



Wow! Said the Owl

Tim Hopgood

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Here's the story of a curious little owl determined to see what the world looks like during the day. And what does she discover? A wow-worthy symphony of colors—from red butterflies to orange flowers, from white clouds to green leaves.

This boisterous and bright book is the perfect read-aloud to savor with curious little owls everywhere who are exploring the world of colors for the first time.

Wow! Said the Owl Details

Date : Published September 15th 2009 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) (first published June 5th 2009)

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Author : Tim Hopgood

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From Reader Review Wow! Said the Owl for online ebook

Olivia Reading with Danny says

Danny's favourite.

Rosy says

A little owl stays awake and discovers daytime and all the amazing colors nature has. She also stays awake at nighttime and finds out that stars are the most beautiful of all things!

Cute book and great for introducing colors to kids :)

Alyssa Tabor says

Fun colors book. Good for storytime.

Cara says

A young owl stays awake all day so she can see all the colors of the day. So excited was she that she stayed awake all tonight too and discovered that nighttime is just as beautiful, if not more so, than the daylight.

A cute book with great illustrations. Good for young kids to learn their colors or if they're just starting to read.

DadReads says

Heidi's favourite toy is a soft owl, and her favourite pastime is reading stories. So it should be no surprise that she has plenty of books about owls. There's *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson. There's *Ten Little Owls* by Renee Trembl. There's *The Owl and the Pussycat* by Edward Lear, illustrated by Jan Brett. There's *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls* by David Sedaris. Actually, how did that one get onto her shelf?

But by far her favourite owl book is *Wow! Said the Owl* by Tim Hopgood. In fact, if I told her she could only keep one of her hundreds of books and we would throw the rest out, I think she would pick *Wow! Said the Owl* to save. And then she'd cry and I would be a terrible parent. But my point is it's probably her favourite book of all. Here's a recent exchange that demonstrates just how much two-year-old Heidi loves this book.

Me: What does a sheep say?

Heidi: Baa-baa!

Me: What does a lion say?

Heidi: Roooooaar!

Me: What does an owl say?

Heidi: Wow!

Wow! Said the Owl is perfect for toddlers of Heidi's age. A curious little owl stays awake during the daytime instead of going to sleep, and discovers all the vivid colours of the world around her. On each page she says "WOW!" as she sees a new colour – the warm pink sky, the yellow sun, the green leaves on her tree, the pretty red butterflies, the grey clouds when it starts to rain.

The day finishes with a rainbow, and then the little owl stays up all night, just like little owls are supposed to, and she decides that the night-time stars are the most beautiful of all. The final page, after the end of the story, shows a sort of colour wheel, and Heidi loves to point to each one and say the name of the colour – even if she calls both indigo and violet a generic "purple". I mean, who ever uses the word "indigo" anyway?

I don't know what it is about owls that Heidi loves so much. I guess the big eyes do make them look pretty cute. The big eyes also help owls to find the mice, voles and other small mammals and birds that they like to attack with their razor-sharp talons and eat. Not so cute now, are they? Maybe that's what the famously mysterious *Twin Peaks* clue meant: "The owls are not what they seem".

But back to *Wow! Said the Owl*. Sometimes Heidi likes reading stories on her own, and you can tell when she's reading this one even if you're not in the room. You'll just hear "wow" as she turns each page, then a lot of gobbledegook with the occasional name of a colour thrown in. When she gets to the page full of red butterflies, she says "owl?" – it's the only page that doesn't show the curious little owl.

I hadn't heard of Tim Hopgood before we picked up a copy of this book. He has a background in graphic design and uses those skills in combination with his drawing ability to produce his works. He scans the various elements, including his drawings, into his computer and assembles the images digitally. All his work starts in black and white, and he colours it using his computer – this way he can test out different colour combinations.

Fascinatingly, he collects textures from unusual places – the clouds in *Wow! Said the Owl* have a pattern he scanned in from the inside of an envelope from his bank! What sort of creative mind comes up with that idea? Every time we read *Wow! Said the Owl* now – which is to say, several times a week – I'll pay special attention to those patterned clouds and be reminded how a clever mind can see creative potential in the most mundane objects.

All of this creativity combines to be a cut above your usual toddler book. In fact, it has become so popular that in 2015 *Wow! Said the Owl* was adapted into a stage show using puppets in London, and received rave reviews.

Speaking of reviews, on the back cover of *Wow! Said the Owl*, you'll see the following testimonial: "Just the right blend of vivid illustration and engaging text" – *Daily Mail*. For the first (and probably last) time in my life, I am forced to admit that the *Daily Mail* got something bang on.

<https://dadreads.blogspot.com.au/2017...>

Emily Carlyn says

Perfect for younger crowds - features some factual information in the first few pages. They can identify colors over the rest of the story.

Kristin says

Great book for introducing colors in nature.

June says

Bright and colorful illustrations and simple text make this a good storytime book for the young audiences. A great introduction to colors and rainbows.

Natasha says

My little guy loves this book to bits. He pours over the illustrations, shouting "moon", "star", "owl", "butter" (that's butterfly, by the way), "WOW!" and pointing to the corresponding pictures. He is completely absorbed when I read this to him too, sitting on my lap and only turning the pages when I ask him to. That is not at all common for my 18 month old who loves flitting around the room while I read or taking the book from me and having his merry way with it (which usually involves turning the pages too fast or taking the book for walks around the house). The best part is that I don't cringe every time he says "owl" and wants me to read this book to him again and again because it's quite a captivating little tale with illustrations that are enchanting and educational. I put on a t-shirt the other day and my kid was pointing and saying, "ow, ow, ow." I look down, and guess what, my shirt's got an owl on it. The book has also gotten my husband and I into a routine of taking the little guy outside before bedtime and showing him the moon and stars (which he loves), singing some nursery rhymes outside, and bonding with our little lovebug under the stars. It really has been all kinds of WOW!

??? says

??????? color???

Nathan says

This is really cute and would likely work well for storytime.

Nicola says

Miss 3 wasn't interested in the book but she showed some interest in the colour wheel at the back.

Miss 3 and I like to explore different books and authors at the library, sometimes around particular topics or themes. We try to get different ones out every week or so; it's fun for both of us to have the variety and to look at a mix of new & favourite authors.

Dewey says

Adorable! I love the owl's curiosity and all the colorful illustrations.

Ria says

A cute little children's book that is designed to blend learning with reading. This book dealt with learning colours and every page mentions a different colour highlighted within the story. Simplistic for early readers it still had a lovely tale woven around teaching children about a mischievous owl who couldn't sleep and noticed all the beautiful colours in the world around us.

Portable says

Cute illustrations and exploration of the different colours to be found in nature. Owl is a night-time bird, but decides to stay up and see what the day has to offer, exploring a rainbow of colours. Great for encouraging the IB attitude appreciation.
