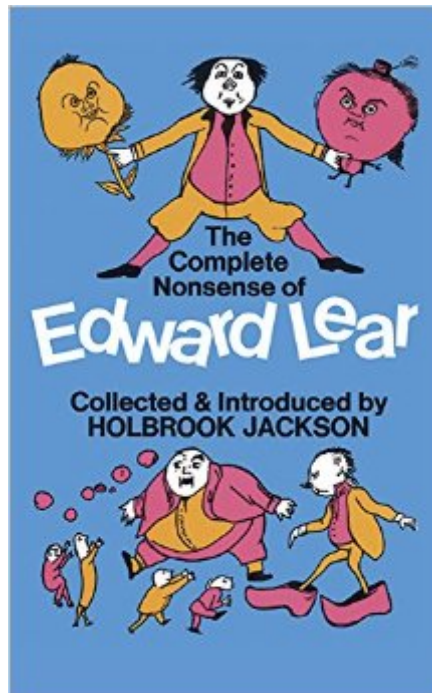


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The Complete Nonsense Of Edward Lear



Synopsis

Here is every line of every nonsense book written by Edward Lear. In a single volume you get "A Book of Nonsense," "Nonsense Songs," "More Nonsense Songs," "Laughable Lyrics," and "Nonsense Songs and Stories. No other low-price edition offers this complete collection. You will meet such old favorites as "The Dong With a Luminous Nose," "The Jumblies," "The Owl and the Pussycat," "The Nutcrackers and the Sugar Tongs," and "The History of the Seven Young Owls." Two hundred and fourteen limericks are in here as well, each illustrated with the drawing Lear composed specially for it. In addition, you'll find three different sets of Nonsense Botany, five Nonsense Alphabets, and dozens of other selections in both prose and verse. All 546 of Lear's original illustrations are in this volume. With masterful simplicity and apparent naivete they tell of the dreamlike never-never land of childhood. Many Lear enthusiasts maintain that in these drawings the Laureate of Nonsense gave rise to an entire new style. Their influence has certainly been widespread, with echoes of Lear to be seen in the work of Thurber, Steinberg, Phil May, Bateman, and other artists and illustrators. It has been a hundred years since Edward Lear, the advocate of illogic, first became known to a wide public. Children who begged to have his verses read to them have grown up to read Lear to their own children and to discover that his whimsy, imagination, and originality have their attraction for the adult mind as well.

Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

I was given this book by my father when I was seven years old and was thoroughly enchanted by it, and remain so to this day. The Owl and the Pussy Cat has passed into children's lore - many people know the rhyme through the song (was it Burl Ives?) or through new illustrated versions of it. They know the limericks (or at least the form, if not the rather esoteric content - the old man with the Beard, for instance, and the lady with the excessively long chin who had it made sharp and purchased a harp and played several tunes with her chin). But do they know of The Dong with the Luminous Nose, or the Pobble Who Has No Toes, or the short history of Violet, Slingsby, Guy, and Lionel? Or the illustrated botanical alphabet with such plants as the Many Peeplia Upsidedownia (you'd have to see the drawing!) It would be impossible to say how many times I read, re-read, and enjoyed this book as a child and an adult, including the rather touching, affectionate introduction to the man himself. Please, please buy this book. You'll never regret it.

This is an "unabridged and unaltered replication of the work originally published 1947" which "is printed in an edition limited to 400 copies" by Amereon House, the publishing division of Amereron Ltd. It includes the text and illustrations of Lear's five published nonsense works and Holbrook Jackson's introduction titled "Edward Lear: Laureate of Nonsense". A book to share and to treasure... Order your copy while stocks last.

If you are a lit fan and want to share your love of reading and good poetry with your kids, this is a great book, full of ridiculous verse and equally ridiculous illustrations to go with it. I enjoy reading it, and my kids (2, 4, and 9) enjoy listening to it, even if they don't get all the references.

The book is a lot of fun, but it can also be a serious tool for understanding English through its inventive vocabulary and the vivid imagery of the poems.

I bought this book as a recommended language arts supplement for my first grader. He really enjoys the nonsense stories and limericks... He might enjoy it more if he lived in nineteenth century England - some of the language is archaic and the rhymes don't always work, and the cultural context is missing. These don't seem to diminish from his enjoyment of them however. My only warning (other than archaic spelling and situations) is that the modern zeitgeist is so different that some of the limericks might seem a little off color in today's sensitive politically correct world. An example is a limerick which starts out "There was an old man from Jamaica, Who suddenly married

a Quaker"...Overall though my boy enjoyed the stories and limericks read to him, and that enthusiasm for the printed word is what's most important at his age. My only complaint about the book itself is that it is printed on thin paper, and the ink has that slightly bloated look to it. Maybe find a nicer edition if you like crisply printed words

It was the works of Edward Lear that popularized the term limerick, and since these illustrations and stories were originally created by Edward Lear about one hundred years ago, you will need to take this into consideration when reading this book. It is quaint, but entertaining in its way, though don't expect to understand its message completely. It is nonsense after all. I am glad to have it and find it inspirational when considering certain artistic projects. It is fun, but dumb and that is the intention I believe. Very Kooky and certainly wacky, it rolls on and on. Try it, you will feel saner and more rational after sampling its pages.

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