



Alligator Pie (Collector's Edition)

Dennis Lee

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Dennis Lee won the Governor General's Award for poetry in 1972 for his poetic meditation on Canadian identity in *Civil Elegies*, but he made perhaps his most enduring contribution to Canadian nationalism two years later with a short collection of near-nonsense rhymes written for a much younger set. *Alligator Pie*, which remains the classic Canadian bedtime book, is written as if Mother Goose had the Latin name *Branta canadensis*, from William Lyon Mackenzie King, who "loved his mother like *anything*," to Trois-Rivières, which, of course, rhymes with "eat you hair."

Alligator Pie (Collector's Edition) Details

Date : Published May 1st 2001 by Key Porter Books Ltd (first published September 1974)

ISBN : 9781552633380

Author : Dennis Lee

Format : Hardcover 64 pages

Genre : Poetry, Childrens, Picture Books, Cultural, Canada

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From Reader Review Alligator Pie (Collector's Edition) for online ebook

Melanie says

I really like the poems in Alligator Pie because they all make no sense.

Christabel says

I never really connected with children's poetry, even as a kid, so I don't even know how I ended up owning this book. I honestly don't understand who the target audience for these poems is. Maybe first or second graders learning to read will get a kick out of all his made-up words and silly rhymes? I wish I knew why people like his poems, because I feel like I must be missing something.

Jacob Combs says

This is a book your children will remember to adulthood and will be eager to read to their own children. The poems are energetic and can be accompanied by lots of drama. Also, Dennis Lee, the author, encourages readers to play with the poems and make changes as they like. There are a lot of Canadian references Americans may not get but the poems are too fun for that to be a problem and besides, you can use those references to get your children interested in their neighbors to the north.

Smilingplatypus says

I have always loved nursery rhymes. Alligator Pie has kept its spot on my bookshelf for its memorable, and ridiculously catchy verses. After (mumble mumble) years, I can still quote it. Plus, when you're a kid growing up in the modern age, rhymes that mention skyscrapers and Batman are a thrill. The poems are nonsense, but their imagination and earnest enthusiasm get to the heart of how kids see the world. The illustrations are beyond bizarre, and that's part of the charm.

If you do pick it up, make sure you read it aloud: preferably to a child or two!

Nicole Kennedy says

Alligator Pie is a book consisting of many different poems. They are considered to be nursery rhymes, written when a father wanted rhymes at bedtime but didn't like any poems to read his daughter so he made his own. There is not a plot. Every poem is different, fun, and rhymes in a way that makes you want to read or sing it out loud in a lot of fun ways. The pacing for this book is good. Some poems are short and sweet with a light approach to it. But, there are a few larger poems with more details to mix it up for the reader. Because these poems are nursery rhymes they flow very well. This is not much of a well a rounded piece because the only thing taken from this book is fun rhymes. There isn't a deep story line, plot, or audience

connection to the book. For just wanting a book of fun nursery rhymes this is a great book to go to, but only specifically for that purpose.

Taylor Volker says

This book has a poem about different stories. They mention modern things such as batman, which makes the poems more interesting to children. The illustrations are fun and creative for children. The poems are very silly and not very serious. The flow and rhyming that many of the entries had were engaging but easy enough for a young child to comprehend.

Cara Wilson says

Alligator Pie by Dennis Lee
Cara W., Spring 2015

Poetry #3

Alligator Pie is a book that dates back to the 1970s. Therefore, this book seems a little dated. Saying that this book is just full of quirky poems that students would adore.

I did not have much to say about this book. Like it is mentioned, this book was written in the 1970s, so the illustrations seem to be a little outdated. Also, this book hails from Canada. This means that if you are in an American classroom, the students will not be able to connect with the book.

Heather says

Required reading for my children's literature course.

Kelly says

I love the random cadence of these poems. Lee does not succumb to the typical sing-songy nature of most children's poetry. The poems need no illustrations to paint a mental picture, but the added illustrations complement the poems nicely. Silly and fun book.

Josie says

Alligator pie is a poetry book that rhymes. It is a canadian style book and it is a classic early book.

The media used here seems to be water color.

I would use this book when teaching about rhyming because that is the main thing to learn from this book.

Deodand says

I recently acquired a copy of this collection of poems. I hadn't seen hide nor hair of it since it was read to me in elementary school. Guess what? It was as fun as the first time I read it - which is also what I said about Garbage Delight. Dennis Lee is one of my heroes because he was an adult to refused to take himself seriously.

Linden says

Alligator Pie by Dennis Lee is an interesting take on children's poetry and nursery rhymes. Each poem in the story is different than any I had ever heard of before and took on silly topics you would not normally expect from a poetry book for children. Although this book has a reputation for being one that is great to read to children, I do not think I would choose it for my classroom. Some of the poems did not really make sense and were a little too silly for my taste. I do not think that a lot of children would really understand some of the concepts that were being discussed in some of the poems. Also, the illustrations, by Frank Newfeld, were a little too dated for my taste. They seem to be drawn and decorated with water colors, which is always nice in children's books, but they were not always realistic and some were even a little frightening for children (See poem titled "In Kamloops"). This book touches on subjects like eating all of your food, using the correct utensils to eat with and listening to and obeying your parents. These lessons are touched on in silly ways with a lot of imagination involved. While these are positives to getting kid's to use their imagination while also learning a thing or two, I did not really enjoy the way they were depicted through the pictures. I also did not really enjoy some of the rhyming in the story. The best part about poetry books is that they get children to think about how things sound alike, how words and phrases can be compared and many other aspects. While this book did teach a thing or two about rhyming words, the poems did not all make much sense. Again, it was a silly book filled with dysfunctional and ridiculous poems which might be best for at home reading rather than the classroom. I might appreciate this book of poems more when I have my own children or class but as of now, I would not choose it for my own classroom.

Enik? says

It is so refreshing to read nonsense every once in a while. :o)

I think I will read these books again a few times before I return them to the library. But for now, the second coat of paint has dried in the bathroom cupboard under the sink so I will go put everything back in there, in its place.

"Give away the green grass, give away the sky,
But don't give away my alligator pie."

Teri says

5+ I stumbled across this one this morning at the library and I was so excited to share it with the wee-lings.

This was one of my favourite books in elementary school... and reading all the silly poems and tongue-twisters brought back scads of memories. If you are Canadian and haven't read this one, I highly recommend it. It's excessively silly and couldn't be more perfect.

Kristine Mathias says

An interesting book full of contemporary and quirky children's poetry. The illustrations are eccentric enough to make a child want to study them and figure them out but not enough so that it's too strange for children. The fun poetry and original art work enchants anyone who picks it up.

Alligator pie, alligator pie,
If I don't get some I think I'm gonna die.
Give away the green grass, give away the sky,
But don't give away my alligator pie.

Alligator stew, alligator stew,
If I don't get some I don't know what I'll do.
Give away my furry hat, give away my shoe,
But don't give away my alligator stew.

Alligator soup, alligator soup,
If I don't get some I think I'm gonna droop.
Give away my hockey stick, give away my hoop,
But don't give away my alligator soup.

La Coccinelle says

I've known about *Alligator Pie* for years. I was introduced to the title poem when I was in elementary school. Its bouncy rhythm is unforgettable. I'm not sure if I read the book as a child or not, because none of the poems seemed familiar (with the exception of "Skyscraper", which I'm pretty sure was read to us in Grade 1).

Given that this book is almost 40 years old, it's not surprising that aspects of it feel a bit dated. Some of the illustrations are obviously from another time. A poem about measles and mumps shouts that it's from another era. And perhaps spousal abuse was once considered humorous, but that's no longer the case.

However, that being said, there are still a number of highly enjoyable poems in this collection. "Alligator Pie" is one of the best. "Ookpik" made me giggle. "On Tuesdays I Polish My Uncle" has some delicious rhymes involving a pet shark. "The Friends" is a sweet little poem about a child and their friend named Egg. "Tricking" is a cute poem about reverse psychology. "The Sitter and the Butter and the Better Batter Fritter" is so much fun to read aloud... if you can do it without cracking up at your attempts at the tongue twisters within.

This book is also extremely Canadian. Poems like "In Kamloops", "Bed Song", "William Lyon Mackenzie King", "Tongue Twister", and "Kahshe or Chicoutimi" all feature distinctly Canadian people or places. There's even a poem about hockey, appropriately titled "The Hockey Game".

The meter of these poems is such that they have a tendency to get stuck in your head, like a jump-rope song. Some of them reminded me of the poems in A. A. Milne's *When We Were Very Young* and *Now We Are Six*. I did not realize that Dennis Lee had been a lyricist for *Fraggle Rock*. The whimsy and fun he brought to those songs is on full display here.

If you can overlook the few dated poems and illustrations, you'll probably find quite a bit to like here. It would be a fun book to read aloud to children... but it's also fun for adults who just want to indulge their inner child.

<http://theladybugreads.blogspot.ca/20...>

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

4 STARS

"Dennis Lee won the Governor General's Award for poetry in 1972 for his poetic meditation on Canadian identity in *Civil Elegies*, but he made perhaps his most enduring contribution to Canadian nationalism two years later with a short collection of near-nonsense rhymes written for a much younger set. *Alligator Pie*, which remains the classic Canadian bedtime book, is written as if Mother Goose had the Latin name *Branta canadensis*, from William Lyon Mackenzie King, who "loved his mother like anything," to *Trois-Rivières*, which, of course, rhymes with "eat you hair." (From Amazon)

I loved this fun book as a kid.

Sylvester says

3* art

3* poetry

Nonsense. Squirt loves it. Playing with rhymes is just fun.

Sammanthia Starr-hath says

With a name like 'Alligator Pie' how could you not take a second glance and then automatically make the decision to purchase said book? Beats me? Today I saw it and today it came home with me :) The poems were silly, and the illustrations were fantastic. That was all it took for my two boys and I to be all giggly with our newest favorite bedtime story.

Christine says

This book was my introduction to poetry. I have read this book a million times. First to myself, then with my children, to classrooms full of children and now with my grandchild.

Without Dennis Lee how poetic would I be?

With Alligator Pie Mr Lee opened a whole new world for me and I instantly fell in love with it. My life can be divided into to two parts before and after reading Dennis Lee.
