



# Bedhead

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It was **BIG**.

It was **BAD**.

It was...**BEDHEAD!**

No doubt about it, Oliver's having a very bad hair day. His parents and sister try to help. They push, they pull, they spritz and they spray; they goop, they glop, and they mousse. But Oliver's hair is still *way* out of control. And today's class picture day!

What's a boy to do?

## Bedhead Details

Date : Published June 1st 2000 by Simon Schuster Books for Young Readers (first published 2000)

ISBN : 9780689823978

Author : Margie Palatini , Jack E. Davis (Illustrator)

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# From Reader Review *Bedhead* for online ebook

## Laurie says

Horn Book (Spring 2001)

A natural read-aloud, this rambunctious story chronicles the uproar that occurs when Oliver finds himself the victim of a cataclysmically bad hair day. The caricatured illustrations of Oliver's frantic family and horrified classmates (it's school picture day, of course) have a sickly yellow-green cast, which seems fitting given that part of the untamable coif is described as resembling a "cat's coughed-up fur ball."

Kirkus Reviews (May 15, 2000)

Bell hooks may be Happy to Be Nappy (1999), but young Oliver's glimpse of his morning hair--"going up. Down. Around and around. And there was one teeny tiny clump of hair way at the back of his head that looked just like a cat's coughed-up fur ball"--prompts a shattering scream of dismay. Nothing he or his parents try--not water, not hair spray, not even mousse--has more than a temporary effect, and at last all the "follicly challenged" lad can do is jam a cap on his head before going off to school. Unfortunately, it's Class Picture day . . . Oliver's panic-stricken face, topped with wildly swirling strawberry blond locks, fills Davis's (Mary Louise Loses Her Manners, 1999, etc.) hyperkinetic cartoon scenes, and Palatino (Ding Dong Ding Dong, 1999, etc.) adds plenty of sound effects to this uproarious tale of a truly epic bad hair day. (Picture book. 7.9).

School Library Journal (July 2000)

K-Gr 3-A loud scream from the upstairs bathroom interrupts Oliver's family's breakfast, and an investigation reveals that the boy is suffering from a bad case of "bedhead." "There was hair going this way. Hair going that way. Hair going up. Down. Around and around." His parents and sister try wetting it and spraying it, but nothing works, and Oliver goes off to school wearing his trusty blue baseball cap-a masterful plan, except that it's class picture day. Palatini's lengthy, hilarious text, which appears in jagged frames that suggest the boy's mounting anxiety, is filled with her signature alliteration and familiar expressions like "Been there. Done that," "a done deal," and "Zero. Zilch. Nada." It will take little persuasion to have children chime in on the "B-B-B-BOING!"s every time Oliver's hair does its thing. The zany cartoon-style illustrations, executed in colored pencil, acrylic, dye, and ink, appear on large double-page spreads with small white borders. Many of them depict Oliver's oversized head, hair flying in all directions, and his family trying to effect a cure. From the shocked expression on Oliver's face on the cover and the bathroom-tile-covered endpapers to the scene of the boy's terrible discovery and the wacky remedies that follow, this is a delightful combination of text and pictures that will have readers coming back for more.-Marianne Saccardi, Norwalk Community College, CT

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## Gatto says

This is a fun story about a child who had dramatic bedhead on school picture day. The hair is unmanageable no matter what people try. The pictures are fun. A classroom could have children write extra scenes with creative methods to fix the child's hair.

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### **Joey Zadina says**

*Bedhead* is a book that I greatly enjoy because just like Oliver in the story, I was also once a young boy with curly and out of control red hair that seemed like it was completely taking over on some mornings! This will be a great book to share with younger elementary students around the age of first grade in a read aloud setting. Margie Palatini uses onomatopoeia a lot throughout this book which makes it so much fun to read aloud to children. The wild voices and noises that I can use while reading this book are sure to keep students engaged and entertained. This book could be read aloud to students on picture day because it provides a hilarious account of Oliver's hair being out of control and ruining the class picture. I can envision reading this to a class of young children and then having them shout something like "Oliver's Hair!" right before the picture to make them all smile! Another more practical use for this book could be to show off some very colorful language, such as: "Oliver's scream shook. It rattled. It rolled all the way down the stairs and into the kitchen where Fruit Loops went flying." The usage of personification here is amazing and can be used to teach the kids about that particular literary element. With these uses and with the fact that this is one book that the children will love to read for entertainment value, this is sure to be a book that I will keep in my classroom in the future!

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### **Gina says**

*Bedhead* is another great book by Margie Palatini. It is about a boy named Oliver whose bedhead is out of control. Nothing that Oliver's mom, dad or sister can do to tame his hair. Until Oliver sees his true blue baseball cap, but what Oliver doesn't know is that it's picture day! And you can't wear a hat during picture day, so Oliver must take it off. Does Oliver's hair go crazy or does he find a way to tame it? You will have to read to find out!

Palatini's use of adjectives truly helps to add to the story. Rather than saying Oliver's hair was tangled, she describes it as a "There was one teeny tiny clump of hair way at the back of his head that looked just like a cat's coughed up fur ball." By doing this it helps connect to the reader and has them use their imagination about what is happening to Oliver's hair.

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### **Amy Groesbeck says**

I am so glad I stumbled upon this book! I can't wait to use it in my classroom. The story follows Oliver's attempts to resolve his bed head mishaps. When his family's suggestions make matters worse, he gives up and conceals his hair under his favorite hat. However, when he gets to school he learns it is picture day and is not allowed to wear his cap in the photo. He's forced to remove his hat, revealing his bed head. The literary devices and style of writing engage the reader. This book would be beneficial in the classroom as it demonstrates great use of colorful and embellished writing. For example, one sentence reads: "Oliver's scream shook. It rattled. It rolled all the way down the stairs and into the kitchen where Fruit Loops went flying... Two toast toasties did triple back flips on the breakfast table." There is also great use of description

words. Rather than referring to his cap as a hat, it's called his "faithful, old, battered, but true-blue baseball cap." This book could also be implemented while teaching adjectives. Bedhead also demonstrates onomatopoeia. Each of these features will help students learn to enhance their own writing.

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### **Jenny says**

Great read aloud!

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### **Jennifer says**

Oh man I remember reading this book almost everyday when I was 8. Now I'm 14 and I have no idea where my copy is but I love this book so much. I'm emotional.

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### **Jarrett Bell says**

A kids hair goes crazy. End of story. Easy level inferencing skills. The illustrations are a cross between Steve Lowtwait ("Hey Arnold!") and Tim Burton.

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### **Kryslyn says**

The book was humorous and even I was entertained while reading. I like the repetition and the illustrations throughout the book. This made it a fun read even as an adult.

Since the book was set on picture day, it would be a good book to read to children on their school picture day. Questions could be asked about how the students would feel if they had a bad hair day on picture day. It would be good to see the children's reactions.

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### **The Reading Countess says**

When your youngest son, a struggling beginning reader, brings home a book from a library...you read it. You read the book with exaggerated excitement, all the while thinking that you wish you could take his hand through the library with him and choose this book, pull that book off of the shelves for him. Reading it together will remind you why reading a book-any book-is good for both of you, even if you didn't pick it. And you remind yourself that next Tuesday, when that beloved treasure is pulled from his backpack with pride and anticipation, that you once again find the exuberance that mirrors his and enjoy your time together.

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### **Serena Prieto says**

Acquired in a Brighter Vision Learning Adventures package.  
A memorable book from my childhood.

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### **Matthew says**

This book is hilarious and full of literary devices and figurative language. If you can't find the joy here, you haven't opened the book. Oliver has an incurable case of bedhead, and no amount of brushing, primping, combing, wetting, spraying, gelling, or fussing is going to cure it. Unfortunately, he also has to get his picture taken at school and that where the worst part of the disaster ensues. Despite being able to wear a hat during class without complaint, for the class picture it's a no-go and that means unveiling his unruly do just as camera flashes. This is the sort of book that anyone can connect to. We've all been there. It's just funnier when it happens to Oliver and Margie Palatini is put in charge of narrating the whole fiasco. Great book. Give it a read.

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### **Heidi-Marie says**

The pictures were a little busy for a storytime--as well as the story itself. But it still would be a fun read-aloud. The story is just hilarious. Even more so for those of us with outrageously wild untameable hair. Though my hair is fathoms better now as an adult, a childhood of curly hair among adults who only knew how to fix straight here was an utter nightmare every day. Pain. Frizz. Hopelessness. Of course, it was never as bad as poor Oliver's, but the exaggeration in the book is greatly appreciated. So my high rating goes more for the fun-ness of the story and the content of it. Thought the illustrations aren't bad, they're not quite to my taste. But it is a funny book that I think many would enjoy.

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### **Amy says**

Oliver wakes up and shuffle-shlumps down the hall to the bathroom. He washes his face, and then....he sees it. It was BIG, and BAD, it was....BEDHEAD!!!! His hair was out of control!! "AAAAGGGGHHHHhhhh!!!" he yells. Mom, Dad, and his little sister Emily come running!! Mom asks through the door if everything is alright. Then Oliver slowly opens the bathroom door. Mom says, "Nothing can be that....Baaadd!!!" Yep, it was that bad. "Oliver, my boy, you're having one bad hair day," says day. "Total" says Emily. Mom, Dad, and Emily try everything. They push Oliver's hair to the side, pull it back, wet it, spray it, gooped and glogged it, pinned and brushed it. But nothing helped. Each time it went "Bbbboinnngg!!!" Then Oliver spots his hat. Everything is going fine and dandy until he gets to school. "Picture Day!" says the teacher. "Hats off". Uh-oh. What's Oliver to do? The cameraman is waiting, the class is waiting, the teacher is waiting. Finally just as the picture is about to snap, Oliver pulls off his hat. Bbb...BOING...Boing! Boing! BBBOING!! Oliver's hair goes everywhere. Click. The class picture shows the devastation caused by Oliver's bedhead!

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### **Tasia says**

I would recommend this book for ages 5-10. Bedhead is about how a boy named Oliver sees something

horrible and tries to fix it. This book has themes of humor, mystery, perseverance, and family.

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