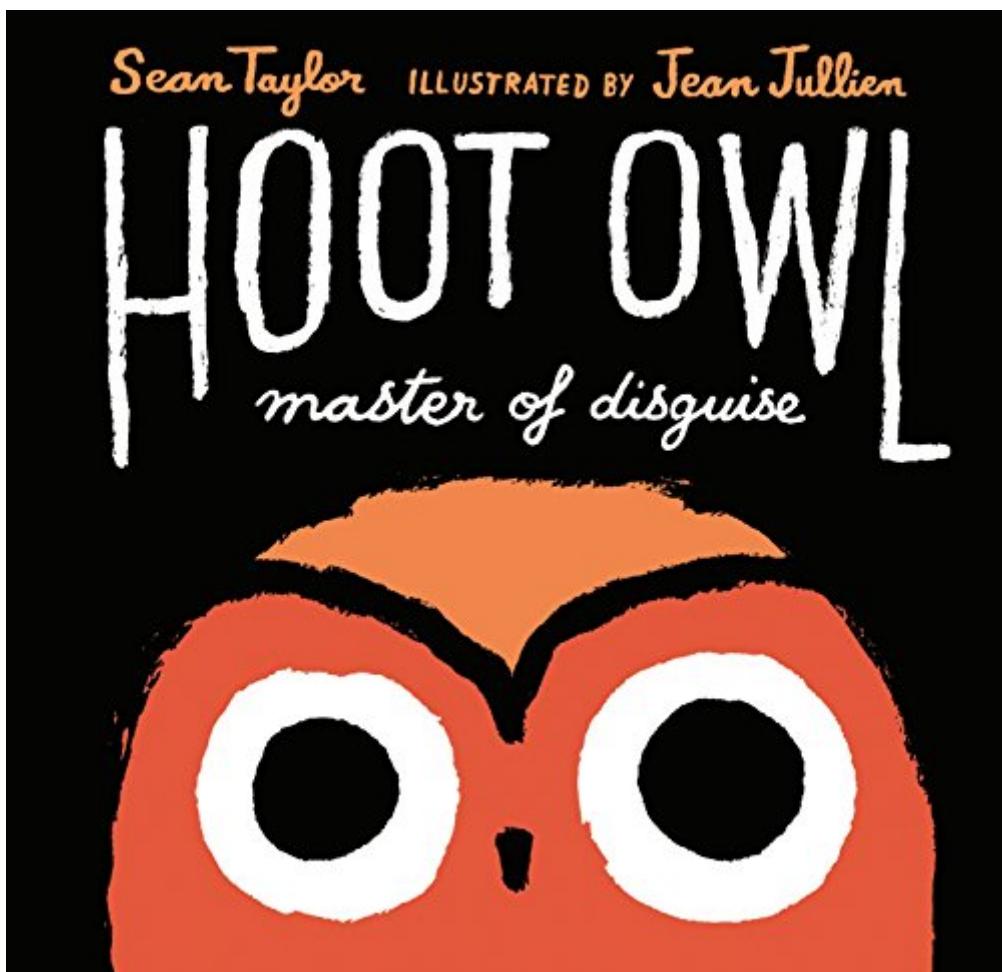


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Hoot Owl, Master Of Disguise



Synopsis

Hoot Owl is no ordinary owl. He is a master of disguise! In the blackness of night, he's preparing to swoop on his prey before it can realize his dastardly tricks. Look there! "a tasty rabbit for him to eat! Hoot Owl readies his costume, disguising himself as . . . a carrot! Then he waits. The rabbit runs off. Never mind! Surely his next juicy target will cower against such a clever and dangerous creature as he! Kids will hoot at Sean Taylor's deliciously tongue-in-beak narration, belied by the brilliantly comical illustrations of Jean Jullien.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hoot Owl prowls around looking for something delicious to eat. He uses disguises to get close to different prey and then waits for them to come to him, when they don't he sets off again, hungrier than before. The humor here comes not only with the different disguises Hoot Owl wears (carrot for the rabbit, sheep for the sheep, etc.), but in his supreme confidence that he is a master hunter and that will catch something to eat if only he keeps trying. It never occurs to him that his methods might be somewhat lacking in effectiveness. Unfortunately, the funny ending doesn't disabuse him of this notion. But child readers are bound to figure it out and laugh themselves silly at Hoot Owl's foolishness.

SUMMARY: "Everyone knows owls are wise. But as well as being wise, I am a master of disguise." Owl is hungry. He disguises himself in various ways trying to track down prey to eat. But they continue to allude him. Until he tries one final disguise and lands himself a delicious pizza!
ILLUSTRATIONS: The pictures appear to have been rendered in digital paint. Most of the background is black to depict night, but the animals and other details are large, bold and nicely colored. The facial expressions are subtle but effective.
THE GOOD: This is a very humorous story about an owl who thinks he is an amazing master of disguise, but can't seem to catch himself something to eat (this may be partly due to the fact that he chooses prey that is way too large most of the time). But in the end, he faces reality and goes after something that can't get away from him. Owl's disguises are adorable.
THE NOT AS GOOD: The humor here is subtle. Younger children may not get much of the funniest parts.
AGE RECOMMENDATION: Although this is advertised for ages 3-7, I would recommend it for ages 4-8. 6-8 will enjoy it the most.

A Hoot Owl takes the reader on an adventure as he assumes disguises in an attempt to capture his next meal. "Everyone knows owls are wise. But as well as being wise, I am a master of disguise." Exuberant illustrations perfectly complement the witty and hilarious text. Certain to charm and entertain readers of all ages.

The story line is okay, but some of the wording is really not that great. I can think of better ways to word it where it would rhyme better and be easier for kids to read. I got this originally for my son who is three, but I had a ten year old (5th grader) try it out to test her reading fluency (a literacy element we test for as teachers) and she struggled with it. She kept wanting to say what I assume is what I was thinking would be better wording. It does have some advanced vocabulary in there for a book at this age level - as well as some interesting word layout. I did get the kindle version, so it may look a bit better if it were in a book in front of us, but I don't think it would make a huge difference. It's a cute story, though.

Although some have questioned the predator/prey relationships in this book, I can't wait to use it in my second grade classroom. It will make a great mentor text. I suppose you might need just a bit of an off-beat sense of humor to appreciate it, but it is fantastic for word choice, beginning and ending sentences with voice, and use of repetition.

Even wise old owls can go a bit mad when they are hungry! So watch out, here comes Hoot Owl, and he is starving and devious! Owl food isn't easy to come by, so Hoot Owl must transform into a master of disguise • and don costumes to catch his prey! Whether dressed as a carrot, birdbath or chef, this sneaky creature of the night might be a lot less dangerous than he thinks he is. Will Hoot Owl ever get a bite of dinner? The illustrations by Jean Jullian are drawn with big, bold lines, and a vibrant rainbow of colors over a black, night backdrop. The text is big and perfect for an early reader. With an unusual skill and absurd costume changes , this perfectly ridiculous story is a delicious treat even Hoot Owl himself couldn't resist. Read more at www.diapers-and-daydreams.com !

This is a great book for older readers as it talks about Hoot Owl dressing himself up to eat some cute little animals: a furry rabbit, a cuddly lamb, and a feathery pigeon. Young readers might be dismayed about the cute little rabbit and lamb getting eaten .Hoot Owl's disguises are pretty cute, but no dinner. Finally, Hoot Owl scores with a pepperoni pizza by dressing himself up as a
????You'll have to read the book to find out. The illustrations with the black background and vibrant thick colors are striking. Older readers will enjoy the humor. The narrative is well-written and fun.

Summary: Hungry Hoot Owl is flying through the night, looking for something to eat. Fortunately, he considers himself a master of disguise, so when he sees a rabbit, he disguises himself as a carrot. No luck. A pigeon? Hoot Owl transforms himself into an ornamental birdbath. Alas, one disguise after another fails, until finally Hoot Owl dresses up as a waiter and is able to snag a pepperoni pizza.
Pros: Kids will enjoy Hoot Owl's high opinion of himself, as well as his dramatic narration of his actions. The big bold illustrations will be easy for everyone to see. And Hoot Owl is a master of similes. Ask the kids how many they can find in this book.
Cons: It wasn't clear why Hoot Owl's disguises failed. I thought his carrot was pretty good.

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