



Dancing with Degas

Julie Merberg, Suzanne Bober

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This imaginative board book features beautiful paintings by a renowned artist paired with playful, rhyming text. Children can enter Edgar Degas's magical world of toe shoes, tutus and elegant ballerinas. *Dancing with Degas* is a fun introduction to art and an imaginative adventure all rolled into one!

Dancing with Degas Details

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Author : Julie Merberg , Suzanne Bober

Format : Board Book 22 pages

Genre : Art, Childrens

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From Reader Review Dancing with Degas for online ebook

Nisha says

There are so many gimmicky boardbooks nowadays, so I've learned to be a little skeptical before adding them to my (son's) collection. Let's be honest, I love art, so I wanted a baby friendly way to introduce it to my toddler.

During my first read through, I was impressed with the rhymes and how they tied the artwork together into a story. The collection used in the book is fantastic and just lends itself to be used in this form. After a couple of reads, with my toddler, I think he doesn't care for ballerinas, but the text makes it easy to read through and doesn't bore him either. It makes it easier for untrained eyes (my hubby) to figure out what to be explaining. I think that makes for a strong book.

All in all, this is one of the better mini masters books. Degas has appealing and cohesive art to work well in this form. I like the boardbook format, but the book is great for all ages, rather than just babies, so a larger version would be great for the classroom.

Kathleen Hoellerich says

Kathleen Hoellerich

Dancing with Degas, by Julie Merberg and Suzanne Bober is a story about ballerinas getting ready for a performance from start to finish. The reader goes on a journey with the ballerinas from preparing for the show with practice, to performing the show, to finally getting to sit down and rest their feet. The story is just as strict as the life of a ballerina. The message is to teach children about the work that goes into a performance. The process of bringing the art of a ballerina, the art of Edgar Degas, and the art of a story into one children's book is beautiful.

The peritext (on the last two pages) informs the reader that the illustrator is a French artist named Edgar Degas. His pastel paintings of ballerinas are truly elegant. Degas's use of color is eye catching when it is time for the ballerina customs to shine. The text guides the reader to take notice of the colors in the illustration, "A fairy princess shines in green." There is a strong point Edgar Degas makes with his paintings. The outside observer can tell the image is not a photograph but the paintings are done in such a way to make it feel like they are real life people.

The text is written poetically. The tone of the author is soft. "The teacher counts 1,2,3,4 and the dancers spin across the flour." The reader can hear the beat of the music in parts of the text. The illustrator depicts the ballerinas as working so very hard. He shows them yawning and rubbing their tiered necks. Degas and the author tell two different stories to the reader at once. The author is telling the story through the point of view of the outside observer or audience. The illustrator is telling the story through the eyes of the hard working and exhausted ballerinas.

kaitlyn says

I mostly got this book to balance out the two science books I got my baby niece, but I also love the idea of introducing children to art like this.

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

A wonderful book that puts the 'ballerina' paintings of Degas into a sequence that forms a simple story that children can follow.

T.E. Antonino says

The children love to look at the Degas's paintings. Who says you have to be a adult to appreciate art. I find it fascinating when the children pick up this book and stare at the paintings. There are other books in this series. There all amazing. What a wonderful way to introduce children to art.

Alysia says

A fun little board book that introduces your little one to fine art. I enjoy this book and the others in the set as much as my baby.

Kelly Paz Meyer says

loved reading my girls these books when they were little.

Shannon Dunn says

The beauty of Degas set to flowing poetic rhymes. Perfect for my tutu wearing totschooler.

Bethel says

A very well-designed and illustrated board book, written in rhyme, and designed to introduce young children to ten paintings of ballerinas by Edgar Degas.

Jenny says

This is one I really like. It is easy to read and it uses important piece of art. What could be a better introduction to art appreciation?

Marisa says

a great board book to introduce kids to the art of degas

Jen says

In my continuing battle with my mother about not having kids, she loves to buy out-of-the-ordinary children's books "just in case."

Sigh.

This one is pretty cool, though; it sticks a little rhyme-y narrative to a bunch of Degas paintings. Sure, some of the rhymes are rather forced, but the narrative pretty much makes sense and does pair really well with the paintings. Also, I like the wavy aspect of the text layout and the subtle watercolor shading behind the paintings. I bet this would be lovely if you have kids. I don't, and I still find it lovely.

But not lovely enough to have kids to read this. It can be lovely only for me.

Maura says

Such a great way to introduce classic art to children! Beautiful selection of Degas portraits!

Connie says

Can't fault the art, it's a great way to introduce kids to Degas.

And the text... well, I can take it or leave it. It sounds trite to my ears, though, so I prefer to leave it. The author's got a tin ear when it comes to rhythm, nothing seems to scan right.

The really bad part about these books is that they're cheaply made. I've had them fall apart on me while other books that we've had longer and that we read more often are in great shape.

You can't have a poor-quality board book, it just doesn't work. I can't in good conscience recommend these books until that little problem is fixed.

Amie says

I love these little board books about famous artists. They combine beautiful artwork with simple text to make a delightful story for babies and toddlers.
