


# Roger is Reading a Book

*Koen van Biesen*

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## **Roger is Reading a Book** Koen van Biesen

All Roger wants is some peace and quiet so he can read his book. Unfortunately, the girl in the apartment next door has hobbies of her own -- very loud hobbies! But when Roger gives the girl a book of her own, she discovers that reading can be just as much fun as playing basketball or banging a drum. This playful and engaging read-aloud from an award-winning Belgian author shows readers that shared activities can lead to rewarding friendships.

## **Roger is Reading a Book Details**

Date : Published March 2nd 2015 by Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9780802854421

Author : Koen van Biesen

Format : Hardcover 42 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Humor

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# From Reader Review Roger is Reading a Book for online ebook

## June says

Roger wants to read, but Emily's activities tend to be pretty loud. I like his solution.

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## Erin says

Roger spends most of the story trying to read his book but his next door neighbor's continued antics prevent him from doing this. He finally solves his problems by giving the girl her own book to read swaying her from other louder activities. The book holds her attention until Roger's dog decides he can't wait anymore and must be walked. Simple line illustrations add to the whimsy of the story and the dog in particular is fun to watch on each page.

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## Brindi Michele says

these illustrations are lovely! and it would be easy to incorporate sounds while reading to the kiddos, and it's repetitive so the kids can repeat back lines. i like it!

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## Lynn says

Such simple text with a big story! Roger is trying to read, but the sounds coming from his neighbor Emily are a huge distraction.

Each side of the double page spread represents Emily's apartment on the left and Roger's home on the right, with the gutter of the book being the wall between them. White background keeps the eye focused on the two main character, with a minimum of details actually gives it a homey feel as well as providing clues as to what the next noise will be.

The double surprise ending is very satisfying!

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## Amy Forrester says

Roger is reading a book. That is until Emily starts playing a game, "BOING BOING." And singing a song. And playing the drum. How will Roger be able to read with all this noise? First published in Belgium, this distinctive book features playful mixed media illustrations that utilize photographs and bright line work. The repetitive text paired with illustrations that reinforce the vocabulary make this a great book for beginning readers.

Full review at <http://picturebookaday.blogspot.com/2...>

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## **Pamela Powell says**

Absolutely delightful! Can't wait to read this one with students and other small children. Roger is trying to read a book but Emily is providing many distractions until Roger has an idea.

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## **Rebecca Ann says**

This is an especially charming story for bookish families who love dogs, but really is fun for everyone. A little girl does various noisy (and fun) things while her father, Roger, tries to read a book. In the end, only getting her a book to read quiets her down. When they are both reading, the dog starts to bark to go out (I sympathize entirely). This would be a great story for a toddler story time! It would be fun for them to say the shhhhhh with you or pretend to do the various activities.

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## **Arnela says**

I feel Roger's pain, I too want some quiet to read some books.

Emily, his adorable little neighbor, has a lot of hobbies; basketball, singing, the ballet, boxing, juggling [I am very proud of the diverse interests of this girl, but considering that it's dark outside in the story, and they live in apartments, she probably needs to quiet down].

Roger can't focus with all the noise so he decides to give her a new activity, Roger gives her a book to read, and they both enjoy some silence.... until the dog barks up a fuss cause he needs to go out.

It's a cute and quick read about how maybe suggesting a quiet activity will work out better in your favor than just knocking [or telling someone to quiet down, give them something to be quiet with]. I especially loved how the dog was quietly trying to alert Roger to needing to go out, but he got ignored until he started barking. I'm a fan of when illustrations actually SHOW me something needs to happen, instead of telling me or jumping from act to act and scene to scene without proper transition. Kudos to this kids book for doing something most professional graphic novels fail at.

While it's an easy read, you might want to read it with a 5+ year old, since they'll probably understand why Roger is frustrated, as well as get the joke of the dog being loud once it finally gets all quiet.

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## **Deb says**

Alena and I enjoyed reading this book. I like the illustrations. I like how Roger solves his problem and how the dog helps them both get outside. My husband's name is Roger, so that's fun. Also, I laughed out loud a little while reading this and a book that makes me laugh gets four stars.

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**Rebecca says**

Can't Roger just read his book in peace?! Not with Emily next door! This book has some of the coolest illustrations I've seen, done in mixed-media and just bursting with life, energy, and movement. Read out loud with sound effects!

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**Christiane says**

Or more accurately, Roger is TRYING to read a book but his young neighbor, Emily, prefers louder activities like singing, playing the drum, and practicing juggling. Finally, Roger comes up with a perfect solution. I love the illustrations, and the surprise ending made me go back and keep an eye on that basset hound who is telling us his own story on each page!

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**Mary Anne says**

Roger is reading a book. Next door, Emily is playing, singing, dancing and doing all kinds of things that make a lot of noise. Roger comes up with a brilliant solution to this noisy problem. Great art but probably grown ups will appreciate the art more than kids will.

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**Edward Sullivan says**

A witty, clever story with a mischievous twist, wonderfully illustrated in whimsical mixed-media, and beautifully designed.

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**Jamila says**

I've never read a book illustrated like this. Van Biesen uses color, line, and shape that enhances the narrative perfectly. Each page has movement and rhythm! His use of lyrical repetition is also wonderful. This is great for encouraging quiet time and empathy for those who crave silence.

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**Barbara says**

Oh, how I can relate to this picture book from Belgium! Roger has settled down to enjoy some quiet reading time when his solitude is interrupted by the noisy activity of Emily, the girl who lives next door. Repeatedly, he knocks on the wall so she can quieten down. But things go from bad to worse, and with every new activity she tries, the noise increases. In desperation Roger provides her with some reading material, but then the two of them are interrupted from their reading by his dog. I liked the story and the increasing annoyance of

Roger, but I especially the twist at the end, and the mixed media illustrations showing Roger's dog patiently waiting for a walk until it can wait no longer. The noises emitting from Emily's apartment are fun to say aloud. While the ability to get lost in a book is to be admired, sometimes it is necessary to put it down and take care of other matters.

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