



Me and You

Anthony Browne

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A small bear goes for a stroll in the park with his parents, leaving their bowls of porridge cooling on the kitchen table. Meanwhile, a girl with golden hair is hopelessly lost in a big, frightening city when she comes across a house with the door left invitingly open. Inside are three bowls of porridge in the kitchen, three chairs in the living room, and three comfortable-looking beds upstairs, and no one seems to be home . . .

Me and You Details

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From Reader Review Me and You for online ebook

Candice says

A re-telling of Goldilocks and the Three Bears from the points of both Goldilocks and the bears. The left page of each two-page spread is a wordless series of small black and white (except for the yellow hair) pictures of Goldilocks. The right page is done in color and has the traditional story narrated by Baby Bear. The style of the illustrations is also different. The ones for Goldilocks are almost photographic while the ones of the bears are childish color pencil drawings. The setting is urban, and it seems that Goldilocks wanders through some rough neighborhoods before coming to the bears' bright and inviting yellow house. I think a child should know the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears before reading this book, as it would be too much to absorb if it were all new to her/him. It's definitely a new and creative take on an old story.

Shifa Ahmed says

'Me and You' By Anthony Browne

A modern take on the traditional Goldilocks and the Three Bears but tells two stories at the same time; one in word form and the other in picture form.

The picture form is about a young girl who goes out shopping with her mum and gets lost in rough part of town. She finds the three bears' house and once inside follows the story; eats porridge, breaks baby bear's chair and falls asleep in its bed. The word form is Baby Bear's story, and the upset on finding a stranger in the house.

When I read this book to the children during SEB they were able to tell what was happening in the picture form of the story because they were familiar with the traditional story of Goldilocks and the three bears.

This book also gave the children the opportunity to talk about how the three bears felt and what they would have done if they were the lost child. This leads really well into a topic of who to go to if we are lost.

The colourful illustrations on the word form of the story and the dull pictures on the picture form of the story reflect the implied family life. This also leads to useful discussions.

Emma says

I like it a lot, the little girl part of the story is great, but it's a little difficult to read aloud. You have to kind of decide if you are going to verbally address the parallel story beyond the text, and if you do, you unbalance the sequence of events of the bears discovering the food, chairs etc. It's very ambitious, humanist and largely successful. Spoiler: I also really like that she finds her mum again. My child is probably a little bit young, at 2 and a bit.

Sarah Smith says

This book is a very different take on Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The words seem to carry the traditional

story, as do the words on the right hand side of each double page spread. However the left hand side shows a very different view, it takes on the perspective of Goldilocks and the reasoning behind her going into the bears house.

The book would be amazing for inference skills.

However, I am a little confused by the last image where Goldilocks is embracing another character who we have not met before, I wonder if it could be a member of her family.

Sophie Freeman says

Thought provoking and refreshing to explore a well known story from a completely different perspective.

It demonstrates how widely a story can differ as a result of the narrator, emphasising the fact that there are always several sides to a story.

The fact that Goldilocks's story is portrayed purely through imagery allows personal interpretation and new details and inferences to be made.

Cheryl says

I love much of Browne's work. This one, well, I don't know. It's interesting in that it's told 1st person from little bear. It's illuminating to think of Goldilocks as a little girl lost in the rough part of town. I liked the family dynamics of the bears as they went for their walk, with the little one "just messing around." But, really, this telling didn't add much to the concept or make me rethink the classic, so, nah, can't recommend.

Sarah says

I like the way this version of the classic "Goldilocks" forces us to think about Goldie's motivation to go into the bears' house in the first place. Here, she's lonely and clearly from a rough side of town. We see her side of the story through black and white panels, whereas the bears are shown in large colorful and scenes, their familial love evident.

This would make a good mentor text for point of view.

CT Mahoney says

As described on the cover on Anthony Browne's picturebook "Me and You", the author presents the reader with "an enchanting new take on the Goldilocks story." The cover and dust jacket are identical. On the front cover, a happy bear family—father, mother, and son—at the forefront of the image. In the background, the protagonist (with a black hoodie hiding her face) is barely seen. In addition, the happy bear family is smiling and looking at the reader, whereas the protagonist is looking downward at her shadow while she is walking near characterless, black and white housing beside her. For me, the most interesting detail of the cover is that the bear family's shadows are combined into a square image. I believe this is to draw attention to the fact that

these bears are fictionalized into a book. In contrast, the main character's shadow is more lifelike and realistic. In the end, they both combine.

Upon opening the book, a reader can see that the end pages are the same colors as the mama bear's shirt and papa bear's shirt from the cover. Again, this minor detail is very telling; it is more foreshadowing that leads to the conclusion of the plot. Much like the last scene/conclusion of the story, all the main character wants is to be wrapped up in her parent's arms (much like the book is wrapped up in the mama/papa bear's colors of the end pages). Throughout the book, Anthony Browne plays with color and perspective. The mood of the story flashes back and forth from the brightly colored, imaginary bear family to the dark colors of the girl's real life.

At the conclusion of the story, the contrasting images combine in the last scene. This is where Goldilocks takes off her hood and finally shows her gold (light brown) locks of hair. Even this scene is interesting on multiple levels. Goldilocks doesn't really have golden hair; it is more of a light brown color (more realistic). She doesn't have full, golden locks of hair—like the fairy tale suggests; she is a real girl. The gold comes from the background while she is hugging her mother. Browne even plays with borders in the final scenes. Towards the end of the plot, the girl is scene in black bordered montages of motion, until the last half of the last opening (the final image). The borders become borderless. This changes the mood from sadness to happiness.

Changing moods and perspectives are the main modes of storytelling in this revamped edition of the Goldilocks story. The characters trade places in the plot. At times characters are enlarged or shrunk to add emphasis on how the characters feel or react to situations. This is all done on purpose, in order to contrast the two worlds—the bears' and her own. Many of the images are ones of continuous narration, where Goldilocks is walking, exploring the bears' house, and running home to see her mother. The flow of motion helps the story's fluidity. As a result, Anthony Browne creates a unique take on an old classic. Definitely worth checking out.

Ruth says

AB referenced Banksy in a lot of his illustrations. It is a retelling of Goldilocks. The me refers to the little bear and the you to Goldilocks who comes from a disadvantaged background. Her narrative is portrayed in black and white, an urban colourless existence, whereas the bear's is in colour in his warm cosy home. Her life is told through pictures, whereas the little bear's has a written commentary. When Goldilocks enters the bears' house colour starts to seep in to the illustrations. I love the fact that Daddy Bear blames Mummy bear for leaving the door open and yet goes behind Mummy bear as they explore who might be in the house. AB seems to portray chauvinism quite a lot in his stories. The bears illustrations are a little insipid, by contrast Goldilocks' are stronger. When she runs back to her life she gladly embraces her mum in her urban grey environment which makes me think home is what we are used to. Was the cosy colourful life of the bears all as it should be? Great social commentary from AB.

Holly Payne says

It encompasses a fairy tale with a modern twist. All children know the story of goldilocks and the three bears and one half of the book is very traditional in colour and layout to a classic fairy tale. Using recognisable text from the tale itself. Antony Browne is using implied reader, he is hoping we already know the story of Goldilocks. However, one the other half we see Goldilocks in a modern day setting, council estate. She is

depicted in black and white potentially to represent sadness and the bears in colour. By the end of the book when she is reunited with her mum because she is happy they turn to colour as well.

Rocha Gilmore says

A contemporary story of Me and You by Anthony Browne tells a brilliant story of Goldilock and the three bears. Images on the verso have three to six white borders images and tells the story of Goldilocks. The images are black and white; as the color yellow stands out, like her hair color. The recto tells the story of the three bears. My favorite part of the story is opening 11 because the image gives a point of view of the girls looking at the three bears and the three bears looking at Goldilocks. It gives a scene of ideal and real in both images. One thing I noticed is the wolf at the beginning of the story and again when Goldilocks is walking in the rain in opening 1, you can see the wolf looking out the window as she walks by. Since this is a contemporary story, this was a way to implement the wolf in the story.

Rebecca says

This would be a really good book to read one-on-one with a child who knows the story of Goldilocks. On the right side, you have the classic story, as told by Baby Bear. And on the left side, you see Goldilocks' actions in small, wordless panels, colorless except for her bright hair. You see that she is out on a drab city street with her mother when she follows a balloon and gets lost. Things are looking pretty scary until she comes upon the Bears' blindingly yellow house. The rest, of course, is history, but this uniquely-told book gives an extra glimpse into Goldilocks' side of the story. Small details such as bear-shaped bedknobs and Daddy's nervous comment "After you, Mommy" (when the upstairs needs to be checked) give a little extra punch.

Fiona Hill says

Wonderful twist on Goldilocks and the three bears. I really enjoyed how it was written from the two different perspectives.

Angela says

Anthony Browne is clearly a genius. His picture book talents seem limitless. And his newest arrival to the States does not disappoint.

This is Goldilocks like you've never seen her before. Browne's new perspectives on the story are layered and enchanted. The lore and urban setting will change your imaginings forever.

Eliza Taylor says

Very clever book which retells the story of Goldilocks and the three bears. I really like the way that Anthony Browne uses the left hand side pages to tell the story from Goldilocks' perspective through black and white pictures, whilst on the other side of the page is the story from the Bears' perspective. I think it is very clever as it tells two stories within one and could be used to encourage children to think of things from both sides. Would recommend this book and think could be used for Key Stage 1.
