

Mommy Laid An Egg: Or, Where Do Babies Come From?

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In this hilarious twist on one of the most difficult discussions in a child's development, award winning author Babette Cole illustrates the one question all children are bound to ask: Where do babies come from? Mom explains that you can make babies out of gingerbread, grow them from seeds, or squeeze them out of tubes, while Dad says you can find babies under rocks. Amused by their parents' silly answers, the children decide to set the adults straight. In a series of zany diagrams, the children show the adults exactly where babies come from. The offbeat illustrations are accompanied by a text that is short, simple, and anything but predictable. This is a funny book that will delight, entertain, and educate the entire family.

Mommy Laid An Egg: Or, Where Do Babies Come From? Details


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From Reader Review Mommy Laid An Egg: Or, Where Do Babies Come From? for online ebook

Jana at ThatArtsyReaderGirl.com says

I don't consider myself to be a prude, but this book made me very uncomfortable. The beginning is amusing, which the parents are explaining that babies are found under stones, can be grown from seeds, or are squeezed from tubes. The illustrations of those pages are quite funny, and I thought that first part of the story was a fun way to introduce the topic.

It was once the kids started in with their lesson that I got uncomfortable. This subject is such a delicate subject, and I felt like it was being treated in a rather vulgar way. The children decide to supplement their lesson with their own drawings. Male and female anatomy and genitalia are drawn, with arrows pointing from the male's anatomy (referred to as a tube that goes into mommy's body) to the female's with the text, "This fits in here." The WORST part, though, was an entire spread of children's drawings depicting their parents having sex in multiple positions with their eyes popping out, huge smiles, hands in the air, balloons, and wearing clown noses and party hats. There was even a picture of them having sex on a skateboard. It's offensive, in my opinion, because it indicates that the children have seen these acts before and in enough detail to recreate them. It's just not necessary that children know "all the ways mommies and daddies fit together". It felt like a how-to book for kids. I would much rather read a more factual book using correct terminology and some tasteful imagery that is educational, rather than silly.

Shirley Revill says

It was a hot summer day many years ago and I had three noisy fighting children in the back seats of our motorhome when I spied a charity shop and asked my hubby to stop.

I went in the shop and purchased a pile of children's books to give to my children to hopefully have a much more pleasant journey.

Well I certainly did, the children went really quiet and I kept hearing giggle's from the children.

What a pleasant change to have such a quiet journey and how lovely to see the kids sharing a book.

It wasn't till later that I discovered I had given them the children's Kamasutra.

Sex on a skateboard, sex on a space hopper or dressed like clowns standing on your head.

I couldn't part with this book for the world and it always makes me smile when I read the book again.

Really love this book as it's a fun way to talk about the birds and the bees to children but best read under adult supervision.

Emma Houlihan says

I am writing this review from a different perspective. Not whether or not it was good for my children, but if it was good for me.

This book was bought for me when i was five years old, and it quickly became my favourite book. The story of two children out-smarting their parents gave me immense satisfaction. Not only did parents come up with

the wrong idea, they come up with the wrong idea time and time again, until their much-cleverer-than-them children set them straight.

The best page was the last one, "now you know" say the children "and so does everyone else" and the open the door to all the animals to rush in, the living room utter filled with every mummy and child you could think of. I spent hours joining up the pairs and trying to name all of them.

What did I think of "here are some ways Mummies and Daddies fit together"? not much. It was amusing to think that Mummies and Daddies would do anything remotely fun as depicted in the pictures. Ride a skateboard? Play on a spacehopper? Of course Mummies and Daddies would do things together, cos they do everything together, but Mummies and Daddies doing anything FUN? ha. nope.

As for it being "a how-to guide for children" don't be silly. The book does not call them "A man and a Woman" its "Mummy and Daddy" and at five those are two very different things, I did not think "when I grow up I am going to make a baby" its only something Mummies and Daddies could do. The book made the greatest bases for all sex talk "what are periods" "well you know the book Mummy laid an egg..." "What are condoms?" "well you know your book Mummy laid an Egg"

Not going to lie, when I came back to it as a teenager and again as an adult, I thought it was hilarious! However as a child most of the dirty jokes went over my head, the only thing I knew was the very basic fact. In the end that is why this book was written to amuse parents and educate children

Benjamin Duffy says

Surprising and hilarious. The "Crayola Kama Sutra" halfway through the book is worth the price of admission all by itself.

Please note that, despite looking like a book for preschoolers, this book is meant for adults to laugh at, and is in no wise appropriate for very small children. The illustrations are frank and explicit, but not especially lurid or graphic in terms of the anatomic realities. I would probably let a fairly mature eleven-year old read it alone, and would read it to a seven-year old, but not much younger than that.

Melissa Loraine says

This is a story of the many farfetched tales children are told about "where babies come from". It visually demonstrates the confusing imagery children receive when they are told such tales from stalks, to cabbages, to eggs being laid. It shows the children explaining to their parents where babies come from from their point of view.

The imagery of the book is striking as when the children draw the simplistic lined mummy and daddy, to adult eyes, the book seems shocking at first. Although they are only lined drawings it appears rather graphic. However when linked with the text the imagery becomes less shocking and more understandable. The reproductive organs are made into a metaphor like how plants reproduce "seeds, tubes and eggs". The simplistic language of "fitting together" allows children to make more sense of adult relationships, baby reproduction without causing too much confusion or going into too much detail.

I think this book would be very good for parents struggling with these issues with their children. It allows a child's perception of the topic to be viewed by a child making it more relatable and understandable.

Melki says

The birds and the bees . . . as explained (hilariously) by the one and only Babette Cole.

Mom and Dad set out to explain the facts 'o life to their young'uns, but end up getting schooled instead. (Yeah, kids always seem to know more about this subject than their parents.) Cole's artwork is eternally delightful. Prudes be warned - there is some stick-figure type nudity featuring boobies, and the male figure is sporting Donald J. Trump's micro penis.

This is both adorable, AND informative!

Sandile says

I came across this book in one of the science seminars. I found this book to be incredibly funny, witty, and also very educational, as the book helps explain the facts of life in a way kids can easily relate to. This book simplifies that whole process of explaining to children about that long dreaded question about 'Where do babies come from?' as it clearly illustrates that. This book has received a lot of critique from some parents who have deemed the book to be controversial due to the imagery displayed. I must admit that to some degree the images are a little bit graphic considering the targeted young audience. However, in spite of some of the criticism, overall, I would recommend it for KS1 as it can be a useful educational book aiding teachers/ parents like wise in explaining where babies come from. I think overall this book will facilitate and promote healthy true life discussions. It is a colourful book with cartoon characters which I believe will appeal widely to young children. Overall, it's very humorous, another must read !!!

Petra Eggs says

I bought this for my bookshop, thinking it would be a nice addition to my 'puberty' bookshelf. But on reading it, I realised that it might be a little too close to the bone for the parents of the intended audience of little ones. I think discussions of putting Daddy's seed-tube into the hole in Mummy's body is going to lead to some really awkward questions!

As with all Babette Cole books, it is beautifully illustrated and the humour is as quirky as ever. It's a great book for giving information in an extremely dis-information way. The kiddies really aren't going to be enlightened much.

Just imagine it though when a little one sees two dogs going at it and asks if it is the daddy dog putting his seed-tube into the mummy-dog's hole? Loudly, in a park, with lots and lots of other kids and parents around. That should be fun!

Bianca says

I first discovered this book in a science lesson, it's a book that explores the subject of the 'birds and bees,' if any book could cause such a divide in opinion it would be this book. The author tackles the 'birds and the bees' in a humorous, tongue and cheek sort of way. I do understand what the author was attempting to achieve, to a certain extent children should be educated about their bodies and understand the cycle of life.

Personally, I felt that parts of the book worked well in addressing the subject, it uses simple language which makes it easy for children to follow. The humour that the author uses, attempts to educate, but do it in a non-serious way. Most of the pictures are colourful and appealing. However I was a little uncomfortable with some of the graphical content. As a mother myself, I felt a little uneasy by such graphic exploration of the process of fertilisation. I have a very traditional view that children should remain children, and have very limited information about sex. For this reason certain subjects of education should be carefully thought out, such graphics for young children may potentially be misconstrued. I think that by using child-like images to express adult activities and methods of doing so was quite a risqué and controversial thing to do. The text that went with the images, "here are some ways," additionally may add to the possibilities of children picking up the wrong messages.

When I first saw the images my eyes popped out of my head and I almost fainted. I have never seen such a thing in a child's book-but the question is does it work well? I think it's a little too informative for my child, I couldn't read this to my little girl. At the moment it is at the top of my shelf-out of arms reach. I would be mortified if this book ever got into her hands.

My final take on this book, is that children should remain children and that children do not have to know such explicit information. Initially when I saw the book, it stirred my emotions, It did raise many questions for me and left me feeling slightly confused.

Please read this book-tell me what you think.

Laura says

Very cute, medically accurate while not being too much information nor too little. The part I wasn't sure about was that the parents are artsy-fartsy, hippy-dippy (and other insulting rhyming things), there are dogs EVERYWHERE in the house, and the kids slump on the couch eating junk food. I couldn't tell what, if any, statement Cole was making there. Other than that, I loved the "childrens drawings" about sex, it managed to be clear about sex but still appropriate, answering questions and teaching some biological ideas, it told exactly what a child of the age appropriate for a picture book would want to know.

Nazia Ahmed says

My Mommy Laid An Egg:Or, Where Do Babies Come From? by Babette Cole

ISBN 978-0099299110 Published by Red Fox 1995

This book is meant to be a light hearted way to introduce children to the concept of sex. I'm sure it was written because children do question around the subject a hell of a lot. However, I personally feel it is a very inappropriate way to treat the subject.

The book has illustrations throughout and I do feel at certain points they do go way overboard and I found them very inappropriate. What's with the cartoon kamasutra?! I feel it is too advanced for children below a certain age. I am sure the book has had mixed reviews, but this one was certainly not for me.

Sex is a serious subject, especially for children and should not be treated light-heartedly which I feel this book does. I would certainly not want to use this book to introduce my children to the birds and the bees.

This book would be better read by an older child who has some knowledge rather than an introduction to the topic.

Conorfinnerty says

Mummy Laid an Egg- Babette Cole

"Mummy Laid an Egg" is about a mum and dad who decides it is time to tell their children how babies are made. They come up with some very funny explanations. The children just laugh when they are told dinosaurs deliver some babies. Theirs are grown in the greenhouse and they decide to tell their parents how it really works.

I quite enjoyed this book, its humorous approach to the subject of the "birds and the bees" in my opinion would be a good response for the most inquisitive child! Although I would be slightly cautious in introducing this book to a younger class this mainly being due to the illustrations in the book. Although Babette tries her very best to explain the reproductive system, and does this well I feel the pictures are a little too graphic for small children and maybe considered controversial by some parents.

As a result I would recommend this book for children of the ages 6 and up.

Beth says

I read this book to my kids tonight. Sylvia is 7, Jesse is 3. It explains the details pretty well. The parents make up silly stories, and the kids set them straight by drawing pictures of how babies are really made. The pictures look like kids' drawings, and even though parts are drawn, they are very loosely represented. Sylvia decided the book was "appropriate" and that it explained everything well.

This book came from my library's "Family Talk" section. The section originated because certain children's books in our system were challenged. Rather than removing them, they were put in a special section, on a special shelf that is required to be sixty inches off the ground. That way kids can't accidentally pick them up for themselves. A grown up has to get the book down for them.

I've always said I'm not going to censor anything my kids want to read, so this whole special shelf bothers me. However, since I'm not in charge, I can't do much about it. Still, my supervisor and I talked about it, and we decided to move it from the shelf in the back of the children's section to the shelf in the front, next to the Children's Sequoyahs, magazines, and the JFiction new books. Also, the shelf is covered in bright blue paper.

Also, I'm bringing the books home to read to my own kids, just to see how we feel about them here.

Alexys says

I read this book after seeing it on the banned list. I feel that there is some merit for it being banned, considering it isn't even the parents who tell the kids about having babies. I think for it being a children's book, it is too in depth. I would not share this in my own classroom unless it was 5th grade at least. Even at 5th grade, I would make sure it is a classroom that would be able to handle it first. Even once I made it past it being so graphic, I did not think it was written very well at all.

Chloe Pike says

I first read this book about a year ago to my God-daughter and her sisters. My was it eye opening and a very interesting read, especially with young children. However I love the way Cole has approached the subject about 'how children are made' and it's a good way of being able to speak to children about it with a bit of humour. The girls found it hilarious but they learnt a lot from it! The use of colours and the fact that the children had drawn the pictures in the book to explain, made it fun and child friendly.
