



Meg and Mog

Helen Nicoll, Jan Pie?kowski

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Meg and Mog is the first in the long-standing series about a witch (Meg) and her cat (Mog). Meg is a cute well-meaning witch who lives with Mog and her owl. In *Meg and Mog*, we are introduced to a witch wardrobe and a witch's breakfast. Later Meg flies off to meet her witch friends for some spell-making at a Halloween Party. Unfortunately the spell does not go exactly to plan...

The illustration is simple and with very bold, deep colours. Designed specifically to appeal to very young children, *Meg and Mog* has short simple sentences on each page, allowing the illustration to play an important part in the storytelling.

If you enjoy the first *Meg and Mog*, enjoy more adventures in *Meg on the Moon* and *Mog at the Zoo*. (Ages 1 to 3 years.) --*Victoria MacKenzie*

Meg and Mog Details

Date : Published 1975 by Puffin Books (first published 1972)

ISBN : 9780140501179

Author : Helen Nicoll , Jan Pie?kowski

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From Reader Review Meg and Mog for online ebook

Clouds says

I've commented before on how hard it is to review picture books like this - I mean, by the time I've got into my flow here I'll have used more words than are contained within this entire book.

This is our second Meg and Mog book. We started with *Meg on the Moon* because I'm a sci-fi geek. Fin (my 18-month old son) loves that one very much, so we decided to get him the original for Christmas.

How hard is it to buy gifts for a toddler? We got him this book, some soap/crayons that you can draw with in the bath that wipe off, some foam letters which stick to the wall when wet (another bath toy) a giant teddy bear and a toddler laptop (so he stops trying to steal the adult computer). Every present (bar the teddy) he was more interested in the box and/or wrapping paper. I mean, he loves them all now, but I saw the same reaction from all our family giving him presents too - they get all psyched-up about how much he's going to love their carefully chosen gifts... and then Fin sits there scrunching the paper, giggling and sticking his head inside the box.... and totally ignoring the present itself. And each time it happened they would look vaguely disappointed, try not to, and then go "Ah well, he's a toddler!" Apparently it's universally accepted that toddlers have not yet learned the social rules of gratitude - how long will this slack last?

So... Meg and Mog. Lovely artwork - simple, crisp, bright and expressive. Perfect for young minds (and their Daddy's). The story itself a bit of a let down. I was expecting more character development, more emotional angst - but there's nothing at stake here, nothing driving the tension... It's just a story about a witch, who lives with her cat and an owl. She gets ready to go out to a party, then goes to the party and the witches at the party all cast a spell, the spell goes wrong and turns the rest of the witches into mice (inexplicably sparing Meg herself), and the Meg's cat Mog chases the mice. The end. I mean.. who didn't see that twist at the end coming? But they cut out before the really juicy scene where Mog catches one of the mice, plays with it, teases it, slices it open, hooks out the purple wibbly organs with one claw, and eats the rest whole...

So - it's really just as good as *Meg on the Moon*... except it doesn't include any phrase as good as 'Lunar Module' which earned that book a fourth star all on its own. So Nicoll will have to settle for three here. A very solid picture book.

I have one genuine gripe: Owl. There are three 'people' living in the house, Meg, Mog and Owl. Why doesn't Owl get a name? I mean, if they were called Human, Cat and Owl I wouldn't have raised the issue. But Owl is part of the family, he shares breakfast with them, in the other book he makes a picnic for them - but he doesn't get a name? That seems mean. Unless it's saying something profound about Owl psychology? To each and every Owl, "I am Owl" is the only concept of self they can grasp? What happens if an Owl meets another Owl "Hi Owl," "Hello to you too, Owl"? What if there's a whole crowd of Owls and someone shouts "Hey Owl!" - do all the heads swivel 180 degrees and then bob up and down to triangulate the shouters location while they try to deduce who was being addressed?

If you haven't seen it, check out Ze Frank's True Facts About The Owl (it's only 4 minutes long) because "That's how an Owl do."

I want answers.

After this I read: Sometimes I Like to Curl Up in a Ball

Erik says

The simple drawings and rich colors are very effective, and there are some really interesting page layouts. But the story goes nowhere, even for a book aimed at really young children. I can't see many kids actually enjoying this.

Kasper says

Youngest halfling and I love these books. There is something so endearing in the simplistic imagination of the series. The vibrant illustrations are great too.

Karolina says

Meg and Mog is a picture book about Meg the witch and Mog her cat. They plan to go to a wild Halloween party with all the other witches. However, the spell they cast goes wrong and Meg turns all the witches into mice! The book is a brilliant combination of a magical story and beautiful pictures. It is a short read and the story would be ideal for circle time. It is perfect for sharing and reading alone. Children will love the vivid colours and they will be able to explore sounds and shapes. The book can be used as a part of a numeracy session in Early Years as the children can count the objects inside the book, point and name the simple shapes. Personally, I love the way the text has a 'life on its own' and it is structured differently on each page; sometimes it walks down the stairs or it's hidden under a rug. I think the book would be a great choice for children in Early Years and at the beginning of KS1.

Shannon (Giraffe Days) says

I hope everyone recognises this book. I had forgotten all about this series until I saw it in Dymocks back in July and was immediately transported back in time to my childhood. I LOVED these books, they were big when I was in, what, prep? Grade 1?

Originally published in 1972, this is the first book and I decided it was a good place to start - I've since added *Mog's Missing*, *Meg's Eggs* and a three-in-one volume that includes *Mog at the Zoo*, *Meg's Veg* and *Meg Up the Creek*. They are bold and distinctive and I'm so, so happy they're still in print! Here is the first page, or half of it as they're all double-page spreads that don't fit in my scanner:

Meg, a witch whose spells often backfire in interesting ways, lives with her cat, Mog, and Owl. They creatures of habit and routine who enjoy their breakfasts. Meg has four witch friends: Jess, Bess, Tess and Cress. She has a broomstick and a cauldron and her spells are very ... inventive.

The pages are solid blocks of colour, primary colours mostly, and the text has a distinctive lack of

punctuation that you just have to go along with. Dialogue is in the form of speech bubbles, so when you're reading out loud you have to ad lib a bit. There's always a lot to point at in the illustrations and plenty of comments, conjectures and opinions to share as you read it, because the stories imply much but leave a lot of it unsaid. My son loves these books and with their big, bold and unstructured text, it makes for a good book for kids learning to read. Helen Nicoll died a number of years ago but I believe Jan Pie?kowski, who illustrated the books, is still alive. There are 16 books in the series (that I know of, anyway) and each one is similar - and familiar - in terms of style and storyline, yet also distinctively different.

Having the chance to relive the fun of these books through reading them to my three-year-old is an absolute joy. There's something wonderful about sharing a story you loved as a child, with your own child, and watching them enjoy it just as much.

Zaz says

Entertaining and good for Halloween! The cat is cute and the adventure is easy to follow.

Mr G's Bees says

Onomatopoeia

Rachel (aka Ms4Tune) says

Read: 8th January 2018 (NR)

I love these books and so glad I found my copies to read with my little one. Great use of bold coloured spreads that really engage a small child.

Jenks says

Excellent childhood classic

Lucy Sands says

Wow I am so pleased I have rediscovered this series! I have just been completely transported back in time reading the first book, 'Meg and Mog', with my toddler. Illustration wise I feel picture books have come a long way, but on the flip side these simplistic, bold and brightly coloured images do exude a certain charm and are actually quite captivating! There is lots of opportunity for interaction with counting, time telling and animal recognition. It's a fast pace story that covers a recognisable routine (waking up, treading on pet, cooking breakfast, going to a party etc). It's quite humorous that Meg, accidentally or not, changes the rest of the witches into mice, however through adult eyes I feel it's a bit mean waiting until next Halloween to

change them back, leaving Mog to chase them. My toddler however just found this whole concept funny. I will certainly be revisiting more books in this series and thoroughly recommend it be on all children's bookshelves!

Freya says

As a child I LOVED cats, and I'm probably quite sure I thought I was a witch (who doesn't?!). Needless to say I really liked these Meg and Mog books.

Karren says

Delightful. Suitable for young children. We've added this to our Halloween library as I am a collector of seasonal books.

Justine Cook says

Meg and mog were some of my favourite childhood reads. Through adult eyes, it's a bit wtf - but kids still love them.

Sadia Mansoor says

Witches have always been my one of the fav childhood characters <3
Love them for their obsession with *Abracadabra* spells :D

Sarah Smith says

I have found children to absolutely love this book and so would highly recommend it for reading for pleasure. It is a simple story highlighting an exciting journey, it could be used as an introduction to writing a whole class adventure tale but I feel it would be more beneficial as a RFP book.

Ova Incekaraoglu says

This is a must have for every toddler. I know it looks very basic but they love the bright colours and this was the first book my son memorized as we read it so many times!

Emer says

Wow this brings me back...

Loved this book with all my heart as a little one.

Sarah says

My favourite witch!

Cassandra O'Leary says

One of my little boys' favourite books. We've actually read a collection of Meg books and they are all a delight.

Jenna Mills says

This brought back some childhood memories. Loved the big text and bold images. Actually really fun and my just turned 2yr old was rivited!
