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Jack Prelutsky , Peter Sís (Illustrator)

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We're sailing to Scranimal Island,

It doesn't appear on most maps....

Scranimal Island is where you will find the fragrant Rhinocerose, the cunning Broccolions, and if you are really, really lucky and very, very quiet, you will spot the gentle, shy Pandaffodil. (You may even hear it yawning if the morning's just begun, watch its petals slowly open to embrace the rising sun.

So put on your pith helmet and prepare to explore a wilderness of puns and rhymes where birds, beasts, vegetables, and flowers have been mysteriously scrambled together to create creatures you've never seen before — and are unlikely to meet again! Your guides — Jack Prelutsky, poet laureate of the elementary school set, and two-time Caldecott Honor artist Peter Sis — invite you to join them on an adventure you will never forget!

Ages 4+

Scranimals Details

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Author : Jack Prelutsky , Peter Sís (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Scranimals for online ebook

Corinne Creighton says

This book is a very delightful read that will have you laughing at the text but also memorized by the illustration. This book is very easy and fun to follow along because it follows a rhyme scheme. This book is about an adventure on an island where you get to see and read about different sorts of animals. However, the catch is that these are not ordinary animals. These animals names are combined with either fruits, flowers, or other animals. For example, in this book you will get to read about the "Hippopotamushrooms" or the "parrotters."

I enjoyed myself very much while reading this book. Jack Prelutsky does an excellent job of making the reader engaged in the adventure he takes us on. The rhymes he writes are very fun to read and it keeps the reader wanting to read more. The illustrations do an amazing job of bringing the text to life! Each page has its own distinct color scheme and it really makes each animal distinct. This is definitely a book I would recommend for a teacher or a parent, students and kids will really enjoy this read.

Amy says

I took my niece and nephew to the library today, and my niece spotted this one on the shelf. She became very excited and told me how great the book was. We checked it out, and the three of us read this together.

The book was very similar to *Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant: And Other Poems*, but I think the kids enjoyed this one considerably more. The illustrations were more engaging, and made strong use of the background as well as the foreground. Creatures we had just visited, or were to visit on the next page appeared in the background, and I think that helped the kids stay anticipatory as we read along.

The poetry was quite good, too, with very few, if any, awkward lines. It was full of great vocabulary, but also accessible to the kids. My niece and nephew are not big poetry fans, so frankly, I was surprised by how much they seemed to enjoy the poems in *Scranimals*. I did stumble over the names of some of the creatures in this book, but the author did provide pronunciation keys, which helped quite a bit.

Overall, this was an interesting book, and I get why my niece was excited about it. I'm glad the kids enjoyed it, but I am also glad I don't have to pronounce some of those difficult creature names on a regular basis.

Natalie O'neill says

This book of poems is really silly and funny, as is most of Jack Prelutsky's poetry. What I found to be unique about this particular Jack Prelutsky anthology is that all of the poems focused on one theme - Scranimals. Each poem was written about a different fantastical animal that lives on "Scranimal Island." As is typical with any Jack Prelutsky poetry, there are very distinct rhyme schemes and a great, creative use of vivid language and imagery. This would be an excellent book to use to model creative poetry writing. An interesting activity would be to read one of the poems to the students without showing them the illustrations, then have them draw what they visualize in their minds.

Heather says

I love this book!! So does my class! Ever since I found it, I've read it to my class every year. The first time I read it, it was to expose them to new ideas and poetry. I remember them moaning about how they didn't like poetry and didn't understand it. I read this, and they were enthralled. They loved that the animals were made up from real animal halves: animal + animal or animal + plant. They thought the names were creative. They liked the way it was written like the animals actually existed on some faraway island.

I was about through with the book when I had the thought that they should create their own Scranimals. They made up the animal and gave it a portmanteau name like Prelutsky did and then wrote a description of their animal in various ways. Some even attempted the dreaded poetry! I have done this with most classes since then. It always one of the lessons my kids remember at the end of the year. And to think it all came as a spontaneous inspiration as I was reading the book and they weren't that into it. Well, folks, this is how to get them into it - let them try it themselves!

I love Prelutsky's books, and this is my favorite.

Hannah Holthaus says

I loved this book! I thought it was super creative with the imaginary creatures that Prelutsky created in this book. Not only were the images original, but the poems that went along with the creatures were also super original and creative. I think that this book would be an awesome project that teachers can incorporate in their own classrooms by having students create their own creatures, draw them, write a poem or story about them, and then create a class book with it.

Isabelle says

I have very fond memories of playing "Scranimal Island" with my second-grade classmates, a highly rigged version of tag inspired by the fantastical creatures in this book. I also have very fond memories of all the books my second-grade teacher read to us, including (among many others) this one and *Flat Stanley*.

That said, I do have to admit I don't remember much in the way of specifics about the poetry in this collection, just that it made us laugh and, as mentioned above, inspired us for months.

Kathryn says

Prelutsky is one of those names I remember when I was a kid, one of those names which convinced me poetry is worth pursuing. I love poetry to this day and try hard to instill the same love in my children. Using Prelutsky to brain wash my kids into loving poetry is effective. They love this book, and in between hearing their admiration for the imaginative and fanciful mixed up creatures within these pages, I was not above slipping in the occasional "poetry is good. poetry is good. poetry is good". Gotta hit 'em while they're young,

before stupid kids at school tell my boys that poetry is only for girls or dorks.

Anyways, I can not imagine ever meeting a child who would not love this book. My 4-year-old was enchanted by the art and my 6-year-old kept asking me to explain specific words. The rhymes were simple but also excellent for introducing new vocabulary. Highest recommendation, especially as a gift.

Nancy Kotkin says

Text: 4 stars

Illustrations: 4 stars

Single-author collection of children's poetry about fictional animal hybrids. Animals are crossed with flowers, fruits, vegetables, or other animals. Meet the rhinocerose, bananaconda, radishark, ostricheetah, and more. The meter and rhyme of the poems make them fun to read aloud. To aid readers, pronunciations are provided.

Detailed drawings, infused with watercolors, bring the creatures to life. I love the almost other-worldly quality of the art, but I wish the color palette wasn't so restricted.

Sean Harding says

Yep well I guess some people may like this, I guess it is somewhat inventive, but it really didn't do much for me. Clearly I'm not the target market for this, but it really was well pretty dull, to be honest, and instantly forgettable.

Olivia says

I love it. My dad's fav is the potatoad.

Eva Leger says

2.5 - This was a bit of a let down. I was so pumped when I found this because Julia and I have a game we love to play where one of us comes up with two totally different animals and then we both try to figure out the best name for their baby. You can imagine my surprise and happiness when I found this.

First, this isn't just mixing animals, the author threw in vegetables and fruit, which just threw the entire thing off for us. There are enough animals in the world to stick with the animals, much like the title, *Scranimals* suggests.

Second, the things being mixed weren't any good. Maybe two or three, tops. This is something where *anyone* can come up with a great mix. It's not hard. It's actually very fun and very easy. I mean, a potato and a toad? Come on.

The poems were okay, nothing special. I won't pretend to be big on poetry though so I don't know how much

my opinion there is worth.

I would love, love, love to find a book more suited to our game. I know we'd both adore a well done book of that kind.

samantha says

porcupinniapples

Diana Costello says

You might think this is just a children's book, but I have used it for Comp I and high school creative writing classes. It is just a wonderful romp of a read for children, but can be used for higher thinking skills for upper level writers. I had my creative writing class combine a plant with an animal to give interesting characteristics. Many included it in their final portfolio with an illustration.

Sabra says

Prelutsky devises all manner of oddball animals by combining creatures with food or flora -- the very stupid Avocadodos, the awkward Spinachickens, the shy Pandaffodil and, my favorite, "the Detested Radishark":

In the middle of the ocean,
In the deep deep dark,
Dwells a monstrous apparition,
The detested RADISHARK.
It's an underwater nightmare
That you hope you never meet,
For it eats what it wants,
And it always wants to eat.

Its appalling, bulbous body
Is astonishly red,
And its fangs are sharp and gleaming
In its huge and horrid head,
And the only thought it harbors
In its small but frightful mind,
Is to catch you and to bite you
On your belly and behind.

It is ruthless, it is brutal,
It swims swiftly, it swims far,
SO it's guaranteed to find you
Almost anywhere you are.
If the RADISHARK is near you,
Pray the beast is fast asleep

In the middle of the ocean
In the dark dark deep.

Each poem is accompanied by charming illustrations by noted artist Peter Sis.

Travis says

A book that I stumbled across in the library and read because I think weird hybrid animals can be fun. It was a bit disappointing. The creature designs are weirdly inconsistent; most are a hybrid of an animal with a plant, especially fruits and vegetables, but some are just hybrids with other animals, like the ostricheetah or parrotters. The poetry is not bad but is just sort of nonsense and left me thinking "so what"; if there was a more consistent vision or logic to the setting I think I would have liked it more, but it is just too random. Probably not a bad book for children, the intended audience, but I think a better choice would be *The Dragons are Singing Tonight* by the same poet and illustrator duo.
