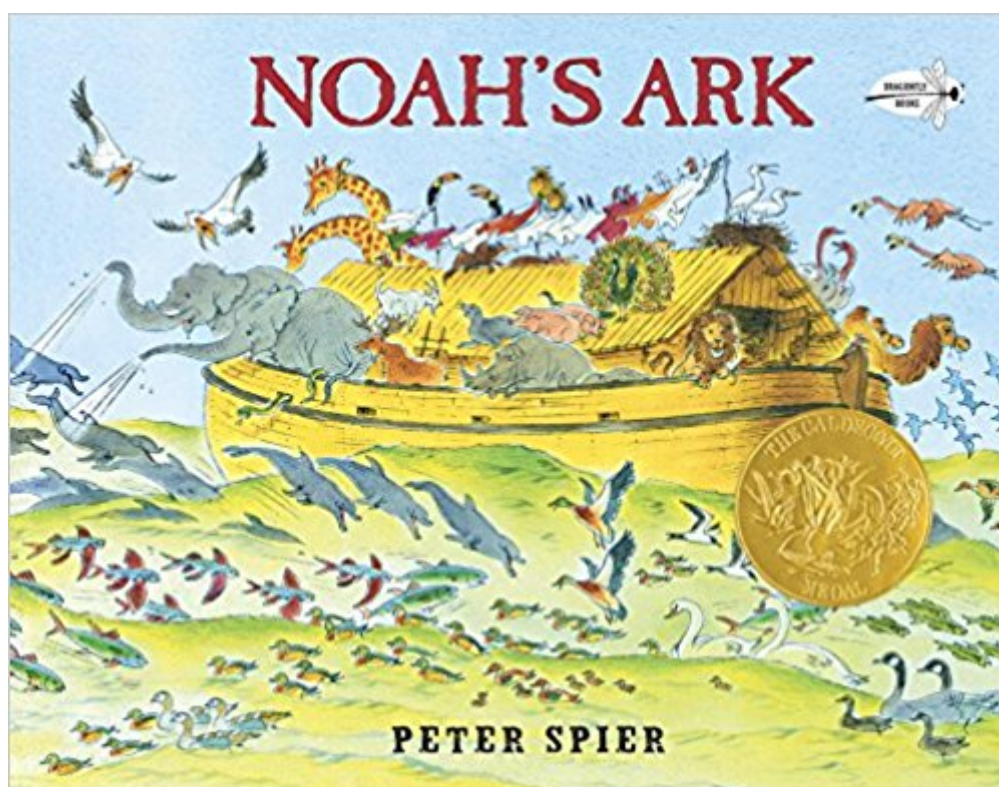


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Noah's Ark (Picture Yearling Book)



Synopsis

The bee and the fox, the sheep and the ox--two of each kind trudged aboard Noah's famous vessel. Peter Spier uses his own translation of a seventeenth-century Dutch poem about this most famous menagerie.

Book Information

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Dell Publishing; Reissue edition (August 1, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440406935

ISBN-13: 978-0440406938

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (85 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #151,697 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Noah's Ark #97 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction #187 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Bible > Stories

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

This book won Peter Spier the coveted Caldecott Medal for the best illustrated children's book in 1978. Most Caldecott Medal winners enhance the story with illustrations. But a few transcend the written material by becoming the story. Noah's Ark is of the latter category. The book opens with a scene of brutal war on the left hand page. On the right hand page is the image of Noah tending to his agricultural tasks. The words at the bottom of the page say simply, " . . . But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Next, there is a translation of a Dutch poem written by Jacobus Revins that tells the briefest outline of the Noah saga. The rest of the book until the last page is wordless. The final page shows Noah after the flood tending to his agriculture with the words, " . . . and he planted a vineyard." The illustrations provide nonverbal stories about Noah. You see the enormous task it was to build an ark, the difficulties of rounding up all the animals, the even greater challenges of taking care of them during the flood on the ark, and the process of returning to the land as the waters receded. By using only illustrations, you and your child have some latitude as to how you

wish to interpret the story. You can be very literal, or you can be more poetic. A lot depends on how sensitive your child is. I can remember feeling frightened as a young child to realize that God could choose to destroy virtually all life on Earth. The illustrations are brilliant for portraying perspective. The ark is made to appear enormous. Yet there are some illustrations during the flood where the ark is clearly tiny in the context of the worldwide ocean. There are a lot of stories within the story.

A far peppier illustrated version of the tale of Noah's Ark than I've encountered before. On picking up this book I was greatly afraid that perhaps I'd be reading some dour staid careful accounting of the exact facts surrounding Noah, his ark, and the animals that stayed on it. Instead, I was somewhat relieved to find that this was a rather cheery offering. Here, wry wit and realism pop up in the most unexpected of places. To my mind, there is no story so great that a little humor can't make it even better. "Noah's Ark" backs up this belief. We begin with the oddest of two page spreads. On the left page, in the distance, we see an army marching away from a burning city. Along the side of the road, men and cows have been indiscriminately slaughtered, and they lie in small pools of blood in a dead burnt field. On the right page, Noah is tenderly harvesting his grapes. A single shaft of light illuminates him and in the distance we see his house and livestock, awake, alive, and contented. All the text says here is, "...But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord". Thus begins our tale. Slowly (and wordlessly) the ark is built. Opposite a page where Noah's sons are loading up the ark with a host of necessary provisions (things like shoes, hoes, rakes, barrels of food, watering cans, etc.) is "The Flood" by Jacobus Revius (1586-1658). Author Peter Spier has taken the liberty of translating this from the original Dutch, and the poem consists mostly of a listing of the kinds of creatures that boarded the ark. This is the only explanation of plot the book contains. From here on in, "Noah's Ark" is a wordless affair, reminiscent of the books of Anno. We watch as animals are collected and gathered. The floods rise and Noah & Co.

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