



The Doghouse

Jan Thomas

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Mouse, Pig, Cow, and Duck are playing a carefree game of ball when (horror of horrors!) their ball gets kicked into . . . THE DOGHOUSE. Who will risk a run-in with scary Dog to get it back? Hysterical high anxiety ensues as Mouse volunteers each animal to do the dirty work—but you'll never believe what's *really* going on in the doghouse! With Jan Thomas's fun, fresh art and priceless animal expressions, this timeless tale of fear and friendship will have readers howling.

The Doghouse Details

Date : Published September 1st 2008 by HMH Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780152065331

Author : Jan Thomas

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Storytime, Animals, Humor, Dogs

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From Reader Review The Doghouse for online ebook

Micha O'Connor says

With its bright, cartoonish illustrations and familiar characters (cow, pig, duck, and mouse), this book is perfect for your little goblins as both an introduction to suspense as well as cause and effect. The story starts on the end papers with the friends playing a game of kickball and the ball headed straight to the [gulp] doghouse. The scene changes from a bright sunny day, to a dark and stormy night, leaving the friends looking terrified. One by one, they each enter the foreboding doghouse to retrieve the ball, never to return. When Mouse is left alone, a pair of eyes and sharp, pointy teeth peak out to exclaim that he's having duck for dinner. I don't want to spoil it- you'll have to check out the book to find out the ending!

Boni says

Just as much fun as her previous books, but the ending on this one was too predictable. Might not be to toddlers, however, and it's a great read-aloud, so when I find me some toddlers, I'll try it out on them :) The art and design is so fabulous...

Katherine says

Great book for dramatic reading aloud-- right down to the fonts. Funny illustrations. The boys liked it but will probably enjoy it more on repeated readings when they are already "in" on the irony.

Melody says

This book has suspense and mystery! The animals keep going into the doghouse... and not coming out! What can be happening inside? Will we ever find out? Is the tiny doghouse magic, since the cow can fit and the pig can fit and the duck can fit? Oh, wait, we don't discuss that.

Fun to read with kids. I like the illustrations here better than in *What Will Fat Cat Sit On?*.

Cecilia says

Horrible morals...

Mary Thomas says

I love Jan Thomas books (I call her Aunt Jan since my last name is also Thomas). This is about the extent of

"scary" that I can handle, so I'm thinking of reading this with my class around Halloween as a tame story. I love reading it with my 4 and 6 year old boys.

Curriculum Tie-Ins: animals, play on words, Jan Thomas, "scary"

Heather says

This book is hilarious. Though it's an old joke, the illustrations add a lot, and make it perfect for reading aloud to a group.

Julie says

Great suspense picture book for toddlers

Jessica says

Engaged my young audience during both toddler and preschool storytimes.

Lily says

Another good for younger children.

Keli says

Synopsis

Barnyard animals are playing ball when they accidentally kick their ball in the doghouse. Who will be brave enough to retrieve it?

Review

The simple, short narrative and animal sounds make this a great option for storytime. The story begins on the title page and wastes no time getting to the action. Bold colors and thick lines make the pictures easy to see from a distance. The repetitive nature of the story is excellent for building narrative skills and the play on the phrase "I'm having duck for dinner," offers humor with multiple meanings. This is a very entertaining story that is appropriate for younger readers.

Critical Reviews

[School Library Journal](#)

SLJ spends a lot of time retelling the book, but agrees that the pictures are excellent for storytime. It also stated that "I'm having duck for dinner," may be an old joke but is great for kids who are just learning word play.

Kirkus

This review focuses on the pictures and the short text in this book. While it doesn't mention its possible application as a good storytime book, this book does give credit to the repetition and short sentences. But the review is mostly focused on the mood created by the pictures and typeface.

Other Bibliographic Information

Published in 2008 by Harcourt Children's Books

40 pages

Catherine says

I love Jan Thomas' books--so cute and funny!

Scope says

Bein' scared. Is it a part of childhood? Absolutely. A list of some things that I was afraid of as a youngster:

- 1) Deep water
- 2) Goulash
- 3) Mean dogs

Jan Thomas, on a roll with the recent "A Birthday for Cow!" and "What Will Fat Cat Sit On?", addresses my third fear with success in "The Doghouse". Funny while maintaining an underlying truth (the unknown can be scary), "Doghouse" will be a great addition to your story time repertoire.

As with previous books by this author, the storyline is uncluttered. Beginning on the endpapers, we discover that Cow, playing a game with Mouse, Duck, and Pig, has accidentally kicked a red rubber ball into the doghouse. It's a scary place and there aren't any volunteers eager to retrieve it. Mouse, the smart alec, begins nominating others for the job. Tension builds as one by one, they accept the challenge. One by one, they enter the doghouse. One by one, they don't come back. Dog finally appears, scaring the daylights out of mouse. The reader soon finds out, however, that Dog's intentions are good - the animals aren't coming out because he is having them stay for dinner.

The digital illustrations of "Doghouse" are tailor made for sharing with a group. Thomas employs bold color and some of the fattest outlines I've seen in a picture book to make the characters stand out. In fact, when reading this book individually it can feel at times like you're in too close.

While the plot may strike some readers as familiar, the execution is where hay is made. Entertaining through and through, "The Doghouse" will be eagerly snatched up by young readers.

Mary says

Jan Thomas is my new go-to storytime author. I've been reading this one, along with Rhyming Dust Bunnies, for an abbreviated storytime this month and it's been going over big with the preschoolers. For added drama, I'll tell them we're reading a scary book and read the title in a deep, dramatic voice. Every time I read the words "the doghouse" again, I do it in that deep, scary voice. Once I added a "dun dun dun!" afterwards, and the kids picked up on that and started doing it as well. While all of the animals are terrified to enter the dreaded doghouse, it of course turns out not to be at all scary. But the dramatic tension Thomas creates is so effective. Great for building print awareness (certain words, like "the doghouse," are emphasized and easily recognized) and narrative skills (lots of repetition for the kids to repeat). I LOVE this book.

Tahlor Kimble says

I thought this book could be cute for younger students but they might also find it a bit scary. The animals keep going into the cave and never come back out. Mouse then keeps forcing other animals to go after them but they just all continue to not come back out. Overall, short and very simple book for kids.
