



The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins

Dr. Seuss

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Celebrate the 75th birthday of this classic treatise on bullying by Dr. Seuss with our new foil-covered, color-enhanced Anniversary Edition!

The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins is the story of a young peasant and his unjust treatment at the hands of King Derwin.

While *The 500 Hats* is one of Dr. Seuss's earliest and lesser known works, it is nevertheless totally Seussian and as topical today as when it was first published in 1938, addressing subjects that we know the good doctor was passionate about throughout his life: the abuse of power (as in *Yertle the Turtle* and *Horton Hears a Who*); rivalry (as in *The Sneetches*); and of course, zany good humor (as in *The Cat in the Hat* and the 43 other books he wrote and illustrated)! Available for a limited time only, this is a perfect way to introduce new readers to an old classic or to reward existing fans.

Follow more of Bartholomew's adventures in *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*, a Caldecott Honor Award-winner.

The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins Details

Date : Published December 9th 1989 by Random House Books for Young Readers (first published September 1st 1938)
ISBN : 9780394844848
Author : Dr. Seuss
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From Reader Review The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins for online ebook

[Shai] The Bibliophage says

I was able to read the sequel before this book, so I was expecting that this could be better. I prefer the sequel than this, but I still enjoyed the story. It's just that I don't think that I found any lesson after reading it.

Vcmc says

A nicely written tall tale. A bit pointless but fun.

Rupert Dreyfus says

A great little story about a boy with a hat he can't remove until...

I enjoyed this story; it felt very much of its day. The illustrations were nice and there was hardly any rhyming. What rhyming there was I couldn't tell if it was accidental or not.

Joy Gerbode says

This was one of the first Dr. Seuss books I ever read, and it was a delight to re-read it. It's not in the well-known rhyming format we're accustomed to with Dr. Seuss, but it is full of wit, great pictures, and interesting characters.

Luann says

Fun! I may have read this one when I was young, but I didn't remember most of the details - except maybe when the hats started getting fancier with each one. I seemed to remember that.

I wanted an explanation for why Bartholomew suddenly couldn't take off his hat, but I did like that it was brought up again in the end, that no one "could ever explain how the strange thing had happened. They only could say it just 'happened to happen' and was not very likely to happen again."

This is one of the longer Dr. Seuss books. It isn't for beginning readers. It also doesn't have his trademark rhyming text. Still, a fun story and well worth reading.

Ronyell says

“The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins” is one of Dr. Seuss’ earlier books as it is not written in the rhyming text that Dr. Seuss has been well known for. “The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins” is about a young boy named Bartholomew Cubbins who discovers that every time he takes a hat off his head, a new one sprouts up on his head, which cause trouble for him when the king finds out about it. This book may be a bit too dark for smaller children, but older children will definitely enjoy this classic tale from Dr. Seuss.

Dr. Seuss’ early book is not written in the traditional rhyming text that he has been known for, but is instead written in a splendid narrative that is told in an extremely exciting and effective way. The story is also extremely creative as hats appeared on Bartholomew’s head with a real explanation which makes the matter mysterious. Dr. Seuss’ illustrations are once again in black and white with the exception of Bartholomew’s hats which are colored red, which effectively show how the hat has a huge importance to the story.

Parents should know that the scenes where the King threatened to cut Bartholomew's head off because Bartholomew could not take the hats off might disturb some children. Parents might want to read this book first to see if their child could handle such intense subject matter.

“The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins” is a wonderful tale that is both exciting and suspenseful for many children and will be enjoyed by many children for years to come. I would recommend this book to children ages six and up because of the extreme dark tone that this book presents that would scare smaller children.

Review is also on: [Rabbit Ears Book Blog](#)

bakanekonomama says

Ketika Bartholomew memakai 500 topi di kepalanya....

Tepatnya nggak memakai semuanya sih. Tapi Bartholomew dapat masalah ketika ia tidak bisa melepas topinya di depan raja! Berapa kalipun ia ambil topinya, tetap saja sebuah topi masih bertengger di kepalanya. Berbagai macam cara dicoba. Mulai dari cara biasa hingga luar biasa. Dari memanggil pemanah hingga penyihir istana. Dari orang jago hingga algojo.

Lalu, berhasilkah raja melihat kepala telanjang Batholomew tanpa satupun topi bertengger di kepalanya? Temukan sendiri jawabannya.

Mariah says

My students found this book morbid and boring.

"The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins is the story of a young peasant and his unjust treatment at the hands of King Derwin."

Matt says

Since I was 6, just learning to read on my own and going through my Dr. Seuss phase, this has been my favorite Dr. Seuss story. What didn't occur to me then, that occurs to me now, is that this is one of Dr. Seuss's only prose works. It does not have Dr. Seuss's easily parodied meter or a rhyme scheme.

I don't know what the meaning of the story is. If it has an overall meaning, it's not nearly as easy to tease out as so many of Seuss's openly allegorical and more famous tales. Perhaps that's part of what placed the story in my esteem then, and holds it there now. An allegorical story is trying desperately to convince me of something, and generally speaking in a way that annoys me especially when the moral of the story is so much simpler than the problem that it seems to have no practical merit. 'The 500 Hats' isn't desperate to convince me of something; it's just entertaining and if I learn something from it then all the better. As has become typical of my opinion as I aged, I think I was unconsciously rejecting politics as the highest level of art even then.

The basic story concerns the conflict between the very small, and the very great. Bartholomew Cubbins has a family hat that he's quite willing to remove from his head to please the proud King Derwin. Unfortunately for poor Cubbins, his hat is not nearly so willing to be removed. Cubbin's involuntary act of hubris leads to conflict with the entire social fabric of the Kingdom - a conflict that Cubbin ends up winning not by any virtue of his own part (except perhaps basic goodness and fast feet), but by the sheer stubbornness of the hat over which he has no control. In the end, the audacity of the hat ends up pleasing the King so well, he's willing to have it's vanity crown his own head and Bartholomew Cubbins returns to his humble roots unmolested and unencumbered (except for new found wealth).

Alan Cook says

Dr. Seuss wasn't a great poet, but he had a way with words and told a good story, usually with a moral. We had this book when I was young. I like to think the good doctor influenced my poetry writing. Here is my ode to him:

ODE TO DR. SEUSS

by Alan Cook

In the whimsical world of beloved Dr. Seuss
Live an elephant (faithful), a big-hearted moose,
And creatures, the wildest that you ever saw,
A grinch with a heart that's three sizes too small,
A bustard, a lorax (he speaks for the trees),
And prejudiced sneetches, with stars, if you please;
There are 500 hats and a cat who wears one,
A circus and zoo that are oodles of fun,

And oobleck (be careful for what things you wish),
Green eggs (you will like them) and colorful fish,
And wonderful places like Solla Sollew,
All dreamt by the Doctor for dreamers like you.

Heidi says

4.5 stars

I remember reading this book when I was very young and really loving it. Its plot is so absolutely creative and original.

I am absolutely amazed that this book is not more well-known and that it does not have many more people that have read it.

I am amazed that it does not have about a million ratings.

Perhaps because it is an older book it was not as widely available in a lot of more modern libraries.

Julia says

I read this children book at the age of 24. Quite late, but I'm not from US. I first heard about Dr. Seuss, when I become consciously intrested in American literature and culture. Why I decided to read book for children? Because I heard that his books cause, that quite a lot of children were fond of reading. The final two reasons to read this book were that I found downloadable version of book (it wasn't published in Poland) and curiosity. I looked for the answer why Jared Leto directed his music videos under a pseudonym of Bartholmew Cubbins.

It's time to say something about book itself. I must say, that as an adult, I like the absurdity of the story, and probably I would have like it as a child. There's no self-evident moral, so it's less boring and let children think about reasons of events.

Addition of simple illustrations, with just three colours and highlighted main object of the story - make it possible to focus on the story, instead of drawings.

Unfortunately, I'm not the best person to judge the language, because English is not my mother tongue, but I think that this book use language simple enough to be easy understandable by children and at the same time rich enough to not be boring and too childish.

Romee Darling says

3.5

Cute story. But I'm not really impressed.

Matthew says

I have been dreading to read this book not because of the plot but for the mere fact that it is a very long book considering that its a children illustrated books. It surprises me that even though it is relatively a short book compare to an adult novel, it feels the same as to reading a 500-paged book. Luckily I am fortunate enough that this was not a bad book but not a typical Dr. Seuss book.

I have to warn everyone that since this one of Dr. Seuss earliest works, it lacks the usual creative method that Dr. Seuss incorporates in his other iconic works. There is barely any rhyme in the book and the illustrations are mostly black and white which is a complete shame since I love being captivated by Dr. Seuss illustrations.

The story is about a young boy named Bartholomew Cubbins who is practically poor. He lives in the outskirts of the town and from my estimated guess his family are farmers. One day he has the unfortunate task of needing to sell cranberries and to earn quick profit for his family. Meanwhile the King of Didd, King Derwin is heading from his castle to stroll around and see the locals. As a custom when being in presence of royalty, you are supposed to take off your hat and bow and when the King arrives, he tells his coachmen to stop and drive backwards because he witness someone who hasn't taken their hat off.

That individual as you guess is Bartholomew Cubbins. He does have his hat off but for some mystical magical purpose the moment he takes off his hat another hat appears. The King gets outraged and demands that he removes the hat again and when Bartholomew is unable to accomplish that task, he is sent to the palace where the King try out different solutions to this issue. The King tries magic, executioner, bow and arrows, hat expert, and even elders who know the history of the Kingdom and worlds beyond and yet no one is unable to solve this hat problem.

The final option is to push Bartholomew from the tallest tower and to pummel to his death. While all this is going on, Bartholomew is constantly removing his hat and it isn't until he removes his 500 hat that the mystery is solved. When he gets to 500, his hat has changed to the most beautiful and elegant hat and the King decides to spare his life. In the process the King wants all his hats and offers 500 gold coins and they live happily ever after.

While I really enjoyed the storyline, I wish it could have been shorter and could at least had more rhyme to the story. I believe when you have rhyming in children's books, it makes the story flow better and the pacing quicker. If I were a child, I would have been bored by this story and give up midway through. For an early Dr. Seuss book, I will accept that he hadn't come full circle to discovering his craft and his creative flow.

P.S. If you really enjoyed this book and want to read more adventures of Bartholomew and the King then you should definitely check out the sequel which is Bartholomew and the Oobleck.

Jason says

At first when I saw this Dr Seuss book WASN'T a rhyming book I thought that I wasn't going to like it, but it is a funny little story. A power-mad King who demands a boy takes he hat off when in the presence of a powerful man as he, the problem is taking of your hat is not as easy as you'd think it would be. The illustrations are very nice too, all shades of black and grey with the bright red hat standing out. One of Dr

Seuss's more interesting and less insane books.

Brandon Miller says

I just rediscovered this childhood favorite and wow. Still much favorite. And reading it allowed to fam is so much better.

"It happened to happen and was not very likely to happen again."

Dolly says

In honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday and the Read Aloud America program, I wanted to find one of his books we hadn't read yet.

I checked Goodreads and realized that we still had several more to read. So I borrowed a few of them from our local library and we chose this one tonight.

This story is different from what we've come to expect from the good doctor. The narrative is long and it doesn't rhyme. It's not filled with fantastic, crazy creatures. It's actually one of the most straightforward stories I have ever seen of his.

It's an entertaining story, filled with cheek and wry humor. I'm not sure what the message is, but it's fun to read aloud. We really enjoyed reading it together.

Patricia says

Great illustrations and great plot. In this story, Bartholomew Cubbins gets into quite a quandary when he takes off his hat to honor the King who is passing by and ends up having a hat somehow materialize atop his head. Naturally, the King is not amused by Bartholomew's apparent disrespect. Fortunately, 499 hats later, Bartholomew's head is finally bare. Love this Dr. Seuss story!

Kathy Davie says

A Dr. Seuss mystery and first in the Bartholomew Cubbins series.

My Take

This is cute, and it does resonate, as I love hats and have my own *much* smaller collection. And it's lucky for Bartholomew that the executioner has rules!

The illustrations are all in black and white...except for that orange hat. It makes sense since it's the focus of the entire story, lol. And the illustrations are fabulous. I'd love for any one of them as art hanging on a wall.

Hmmm, I don't think I like a king who gets so upset about one hat! Or two or three...or more. If anything, I think I'd be laughing and pulling off the hats to see how many we'd go through.

I'm of two minds about this story. On the one hand, it does irritate me that the king can obviously see that Bartholomew has taken off his hat, even if another immediately pops up. Nor do I understand why he is so obsessed with Bartholomew removing his hat! On the other hand, I like that the king finally sees the light, both with Bartholomew and that nasty little nephew of his.

The moral of this story is about bullying and the abuse of power. It's a good topic to discuss with your kids. And I do like that there is a somewhat positive resolution in the story. Although you may want to gloss over the envy that brings it about!

The Story

It's a sad day for Bartholomew Cubbins when he goes into town to sell his family's cranberries. For that hat of his...the one hat he owns, and that had belonged to his father's father, suddenly goes wild.

It's a state that also drives the king wild and leads to some very precarious moments for Bartholomew!

The Characters

Bartholomew Cubbins lives in the **Kingdom of Didd**.

King Derwin is its ruler. **Grand Duke Wilfred** is the king's nasty nephew.

He has his own **Royal Coachman** and a **Captain of the King's Own Guards**. **Sir Alaric** is the Keeper of the King's Records and wears a ruler instead of a sword. **Sir Snipps** is the maker of hats; he wears a scissors instead of a sword. The **Yeoman of the Bowmen** can shoot mighty arrows. The **Father of Nadd** is a Wise Man who knows it all, but not as much as the **Father of the Father of Nadd**.

The Cover and Title

The cover has a pale blue-gray background with a young man with hair that flips up on the ends wearing a T-shirt, vest, and pants torn off at the knee with pointy-toed slippers. On his head is a hat, an Alpine hat...a Bavarian hat with a feather. In his hands, he holds hats and the floor is littered with yet more hats.

The title is the entire point of the story, *The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*, and how they get Bartholomew into and out of trouble.

Samantha says

I simply ADORE this book. Bartholomew just can't seem to catch a break! He takes his hat off in the presence of the king only to be taken to the castle for not doing so. What is up with that? Could it possibly be the fact that he just can't take off his hat? OR is it because one keeps appearing underneath every one he takes off. The hats are so pretty and they keep getting more & more eye-catching. One of my favorite Dr. Seuss books ever!!! =)
