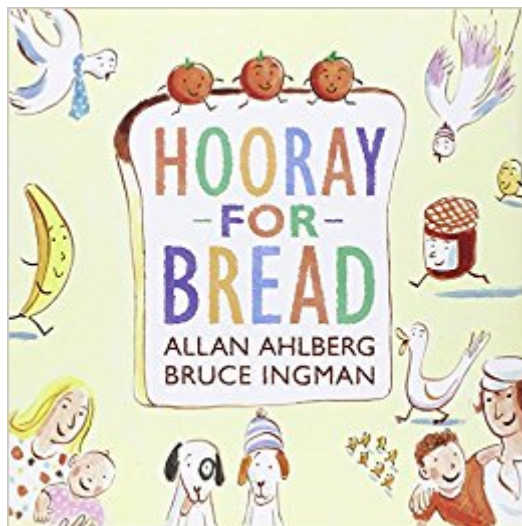


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Hooray For Bread



Synopsis

From the comic duo behind *The Runaway Dinner* and *The Pencil* comes a day in the life of a loaf of bread, told slice by yummy slice. Early in the morning the baker bakes a delicious loaf of bread. So delicious, in fact, that by the time the sun goes down it has been gobbled up! Who eats it all? Well, the baker munches on its crunchy crust. The baker's wife eats some toast for breakfast, and the baker's son gets a cheese and ham sandwich for lunch. And let's not forget the dog! As the loaf gets smaller, slice by slice and crumb by crumb, everyone eats their fill: ducks, fishes, birds, and even a teeny tiny mouse who nibbles up the very last scrap. With lively rhymes, fun illustrations, and an infectious refrain, Allan Ahlberg and Bruce Ingman cook up a tasty tale that is sure to become a read-aloud staple.

Book Information

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Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

PreS-K-A rhyming text and sunny illustrations describe a single day in the life of a loaf of bread. From the first early-morning slice eaten by the baker to the final bit discovered by a mouse long after the baker's family has gone to bed, the slices are turned into toast, sandwiches, snacks for the ducks in the park, and crumbs for the neighborhood birds. After each animal receives its treat, a full-page refrain appears ("Hooray-Woof, Woof-for bread!" says the dog). Pen and watercolor illustrations have a charming retro feel and a friendly pastel palette in a scale perfect for sharing.

Unfortunately, the concept seems thin and the rhyme is often labored: "The next two slices made a pair/With butter, cheese, and ham/A sandwich for the baker's boy/And the baker's boy's dog-Sam." In spite of the appealing illustrations, this book is full of yeasty possibilities that just never rise. Additional at best. -Teri Markson, Los Angeles Public Library
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A picture book extolling the virtues of bread! At last! Ahlberg gives us a peek of the baking process kicking off his tale, "slice by slice." The first part of the loaf to go is the crust, of course, which the baker himself enjoys in all "its crusty crunchiness." The baker's wife gets breakfast in bread (including toast and tea), the child gets a sandwich, and then, in the first of several animal interludes, we receive a two-page spread of dogs freaking out when the boy throws them pieces: "HOORAY •WOOF, WOOF •FOR BREAD!" The rhymes are hit-and-miss but awfully cute when they work: "The next slice went out for a ride / With the baker's wife and baby / They fed the fat and feathery ducks / And a couple fishes, maybe." Though it's a bit odd when the loaf becomes sentient, Ingman helps it all hang together with pen-and-watercolor illustrations that are fresh-bread warm. A quirky topic handled as if it is perfectly normal which makes it even quirkier.
Preschool-Grade 1. --Daniel Kraus

This is a favorite of my 2.75 year old, who has Ahlberg's "The Pencil" memorized. This one isn't quite that beloved yet, but she really enjoys the story and illustrations. It is esp cute that some of the characters from other Ahlberg favorites have cameo appearances (watch for Billy the boiled egg at the end, and some French fries). It is a welcome addition to our nightly story rotation.

Bought for my grandchildren whose parents are bakers. They loved the story and the illustrations. I enjoyed the idea of having a story attached to each slice....Very well done

This was a Birthday present for our grand daughter. We saw it in the news paper and thought it would be a great present. We enjoyed reading it first and thought what a great present. She has got a lot of enjoyment out of it.

Great subject, Great story, Great pictures---My grandchildren and i loved the book and the subject. Right down to the last tiny crumb. Susan pierce, Bread baker and Grandma of Noah and

Akai

Just an "okay" story, I thought

This is a cute book that in rhyme goes through the life of a loaf of bread. Combining simple line drawings with a touch of watercolors with the rhyming text the story ambles through the day from when the baker first mixes the dough to when the last crumb is used. No crumb goes wasted and the life of a loaf of bread is a happy life providing substance for many. There is a touch of counting and you can use the book to identify foods. The book is good though not outstanding. I love rhyming stories for children so that is a plus for this book. The pictures are simple and happy and a child can easily relate to them. The story is one that would appeal to families - especially if they bake their own bread. I think this is a good book to add to a library for public and school libraries. DISCLOSURE: I was provided a complimentary copy of Hooray for Bread by Candlewick Press in exchange for my honest review. Opinions expressed are solely my own. I received no compensation for this review.

The clever partnership that delighted readers with the rollicking, high-energy food chase in *The Runaway Dinner* and the playful backwards fairytale in *Previously* return with *Hooray for Bread*. Less frenetic in pace and less snappy and humorous in its prose than the other two books, *Hooray for Bread* in rhyming text follows the life cycle of a loaf of bread, slice by slice, from the day the bread is born to the last little crumb. We see a baker's family appreciating each slice at various times of the day and sharing bits of bread and crumbs with dogs, ducks, and birds - all of which enthusiastically respond, "Hooray for bread," in animal-speak. The story is an homage to a delicious food that goes nicely with a cup of tea; butter, cheese, and ham; beans; "bread-and-butter soldiers;" or all on its own. In a playful and unexpected twist, two slices sneak off - perhaps in a nod to *The Runaway Dinner*. This bit of fun, however, doesn't exactly fit with the story. Neither do the intermittent shouts of "hooray" from the animals which seem out of place with the slightly subdued tone of the overall story. If the tale were more high-spirited throughout, the shouts of celebration for bread would be a better fit. The issue isn't that this book is not as animated as the other two; its flow does not gel as a whole. Still the story works well as a reminder of the many ways a food item may be enjoyed, possibly causing young readers to reflect on the foods we eat and how food nourishes humans and animals. That is something to celebrate. And those two runaway slices from earlier? They meet up with a few food friends from *The Runaway Dinner* for a little fun. First reviewed for

This is the amazing story of one loaf of bread and its journey through one day in the life.....In the early morning a baker bakes a yummy loaf of bread and by sunset every last crumb is gone. What could have happened throughout that day to make the whole loaf just disappear? Well first after taking the loaf out of the oven the baker munches on the crunchy end crust because that is his favourite part of the bread."The first slice was a crust, of course the baker ate it earlyHe loved its crusty crunchiness And made his hair all curly."The baker's wife makes toast and spreads it with delicious marmalade. The baker's son is lucky enough to have a tasty cheese and ham sandwich for lunch and even the dog gets to enjoy some scraps of that sandwich. In the afternoon some of the bread gets eaten by ducks and at the very end of the journey a little mouse discovers crumbs left under the table and he gets to have a crumb feast for himself.The little mouse exclaims, "Hooray" - squeak, squeak- "for bread."But wait some slices have gone missing? Where could they have gone? This is a rhyming story with detailed, expressive illustrations that are gentle, soft and charming. The pictures match the story perfectly and add humour and wit through their images. The book celebrates one of the staples of our lives....bread! Hurray for bread you will cry as you bite into your next slice, no matter how you dress it up!

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