

DR XARGLE'S



BOOK OF
EARTHLETS

Jeanne Willis · Tony Ross

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This humorous story tells how Dr Xargle instructs his class of aliens on the appearance and habits of "Earthlets" (human babies) before embarking on a field trip to Earth. Bath-time, feeding, and changing nappies are all given a new slant by this alien guide to human behavior.

Dr Xargle's Book of Earthlets Details

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Author : Jeanne Willis , Tony Ross

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From Reader Review Dr Xargle's Book of Earthlets for online ebook

Tamsin says

Esteemed Dr. Xargle gives a class on the topic: 'An alien's view of earth babies,' with amusing illustrations from Tony Ross.

Such a fun read! And a nice link to 'Beegu.'

Christiana Tarpley says

What are Earthlets?

Professor Xargle talks about humans in their point-of-view/perspective. Very interesting to learn about these Earthlets :)

This is a great book to teach about point-of-view and to allow for the students to understand the outsiders view on things. They have misconceptions about Earthlets and think they understand. The students will have to figure out the metaphors and misconceptions they have about "Earthlets."

The students will then retell the story using the real human words and meanings of humans so we can clear the misconception and teach the students of Professor Xargle the real meaning of Earthlets.

Kathryn says

Okay, class, today Professor Xargle will tell us about those peculiar, amusing and bewildering creatures, the Earthlets. Special attention will be given to the infant Earthlets and the ways in which its parental unit cares for it throughout the day.

This is a quirky but fun little read. Since Horace Miner's "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" was one of my favorite pieces in my early college years (ah, Cultural Anthropology!) I am already kind of a fan of books that show "us" as "them" and how others might interpret our "normal" behaviors. Of course, Willis' story is a much more "lightweight" version of that, but I think it will amuse kids while also providing a subtle but valuable message. This would probably be an especial hit with children who have a baby brother or sister.

Elvira says

Hilarious!

Richard Newbold says

A rare, genuinely funny children's book, where the picture book format hits the spot with child and grown-up with a heady mixture of slapstick, sly satire and vivid illustration - the ending is just superb. Put simply, it's an alien's explanation of infants and their world, misinterpretations abound in a laugh out loud, absurd yet strangely truthful, way. It strikes me (perhaps too earnestly) that the book is absolutely perfect for the situation where an elder child, used to being "special", finds it difficult to adjust to the arrival of a baby sibling. Get them laughing at this (in other words, at themselves) and things will turn out alright.

Christina says

This book is incredibly silly and also a must read! ?. Find your best alien voice and read it to your children. If there is such a thing as a piglet or an owlet...why wouldn't we use the term "earthlets"? You will get all sorts of dubious information about what a baby needs, does and wants. Lots of smiles for your child while reading...especially if he or she has spent the last 16 months learning how to be a big brother or sister.

Sean Parsons says

Professor Xargle talks about humans in their point-of-view/perspective. Very interesting to learn about these Earthlets and what they do.

This is a great book to teach about point-of-view and to allow for the students to understand the outsiders view on things. They have misconceptions about Earthlets and think they understand. The students will then retell the story using the real human words and meanings of humans so we can clear the misconception and teach the students of Professor Xargle the real meaning of Earthlets. We can also think about how the aliens may describe other creatures on planet earth. A book for EYFS/ KS1.

Diane says

The description of a human baby (earthlet) through the eyes of an alien professor.

Miroslava Petrova says

3.5

Lynn Davidson says

An alien teaches a class of aliens about earthlings, in a funny way.

Gemma Treacy says

I read this book with my Year one class. It is about an alien teacher who is teaching his students about babies, who he refers to as Earthlets. Dr Xargle mostly describes what babies do, such as cry, eat and sleep. There is lots of description in the story, describing nappies as paper bags and feet as tentacles.

However, my class did not enjoy this book and found the story rather boring. While the book is not the most exciting, it can be used to introduce metaphors and similes to upper Key stage 2. Personally, I would not recommend this book but I can see how it can encourage children's imaginations and perhaps consider different perspectives.

A.R. Collins says

Very amusing in places, but not as good as 'Earth Tiggers' (and possibly 'Earth Hounds' - we'll have to see!). Of course this is the first book in the series, and it's still finding its feet; Dr Xargle's explanations aren't always as whacky as I'd like, and there's no joke to accompany the Earth visit at the end. The book does have its moments, such as burping and weaning onto solid food. As always this is a good, fun book for children.

Miriam says

Mildly musing, although by "Earthlets" (i.e. babies) we apparently only mean middle class western children who all live in about the same sort of house and family and have the same clothing and toys and pets and poor behavior.

Sean Harding says

Alien teaching his peeps how to act like a human is actually showing children how to live life one would suspect. Quite engaging and humorous in parts, a decent brief read.

Esther Choi says

The book is about an alien teacher, professor Xargle, teaching a class about human babies. Professor Xargle describes what babies look like and do, and how humans raise their babies. The text is from an "outsiders" point of view and contains funny misconceptions that any outsider may have if they visited planet Earth. This would be a great book for younger students to learn about different points of views, and for older students when they are learning about stereotypes and sensitive to preconceptions.

Interest Level: K-3rd grade

Lexile Level: 350

Genre: Science Fiction Picture Book

Themes: point of view, stereotypes, understanding one another, aliens
