



You're Only Old Once!

Dr. Seuss

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With his unmistakable rhymes and signature illustration style, Dr. Seuss creates a classic picture-book ode to aging in *You're Only Old Once!* On a visit to "the Golden Years Clinic on Century Square for Spleen Readjustment and Muffler Repair," readers will laugh with familiar horror at the poking and prodding and testing and ogling that go hand in hand with the dreaded appellation of "senior citizen." Though Dr. Seuss is known for his peerless work in books for children, this comical look at what it's like to get older is ideal for Seuss fans of advanced years. In his own words, this is "a book for obsolete children." A perfect gift for retirement, birthdays, and holidays!

You're Only Old Once! Details

Date : Published February 12th 1986 by New York: Random House (first published January 1st 1986)

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Author : Dr. Seuss

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Genre : Humor, Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction

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From Reader Review *You're Only Old Once!* for online ebook

Alexis Espinosa says

You're Only Old Once! follows an elderly man to The Golden Years clinic where he undergoes bizarre medical tests. It is a rhyming book and has a poetry format.

Comments/observations: The reading level of this book is third to fifth grade although older readers would find this book more enjoyable. The theme of this book include culture, diversity, and growing up. My emotional readers response was that it reminded me of classic Dr. Seuss with all the rhyming. Students like to read books that rhyme so I would add this to my classroom library. Its catchy and not too long and the story itself is interesting and engaging with the pictures so I enjoyed this book.

How I can use this book in a classroom: I think Dr. Seuss books are best used for art projects and expanding students imagination. I would have them take what is in this book and other books and have them illustrate their own stories. Then I would have students illustrate their own books that they create using ideas from Seuss. They can also make a book that rhymes.

Seuss, D. (1986). *You're only old once!* New York, NY: Random House.

Oliver Radtke says

I finished reading "You're Only Old Once" by Dr. Seuss. I thought this book was funny, witty, and easy to read. The book was about an old man who went to the hospital for a check up. Throughout his check up, they kept proceeding on doing more tests on him. After all his tests were done, he found out that he was in good shape, and did not have to worry at all.

I read this book to my little cousin who is in fourth grade. She did not enjoy the book as much as I thought she would have. She said that she did not find it very funny or interesting.

The main character in this book is an old male who is about 80 years old. He had no name in the book. The man is worried about his health when he first arrived at the hospital. He did not understand why the doctors kept testing him. At the end of the book, he was relieved to find out that he was in great shape.

The setting takes place in the 21st century in a hospital. He was first seated in the waiting area, which was where he talked to a fish. Then he was moved all around the hospital and in many different rooms so he could have tests performed on him.

The theme of this book was to face reality. The old man knew he was sick, so he went to the hospital to face his sickness. He was not as sick as he thought, and he went home that day.

I recommend this book to males that are in their teens and older. The main character was a male, so it relates more to males than females. It was a good read because it informs the reader that even though they are old, they can still be in great shape. That could help younger kids feel better about themselves when they get older.

Ellen says

In honor of his 82nd birthday Theodore Geisel celebrated with the publication of this picture book for adults or, to use his term, 'absolute children'. The story follows an ambiguous 'you' on a visit to the Golden Years Clinic where you have gone for a checkup. From absurd questionnaires about the health history of every extended member of your family past and present to a plethora of prescription pills with a complicated dosage schedule every inch of you is inspected and ogled by a huge staff of doctors. You even visit the dietician's office where you lay on a table and appetizing foods pass by your nose so the doctor can determine which foods you like the most. "And when that guy finds out what you like, you can bet it won't be on your diet, From here on, forget it!" It's all in good fun with Seuss' silly rhymes that tickle your funny bone.

Kimberly Dawn says

A laugh out loud (yet All.Too.True) look at the medical adventures we all will find ourselves partaking in, sooner or later. If you can relate, this is a must read. After all, LAUGHTER really is the best medicine! I know I feel better already!

Shelby Fungone says

This book was so true and relevant to my grandparents, who are turning 70 next month. It's about a man who goes into the doctors office and is tested for all of these different things like what his eating diet consists of and his hearing. Dr. Seuss illustrates it in the most crazy and wonky of ways, like when the man is tested for hearing there's a large grandfather's clock chiming and people making noise with loud instruments and a large spout of water dropping water into a tub. The whole time the old man is trying to listen like it's a normal procedure test. In another part of the book, he connects with the waiting room fish in the fish bowl and I liked that it talks about the fish being bored by the patient because he's heard everyone have the same story. My favorite part of the book was without a doubt the ending, where he realizes that he's in pretty tip top shape for his old age!

Javone Mcclelland says

Dr. Seuss wrote this book about himself when he was beginning to get very sick, he was in and out of the hospital and was suffering many illnesses. To pass his time in the waiting rooms and hospital beds he began to draw images of hospital machines and scenes of medical procedures. He eventually began to connect these into a book. This was one of his first books that was for elderly people and connected to a different audience. Although intended for a different audience, the pictures were still Dr. Seuss's signature, unique creatures and illustrations.

Shaikhah says

I thought it was children books, but it was not :)

I was in mood to make myself laugh, but I got mixed feelings with relief that I am still young and sad because you know that someone in your family is that old to take too much medicine.

As at the end of book had been written on it " If you bought this book for your child, then give it when he reach 70" :)

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

If you are over 50 and need a good laugh read this book.

Kathryn says

My mom loved this book! She found it at the library sale and was laughing so hard we finally begged her to read it aloud ;-)

I hate to classify books as being only for certain age groups, but, the cover indicates this is for "obsolete children" and I really do think its humor will best be appreciated by readers of a certain age with a fair amount of experience in waiting rooms and doctors offices. Sadly, my mom has had her fair share of that already by taking my late grandparents to their many appointments over the years. I am glad she was able to get a belated laugh by reading this book. I am also glad that I didn't quite appreciate all the humor yet, though!

Pamela says

HILARIOUS!!! I love this book! Absolutely delightful. It was exactly the laugh hubby and I needed today after his foray to the VA. Always a test in patience and long-suffering.

*"When at last we are sure
you've been properly pilled,
then a few paper forms
must be properly filled
so that you and your heirs
may be properly billed."*

I simply love Theodor Seuss Geisel's books . . . all of them, for young and old alike. He truly was a gifted man with an eye and meter for humor. And at UCSD La Jolla, right here in San Diego County, there is a wildly creative and contemporary library (and sculptures) created in his honor and funded by his foundation's generosity. Truly delightful to visit.

His legacy lives on . . .

Kathy Davie says

It's Everyman for himself in this tale for adults. Yes, that's what I said. It's a story for oldsters who could use a rueful laugh. I want to say it's a *fantasy*, but I'd be lyin', lol, about this satire on aging.

My Take

Oh, man, just reading the blurb on the inside flap had me laughing. Yes, I'd said that Seuss is quite right about this being a book for adults. I especially "enjoyed" the Eyesight Test — be sure to read it.

The pictures are typical Seuss with his cheery colors and silly scenes.

Oh, yes, it's La-La Land for us oldsters who want strong teeth, no doctors, and live to be a hundred and three, lol. Spleen Readjustment and Muffler Repair. We all know the hassles of doctors questioning us about Great-aunt Rose and her ills and how old was she when she died. Of what did she die, by the way? And was it afternoon, morning, or the dead of night?

The doctors and nurses who won't tell. The interns who poke and look.

As for that treadmill...you'll be grateful for your own! Then there's the Diet-Devising Computerized Sniffer...the results of that test will simply depress.

Those pills they prescribe? Oh, yeah, it's that litany of when and where and how to take the plethora of pills.

The Story

It's a *very* long day as Everyman goes to the doctorsssssss.

The Characters

Everyman has reached 70 with all the ills that implies. **Norval** is the fish in the hall who has to listen to his pains. **Whelden** is the orderly and Wheeler who pushes you about. Once you've "graduated", of course.

The Cover and Title

The cover has a cream floor for a background with blue doors at the top and three doctors peeking out, their stethoscopes dangling. At the bottom is Whelden in his creamy yellow boilersuit, quite smug as he pushes Everyman, a balding old man with his fringe of white hair and bushy mustache, wearing a yellow short-sleeved bathrobe with blue trim. It's an odd sort of tricycle in which he sits with its big yellow and pink wheels.

The title is a relief that *You're Only Old Once!!*

Emmaline MacBeath says

I remember reading this book for the very first time in a doctor's office. It is a satire on the medical system. The older man in the story is dragged from one examination to another of every imaginable type. Then he is

given a pile of pills for every ill and finally sent to fill out a stack of papers for billing.

This book is not written for children. It is written for adults who appreciate the humor of being dragged from one doctor to the next and having to wait, wait, wait in between. And in the end all those test really tell the character is that he is doing better than most.

The story is fun and funny and oh so true for those of us who have been dragged through the medical system. However, to truly appreciate this book, the adult must love children's books as well since it is written in picture book style. I happen to love picture books so I love this book. The text doesn't carry the same zing as many of Seuss' books, but it is a fun read nonetheless.

Heather says

I find it wonderful that Dr. Seuss wrote a children's book for adults. This is a great read and a nice one for the collection.

I absolutely love this book! By chance I found this at my local chain resale bookstore and I'm so glad that I did. The artwork is as wonderful as it is in any of the Dr. Seuss books creatively depicting the verses on the pages. The story is probably more true than any of the other Dr. Seuss ones but it is still told in his unique creative style. I've already read this a few times and even read it to my parents who really liked it too! I would say that this book is just what you would expect from Dr. Seuss.

Tots R says

You're only Old once by Dr. Seuss

I love just about every book Dr. Seuss writes. He sure does know how to write a poem, a rhythm, or story to capture a child's attention. I have almost the whole collection of Dr. Seuss books available in my daycare for my children to Read. Dr. Seuss poetry is funny and always has a riddle when reading it. This book is great to read over and over again to kids they loves it and it makes them laugh every time I read it to them. This book also makes you feel happy about getting old. This book would be great for children of all ages I also recommend buying this book and others from Dr. Seuss collection for birthday gifts or for your child to read. When I read this book to my children I explain to them the growing old is the part of life and everybody is going to be old one day so while reading the book I act like an old grandma and grandpa with my old voices making them laugh as they hear me reading. The pictures in the book are bright and colorful and fun to look at. Overall I would have to say I love to read this book and recommend everyone buy a copy for their child.

Linda Hart says

Very funny Dr. Seuss book....love every bit of it. Great book for adult gift.
