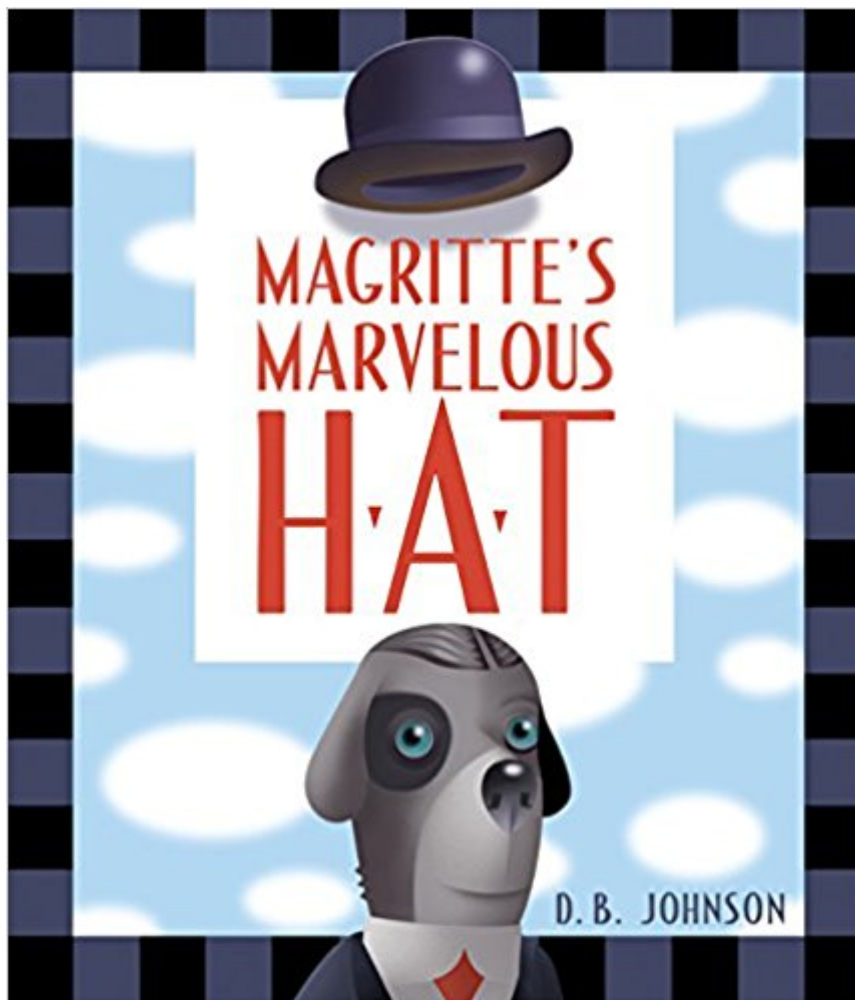


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Magritte's Marvelous Hat



Synopsis

"Everything we see hides another thing, we always want to see what is hidden by what we see."

—Rene Magritte D.B. Johnson writes and Å illustrates the surreal story of famous surrealist painter Rene Magritte and his very mysterious (and mischievous!) hat. While the art reflects some of Magritte's own work, the text sets readers on a fun and accessible path to learning about the simpler concepts behind Mr. Magritte's work. This delightful picture book captures the playfulness and the wonderment of surrealist art. Four transparent pages add yet another level of surrealism to the illustrations as pictures can be altered with the turn of a page.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD620L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (April 17, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547558643

ISBN-13: 978-0547558646

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #476,606 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Å Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European #483 in Å Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Jobs & Careers #1409 in Å Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Belgian painter RenÅfÅ© Magritte, cast here as a dog, sees in a shop window a Å—Å“marvelous hatÅ—Å• that appears to float above his head. He buys the hat, and it floats above his head wherever he goes. The two play games, traipsing in and around the streets of Paris, and the hat proves to be substantial artistic inspiration as well. Rather than trying to explain the surreal, Johnson captures its essence, blurring the line between perception and imagination. As Magritte and his hat have their fun, we see and experience the city through the painterÅ—Å„s originaive eyes. JohnsonÅ—Å„s crisp, polished illustrations, filled with nods to the artistÅ—Å„s iconic imagery, celebrate MagritteÅ—Å„s clear, almost upbeat absurdity. Four acetate inserts, printed

on both sides to transfigure the pages before and after, enhance the curious sense of wonder. This jovial, peculiar outing is both an accessible introduction to the painter and a winning, nonsensical adventure in its own right. An author's note offers more information about Magritte, his work, and the surrealist movement. Preschool-Grade 3. --Thom Barthelmess

"A visual tour de force...Arty, amusing and exceedingly clever."--Kirkus "Beckoning, buoyant...brilliant."--School Library Journal, starred review "Unexpected design elements, notably reversible images printed on transparent pages, surprise readers with clever illusions and artistic allusions...Rather than magnify surrealism's sinister edge, Johnson focuses on its energy and borrows that exuberance for his own see-through pages."--Publishers Weekly, starred review

The Surrealist world of Rene Magritte finds a new home in a genteel between-the-wars city populated by domestic animals, including a namesake dog who happens to be a painter. Magritte buys a hat that floats above his head, and the experience improves both his life and his art. The illustrations, carefully evoking the style of Rene Magritte, make references to many of his most important works--so much so, that you have to go through it a few times before you can be fairly sure you spotted them all (or, true to the Surrealist spirit, until the illusion overtakes you that you've done so). The book is a delightful way to bring Modern art to children. My three-year-old boy has me read the book to him over and over. Parents--you know what that means: you've got a winner here. My son always calls out, "The hat came back!" at the appropriate moment in the story, and he shouts out again to announce when Magritte has made it back home after the adventure that drives the plot. This is the most original children's book I've read in years, and I recommend it to all parents who want to find a fun way to lead their children onto a journey of discovery of Modern art.

This is really a story of friendship--the friendship between an artist and his inspiration, which can be a fickle thing. But the message (that being playful, lighthearted, and appreciative always brings our inspiration back) is clear, and a good one for a child or adult of any age to receive. I've given this as a gift to kids and also to grown-up artists, and it's always a hit. Who doesn't love a hat wearing a dog? The book is downright enchanting, as are all D.B. Johnson's books. I would frame every beautifully colored illustration, if its magic weren't in motion: the acetate pages in between each regular page alter the illustrations and make reading this book a dynamic experience.

Marvelous is the word for this book! It is funny. It rewards careful study of the illustrations. It

promotes an appreciation of Magritte and his fellow surrealists. It has a great message about appreciation, and maintaining balance in our lives. And did I mention it is funny, too? It is a great all round package, which will be enjoyed by readers from age three thru adults. Definitely worth adding to the permanent collection.

Don Johnson is a genius as well as an exceptional artist. This book is for any reader; it's a wonderful children's story with thrilling illustrations that cannot help but interest reader's of all ages. The design of the book is imaginative and visually unique. Buy it for a child and then enjoy it yourself!

I love this book. It is clever and beautiful. My four year old loves it also. We read it a lot and it is in her regular rotation.

This book has been a big hit at home. Love the illustration, the story, the transparent overlay pages, and the general sense of mystery and creativity that it conveys. Pardon the cliché, but this is also one of those books that will be a hit equally with kid readers and adults. I've enjoyed the playful approach to Magritte's work.

My students LOVED this book and it was a great intro to our study of Surrealism and Magritte.

This book has superb images based on work by the painter Magritte, presented as a funny story of a hat that travels with the artist. The book is really enjoyable for the parents and the children and helps them get started learning about and appreciating art at a very young age. It is a book they will love for many years.

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