

JUMPY JACK & GOOGILY



MEG ROOFF & SOPHIE BLACKALL

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Meet Jumpy Jack, a very nervous snail who's afraid of monsters, and Googily, who *is* a--well, who is a very good friend, indeed. Wherever they go, Googily kindly checks high and low just to make sure there are no scary monsters about. But as every child knows, monsters come in many shapes and sizes. Some are even blue with hairy eyebrows and pointy teeth.

Jumpy Jack & Googily is a universal story of friendship and fear of the unknown told with wit and charm by the fantastic team who created the irresistible *Meet Wild Boars*.

Jumpy Jack & Googily Details

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Author : Meg Rosoff , Sophie Blackall

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From Reader Review Jumpy Jack & Googily for online ebook

Erin Buhr says

This is just such a cute story. I love the character choices and the way they were illustrated. I love the relationship between the two characters. I love the discussion of fears because we all have them - even snails and monsters.

Jennifer (JenIsNotaBookSnob) says

Almost a 4 star book, but, just a smidge too wordy.

Cute story about a snail who is afraid of monsters and keeps having his friend (a monster) check for monsters everywhere they go. Nice illustrations, kids will find it funny.

Shelly says

Fun book. I love how everything that Jumpy Jack describes when talking about monsters that might be different places are things about Googily but he isn't afraid of Googily.

Melissa says

What a charmer this picture book is. Scores very high on the giggle-meter with my gang. Jumpy Jack is a snail of the most nervous sort. As lovably neurotic anthropomorphizations go, Jack's right up there with Piglet, friend of Pooh. Fortunately, Jumpy Jack has his best friend Googily to put his mind to rest when the monster-worries creep in. Jack fears monsters are lurking at every turn—monsters with big round eyes and sharp teeth and lolling tongues and possibly even creepy bowler hats. Googily—he's the amiable fellow in blue you see there—is a little puzzled by Jack's boogieman complex, but he's always happy to help soothe his pal's fears by taking a peek into the corners Jack's sure are hiding fearsome monsters.

In the end, we find that Googily has a fear of his own—and apparently with better reason than Jumpy Jack! The surprise ending elicited belly laughs from my seven- and two-year-olds.

I really love this sweet and simple picture book. It's fresh and funny, and the art is enchanting, and the text holds up well to numerous re-readings, which is a quality I very much watch for in a young picture book. If I'm going to have to read it aloud five times a day, it's got to be readable.

But beyond that, I appreciate the way the plot plays with the idea that people can create monsters in their minds, terrifying specters composed of stereotypes, while being oblivious to the fact that the generalizations they are throwing around so carelessly might very well include real people they know and love.

Lumi / Otso says

we *love* this book. both kids request it again and again.

Tasha says

Picture books can be so derivative that it gets dull to open them and read one more. But the reason I keep on reading is that between all of the dull ones, there are gems. This book is original and genuinely funny.

Jumpy Jack, the snail is very afraid of monsters. Everywhere they go Googily has to check to make sure that monsters aren't there. Googily assures Jumpy Jack that it is silly to be so afraid and is amazed at his friends imagination. It gets especially ridiculous when Jumpy Jack imagines a monster in his room who "might be wearing short trousers and a bowler hat."

Children really get the humor here right from the first page. Giggling is guaranteed. Rosoff, who excels at writing humor for children, has outdone herself here. The humor gets broader and broader as the pages go by, but her writing tone remains the same gentle, sensible one which of course just makes the whole thing even more amusing. Blackall's illustrations convey a simple, even barren landscape, and a world of normalcy with unusual touches. Just perfect for the story.

Highly recommended to share with all children. This book is appropriate for ages 4-7.

Angelina says

A fun story about an unlikely pair of friends and their peculiar fears. Lovely illustrations!

Jocelyn says

I had to give this book 5 stars, not because of my own love of the book but because of my daughters'. My 19 month old especially loves it. She begs for us to read it all the time. We even bought it (cheap on Amazon) after she went through withdrawals when we took it back to the library. The book is cute enough, I guess. It just wouldn't have been one of my top choices had my daughters not loved it so much. It's repetitive and doesn't teach much, but my girls just love it. Also, there's a cute one-liner at the end that gets repeated all through our house.

Whole And says

This is a very sweet book demonstrating how two friends help each other through their fears.

Jumpy Jack the snail who is seemingly scared of everything, living in the fear of 'what ifs' has Googily check

for monsters everywhere! Although Googily seems so secure and confident that there are no monsters anywhere, he thoroughly soothes Jumpy Jack's fears by ensuring the monsters are not there. As it turns out, Jumpy Jack has to return the favour.

A story of friendship and a wonderful demonstration on how to gently handle the monster's in your child's life.

Robin Gaphni says

If your kids like monsters (or even if they are afraid of them), here's a book that should make them laugh. *Jumpy Jack & Googily* by Meg Rosoff and illustrated by Sophie Blackall, has a fresh take on the whole monster thing.

Jumpy Jack is a timid snail with a big fear of monsters. He thinks they're everywhere, and turns to his best friend Googily to check out various situations. He asks Googily to check behind the door, under the table, in the pool. The thing that neither of them seems to realize is that Googily is a monster. Kids will quickly see what the joke is, and will love being in the know as they're laughing at the pair's antics.

Googily is an endearing monster with his pointed fangs, wispy eyebrows and bug eyes. He's also quite dapper in his bowler hat, yellow plaid pants and pointy red shoes, which makes him not very scary. I think one of the best messages in the book comes at the end, when Googily (the monster) admits what he's really afraid of... socks. It just goes to show that everybody has some fears, and what's scary to one person seems downright silly to another.

Here are a couple of other fun monster books to check out: *Go Away, Big Green Monster!* by Ed Emberly and *The Monster at the End of this Book (Starring Lovable, Furry, Old Grover)* by Jon Stone.

Molly says

Cute story about how friendship colors perception. I think it moves a little slowly (at least for my read-a-loud tastes) and the overall joke (the snail is afraid of monsters, but he doesn't seem to notice that his friend actually is a monster) is a bit complex. So, maybe this is better for older kids. I read it to my three year old, and he laughed when I did, but I could tell he wasn't sure why he was laughing!

Stephanie Crowther says

Googily tries to ease Jumpy Jack of his fear of monsters, but Googily has an even sillier secret fear.

Roxanne Hsu Feldman says

I really love the artist's style. Fabulous with the lines, the shapes, and the "whitened" (my own word for "mixing colors with white paint" - not pastel... slightly flattened) colors. The "jokes" though, are a bit tedious

after a couple of repeats -- and the final pay-off did not wow me at all.

Libby says

My kids (2, 4, and 6) think this is hilarious that the snail is scared of monsters (when his best friend is a monster) and everything he is afraid of happening, essentially does happen, but the snail doesn't notice because his friend is fulfilling his fears, instead of a monster. (but wait, his friend IS a monster!) and they love that the monster is afraid of socks. It gets requested over and over. This isn't really a Halloween book, particularly, but it could pass as one because it talks about monsters and it could be a good one to read to a child who is afraid of monsters, to make them seem more silly and less scary.

Jennifer says

Fun story but I think the irony will be lost on preschoolers, while their parents will think it's hilarious.
