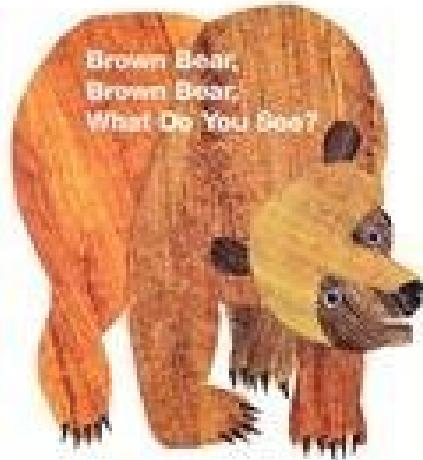


Bill Martin Jr / Eric Carle



## Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

*Bill Martin Jr. , Eric Carle (Illustrator)*

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## **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Details**

Date : Published September 15th 1996 by Henry Holt and Co. (first published 1967)

ISBN : 9780805047905

Author : Bill Martin Jr. , Eric Carle (Illustrator)

Format : Board Book 24 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals

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## From Reader Review Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? for online ebook

### Igolder says

Subtexts: perspective, surveillance, paranoia!

I had to read this aloud maybe a hundred nights in a row before I noticed what the text was plainly saying: everyone thinks they are being watched! And ironically, they are the ones doing the watching! From the titular brown bear who is certain that the red bird is watching him/her, each animal is watching an animal and projecting that the very animal they watch, is watching them!

In reality, none of the projected watching is happening. Each animal is watching a different animal, save for the children, who imagine that ALL the animals watch them, when in fact it is the children who gaze out at every animal.

Here are the lessons of the book:

- the people you think are watching you aren't
- actually, it is YOU who is doing the watching!
- animal colors in real life may vary from depictions [though Franz Marc painted some lovely blue horses and I do hope their inclusion here is a nod to him]

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### Jfk says

Terrible characterization. Blue Horse? What the heck is that!? The plot is monotonous and dull. And the ending...a montage of scenes from the book, and not even a good one! The only thing I can say in its favor is that you can probably get through it in a couple of days.

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### Ronyell says

I have been an avid fan of Eric Carle's works, especially of his well-known children's book "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and one of the books that Eric Carle had worked on that I did not get the chance to read when I was little was "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" which was also written by Bill Martin Jr. All in all, this was one children's book that children should definitely check out!

Since this story is extremely short, the summary will be brief.

Basically, the plot of this book is about the reader seeing various animals comment on what other beings they are looking at that precise moment, while each animal states a variation of this quote:

"Brown Bear, Brown Bear,  
What do you see?  
I see a red bird looking at me.

Red Bird, Red Bird,  
What do you see?  
I see a yellow duck looking at me.”

Wow! I cannot believe that I waited this long to finally pick up this popular children’s book and it was definitely worth reading in the end! I loved the simplistic style that Bill Martin Jr. brought to this book as the plot is basically having readers see various animals in different colors popping up in the book and commenting on other animals they have seen. I loved the fact that each animal is a different color such as having a blue horse and a purple cat as it brings a unique spin to the storytelling of this book and I was quietly anticipating seeing what kind of animals we will see pop up in this book. Eric Carle’s artwork is as always, a delight to look at as all the characters are rendered in paper cut outs which gives the book a creative look and I really loved the images of the different animals that show up in this book, such as the purple cat and the blue horse!

Even though there is nothing wrong with this book, I have to wonder why it was banned in the first place? Well, it turns out that when it was banned, the person who banned the book made a mistake regarding the author of this book, who is Bill Martin Jr. and the person thought that it was the same Bill Martin who wrote the book “Ethical Marxism: The Categorical Imperative of Liberation.” Now, I have never read any of the “other” Bill Martin’s books, but this was the first instance where a book was mistakenly banned for the wrong reasons and that got me curious yet annoyed.

Overall, “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?” is a truly cute book for children who want to have fun with identifying animals and colors all wrapped up into one book! I would recommend this book to children ages three and up since there is nothing inappropriate in this book.

**Review is also on: Rabbit Ears Book Blog**

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**Amanda says**

Many people may not like this book or think it is too simple a book, not really a story. I think this is a great book. My children love it. It is a perfect book for young children who are just starting to learn letters, their sounds, and words. It is also a great book for those children who may not be great readers. When I taught first grade, I had a few students who weren’t able to read. Their confidence level was low and we had a really hard time finding good books that they were able to read independently. But this was one of the few books they enjoyed reading on their own. Any book that can make a child feel like they are a successful reader is a great book in my opinion.

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**Anittah says**

Bold move to not order the animals according to the ROY G BIV spectrum. Makes it slightly more

challenging to memorize. I'm almost there, though.

My eleven week old daughter giggles like a maniac whenever I start reading this book to her, and she is particularly fascinated by the final page. Hence -- because of the maniacal gurgling and concurrent kicking -- five stars, although personally I found the narrative arc a bit flat.

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### **Ama says**

I can't recall how many times I've read this for storytime over the years. A lot. That's the answer. It's a favorite for all.

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### **Donovan says**

My daughter loves this for the animals and repetition. It does well to teach color, perception, and basic animal recognition. But it honestly gives me a headache with its dull repetition and lack of rhyme use when it so easily would have improved readability.

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### **Shaina says**

4????????This is a cute and creative book. My niece likes to skip some pages and then go back, then skip and go back. She loves the tabs she gets to pull. She is learning how to wait for her queue to pull them still. Eh, she'll get there. She's not even 1.5 yet. :)

I love the rhymes. I like the shapes and forms of the animals, they seem solid and geometric .. easy for a child to see and identify. I also like the bright colors.

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### **Miranda says**

I wasn't really into this book when I was little, but this is my daughter's favorite book- so I have to give it 5 star props. Whenever we get to the black sheep, she yells out "BAAAAAAA!"

Many mornings she wakes up and demands, "BOOK!" and if I don't pick this one, she yells, "Noooooooo! BOOOOK!" until I read her Brown Bear...

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### **midnightfaerie says**

Definitely one our favorite books. Great illustrations and fun to say out loud. All my kids pretty much have the book memorized so much so that we recite it in the car. Easy reading, but a good book for an older sibling to read to their younger siblings and a great way to learn colors. A book the whole family loves.

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### **Shirley Revill says**

My children loved this book when they where small. A firm favourite on my bookshelf.

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### **Jennifer Brinkmeyer says**

This is the story of a teacher so dedicated that her students simply called her Teacher. She celebrated her classroom's multi-racial, multi-ethnic diversity with an array of class pets: a brown bear, a red bird, a yellow duck, a blue horse, a green frog, a purple cat, a white dog, a black sheep, and a goldfish. Some criticize her teaching methods, citing the dangers of bears in the classroom, but I stand by her choice to lead with alliteration in spite of any potential maulings.

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### **Shoeb Narot says**

‘Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?’ By Eric Carle.

This is another great picture book by Eric Carle. You could happily read it aloud and enjoy it with a young audience. The children have lots of opportunities to join in, as the book focuses on using rhythmic and repetitive texts throughout. The illustrations are fantastic, a combination of bright eye-catching colours with lovely examples of tissue paper collages used to represent the animals in the story.

The book begins with the reader asking the Brown Bear, “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?” The Bear then tells the audience what he see's. The author uses this concept of repeating the question to all the animals in the book and finally the goldfish reply's “I see a teacher looking at me”, so the goldfish asks the Teacher who then ask the children.

I really like how the author has managed to engage everyone in the story.

I would, without hesitation recommend this book for children in early years and even children who need extra support due to additional needs in reading because the rhythmic and repetitive approach would be very beneficial.

I think this book possesses many cross-curricular opportunities for children in early years. It could be a great starting point to introduce young children to different animals and colours. I also think you could carry out a wonderful art lesson on patterns and collages using the illustrations from the book to help the children to become more creative.

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**Carly says**

Great classic to help kinders begin to read by "retelling" the story.

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**Angie \*\*loves angst\*\* says**

My Kindergarteners made me read this to them **five** times on Friday at work. *Five times!!!!* By the time I was done, I could tell every word to the story without looking at the pages. Some one please save me from pushy five year olds with a penchant for rhyming books.

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