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Ganesha's Sweet Tooth



Synopsis

The bold, bright colors of India leap right off the page in this fresh and funny picture book retelling (with a twist) of how Ganesha came to help write the epic poem of Hindu literature, the Mahabharata. Ganesha is just like any other kid, except that he has the head of an elephant and rides around on a magical mouse. And he loves sweets, especially the traditional dessert laddoo. But when Ganesha insists on biting into a super jumbo jawbreaker laddoo, his tusk breaks off! Ganesha is terribly upset, but with the help of the wise poet Vyasa, and his friend Mr. Mouse, he learns that what seems broken can actually be quite useful after all. With vibrant, graphic illustrations, expressive characters, and offbeat humor, this is a wonderfully inventive rendition of a classic tale.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.5 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (102 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #36,883 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #44 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #53 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Elephants

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

The illustrations here are really the winning element of this book. They are fun, unusual, eye-catching, and invite the reader to study each page for the details. I definitely love the illustrations, and for that alone this book is keeper for our multi-cultural studies. However, I was disappointed that the authors chose to invent a story about Ganesha that is very loosely inspired by original texts, instead of retelling a classic story for a new audience. The book would be much more interesting to me if it were a genuine Hindu myth instead of a made-up one with elements that are

not found in Hindu scripture. The authors say the text is "loosely based" on the classic legend, and that their intent is to "entertain and enchant" readers so that they will be inspired to learn more about "the rich and varied stories of Hindu mythology." I find this baffling--why not just use one of those "rich and varied stories"? Were they not interesting enough? When the afterword explains how Ganesha "really" broke his tusk, I just felt a little cheated by the whole nonsense about the jawbreaker candy. The original story makes so much more sense and is much cooler. Also, given that this will possibly be many non-Hindu children's only exposure to Hindu mythology, why on Earth would they want to warp the story so much that it's barely recognizable? I would have preferred to use this text to teach an classic story of Hindu mythology, instead of having to give all kinds of explanations about which parts are authentic and which are the authors' fabrications.

How I had never come across Sanjay Patel's illustrations before, I don't know, but after reading this book with my seven-year-old daughter and loving it, I'll be sure to go hunting for his other books asap! Written by Emily Haynes and illustrated by Sanjay Patel (who is an animator at Pixar), this adorable story follows the exploits of sweet Lord Ganesha, one of my favorites of all the Hindu deities mainly because of his cute appearance and also being known as the destroyer of obstacles and purveyor of success. He is often depicted riding a mouse, and sure enough, a cute little mouse is featured in this story. Sweet Ganesha (sorry I'm gushing but this little elephant is too cute!) breaks his tusk on a jawbreaker and eventually said tusk is used as a writing tool. He meets an old man, presumably the sage Vyasa (who is attributed as the author of the Mahabharata) and writes down verses dictated by the sage. 100,000 verses later, the epic Hindu poem, the Mahabharata is born! This origin story in the guise of a children's picture book will have readers young and old gushing over the illustrations, the true highlight of this book. Colorful, vivid, vibrant, and playful, there is so much to see and appreciate. Little Ganesha playing like any other young child, using his trunk to squirt water and ring bells, and even one where he is holding a cricket bat! His friend Mouse is partial to the Indian sweet, laddoo, and there's a cute illustration depicting a stuffed Mouse later in the story. I'd recommend this book for all children's collections in public, school, and home libraries, and especially recommend it for multi-cultural collections.

My kiddos LOVE LOVE LOVE this book! We've been living in the US for years and I've never seen kids versions of Hindu mythological stories. This a great adaptation drawing in themes and concepts that kids are exposed to in their daily lives and tying it back to the mythological story. I ordered this for my young twins (not even 2 yet!) - when they were smaller, they appreciated listening to the

story but they also loved the beautiful illustrations. Now that they're closer to 2, they're really appreciating the different aspects of the story as well! Awesome book, I highly recommend it!

I am tired of oversimplified illustrations that you see everywhere in so many books. I mean that while it is great to have generic stories with typical boys and girls and their families etc, look how culturally loaded this one is! How many details you can see and wonder about (the bracelets, the sari, the laddoo, the beads)! Look at the geometric beautiful patterns and tiny details! Now, my mom said that "that wouldn't be my choice" and I agree, it's probably not for everyone, but the way I chose books for my kid is:- get different styles to let them see different things - they might not like it, but it's good to see different things and choose your favorites, and there's always a chance they will grow to like them later- get different cultures and show kids that people can wear, say and like different things, that's how the world isGreat book, my kid and I loved it!

My toddler's favorite Ganesha book. Not only is the artwork beautiful, the characters are really endearing and immensely likeable. My toddler had taken to saying "Squeak! Oh no!" To random things. It's very fun.

I wish we had this book growing up. Being born in the States (or anywhere out of India) this is very helpful for both teaching little children and informal learning as adults. The pictures are fun and colorful, much like the cover. It goes through all the deities and a page or two about their story so children know who they are at a glance. The pictures are also historically accurate (although cartooned) that they can be recognized when going to the temple or when seeing paintings/photos. I've bought this book for all my nieces and nephews as well as one for me newborn daughter. Great baby shower gift for those that ask for a baby book in lieu of card. I highly highly recommend it.

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