



NURSERY RHYME COMICS – READING GROUP GUIDE



Book Description:

First Second is very proud to present *Nursery Rhyme Comics*. Featuring fifty classic nursery rhymes illustrated and interpreted in comics form by fifty of today's preeminent cartoonists and illustrators, this is a groundbreaking new entry in the canon of nursery rhymes treasuries. From *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast's "There Was a Crooked Man" to *Bad Kitty* author Nick Bruel's "Three Little Kittens" to First Second's own Gene Yang's "Pata-Cake," this is a collection that will put a grin on your face from page one and keep it there. Each rhyme is one to three pages long, and simply paneled and lettered to ensure that the experience is completely accessible for the youngest of readers. Chock full of engaging full-color artwork and favorite characters (Jack and Jill! Old Mother Hubbard! The Owl and the Pussycat!), this is a collection to treasure for years to come.

For Discussion:

Nursery Rhyme Comics is a graphic novel, a story told in words and pictures. How do you think this story would be told differently if it was straight text? How would it be different if it was a movie, with just pictures?

Think about a text-only version of a nursery rhyme. Then think of one with only a single illustration. What do the three formats each bring to the rhymes? Is there a format you prefer?

Nursery Rhyme Comics has fifty rhymes by fifty creators. Is there one that's your favorite? Why?

One of the most important elements to read-aloud books is pacing. *Nursery Rhyme Comics* determines a great deal of the pacing and emphasis by breaking up lines between panels. Does this work smoothly for you?

Think of a nursery rhyme that is not in this book. How would you adapt it into comics format?

Are there rhymes in this book that visually don't match what you see in your imagination while reading them? Do you know what texts or ideas affected your initial mental conception of those nursery rhymes?

How would this book be different if it was fifty rhymes illustrated by a single cartoonist? Do you think you would prefer it?

Have you read any other books by the creators of these rhymes? If so, how is their storytelling style different or similar in their nursery rhymes and their other work?