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Struwwelpeter In English Translation (Dover Children's Classics)



Synopsis

First published in 1845. *Struwwelpeter* (variously translated as "slovenly" or "shock-headed" Peter) has become widely recognized as one of the most popular and influential children's books ever written. Heinrich Hoffmann was a Frankfurt physician. Unhappy with the dry and pedagogic books available for children at the time, he wrote and illustrated *Struwwelpeter* as a Christmas present for his three-year-old son. The book relates in verse and pictures the often gruesome consequences that befall children who torment animals, play with matches, suck their thumbs, refuse to eat, fidget at meals, etc. Written in rhyming couplets and illustrated by the author, the book was an immediate success. It has since gone through hundreds of editions and been published in almost every European language. The present volume reprints 25 color plates from a German edition (including a bonus plate done for the 100th edition in 1876) with the reset text of a standard English translation. Also included are the full German text and an afterword with a brief biography of the author and note on how the book came to be written. Children, bibliophiles, antiquarians — any lover of time-honored tales for children — will welcome this new edition of the classic German story.

Book Information

Series: Dover Children's Classics

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; New edition edition (April 7, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486284697

ISBN-13: 978-0486284699

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.5 x 11 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 125 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 14 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

Customer Reviews

Text: English, German (translation) Original Language: German

As part of a Read Harder reading challenge, I have to read poetry in translation that is not about love. Outside of a classroom, I have not had much experience with poetry and therefore I am not very adept in reading and understanding it. I stumbled upon this German book of children's verses. Just my speed! Reading this also brought to mind a big book of illustrated children's verses that my grandmother had given me as a gift. I read and reread those poems many times and loved the drawings. Happy memories! *Struwwelpeter* is a bit different from the poetry book of my youth. The book was written and illustrated in 1845 by a physician for his 3 year old son. The book contains 10 poems that serve as warnings to naughty boys and girls. The title poem is about a messy boy (struwwel means slovenly) with his uncombed hair and dirty nails. Other poem themes are about a girl who plays with matches, a boy who refuses to eat, and a boy who won't sit still at the table. Each child meets a funny and/or gruesome end. The publisher issues an apology for including a poem titled The Story of the Inky Boys, as it may be offensive due to archaic and derogatory language. The poem is about a "woolly-headed black-a-moor" and three nasty boys who taunt him. I think there is a positive message about acceptance in that poem, but others may have a different take. Some people may also take offense at the violent nature and grisly outcomes for some of the naughty children. I don't think these poems are any more violent than a Grimm's fairy tale. I read this on my tablet and I think the picture quality was excellent. The illustrations themselves are delightful, detailed, and colorful. The book also contains all of the poems in the original German and a nice biography of the author. Translating poetry must be extremely difficult. While I cannot make a comparison with the German, the English version has rhymes and a good rhythm to the poems. I was completely unfamiliar with this book and am so glad I found it. It is a great piece of history and the lessons are still relevant.

I bought this as a gift for my brothers newborns as they have German ancestry. I saw it in Germany and was happy to see they have an English version. I thought it was really cute but most people seem to think it's a little frightening for kids, I don't get it, I would totally read it to my kids. I think it's great. I wish I could read the original version in German.

I grew up with this book (though in German, which I no longer can read, but if I could, the added original German version is in the back) and it's like reliving my childhood all over again! If you get this for your children, please set up a therapy fund for the future as the German guilt this book instills lasts a lifetime. But, rest assured, your child will never suck their thumb again, play with

matches (which might be moot, but I'm sure you could substitute lighters with a Sharpie and a little artistic license), or mock those of differing skin tones, all the while still managing to be pretty racist. Reading this from an adult perspective with many hours of therapy under my belt has really helped me understand where a lot of my issues came from. A must read for any masochist of German upbringing!!

I purchased several of these for my siblings, as a Christmas present. We used to have this book, back in the 50's in our childhood home, and I know we all spent many fascinating hours reading the stories and relishing the illustrations. Of course, this book would be very politically incorrect now- but back then, and of course, when it was written in the 1800s, considered perfectly OK to scare the bejaysus out of kids. Maybe you had to be young back then to understand the attraction!

This book is a hoot! I have shared it with my friends and we have laughed and laughed. There is a VERY racist section I didn't care for but as it is a historical piece of German literature, you will have that. My daughter in law said her grandmother read it to her as a child so I got us each a copy. It is beautifully reprinted by Dover Books. They also put a disclaimer about that one section inside the front cover.

Kids didn't like the book, but I find it hysterical!

My Opa always called us children Struwwelpeter if our hair was messy, but never recited the poem for us. It was as an adult that I stumbled across the poem. What a surprise to find the source of his (what I thought was endearing) pet name for us! This book is delightfully disturbing.

Cool and creepy stories to get the young and old too think about their actions. Great art work.

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