



Two Bad Ants

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The three-time Caldecott medalist tells the tale of two ants who decide to leave the safety of the others to venture into a danger-laden kitchen.

Two Bad Ants Details

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Author : Chris Van Allsburg

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From Reader Review Two Bad Ants for online ebook

Alba says

This is a cute book written by the perspective of the ants, which was interesting how they described human life. The story was a great lesson in the end of responsibility and over indulgence.

Jennifer says

What a clever book! My son and I enjoyed reading this together. It tells of a voyage and adventure through the eyes of two little ants.

Luann says

I couldn't remember if I had read this one before, but I don't think I had. Pretty sure I would remember such a fun and different story. I love how the text tells the ants' experiences from their perspective while the illustrations show the reader where the ants really are and what they are really experiencing - yet still from the limited perspective of an ant.

My favorite is when the ants are hiding in a "huge round disk with holes" (slice of bread) which is then lifted and tilted and suddenly there is a "strange red glow" and the temperature is rising (the bread is now in a toaster) until it is unbearably hot and then suddenly the disk rockets upward and the ants go flying through the air. Just fun.

The ants also have experiences with a cup of coffee, the kitchen faucet, the garbage disposal, and an electrical outlet. (view spoiler) Highly recommended for all fans of Chris van Allsburg - which is pretty much everyone, right?

Emily says

Interesting, geometric illustrations from an ant's perspective, but what lesson are kids supposed to learn from this story? Stick with the crowd, don't rock the boat, conform - because trying something new is dangerous? Curiosity killed the cat (or almost killed the ants, I guess)?

I think I'd probably notice two ants swimming in a cup of something I was drinking. And does anyone think ants really would have survived the toaster? Mr. Van Allsburg needs to review his basic science about electricity...nothing would have happened to the ants unless they had touched both poles inside the socket, which they are really too small to do.

Cute idea, but the execution was more than a little lacking.

For more book reviews, come visit my blog, [Build Enough Bookshelves](#).

Barbara says

This delightfully written and illustrated picture book follows two ants after they decide to stay behind at the end of an excursion into a house and a sugar bowl. The illustrations show all their misadventures as the inhabitant on the house wakes up and starts his day. By the end of it all, after they've almost been drowned, cooked, and electrocuted, they are ready to head back home. Sometimes it's NOT a good idea to head off on your own. This is a great book to read aloud without showing the pictures so that students can try to visualize what's actually happening.

Ronyell says

“Two Bad Ants” is a unique little book by Chris Van Allsburg, author of “Jumanji” about how two ants learn the hard way about the consequences of disobeying your elders. “Two Bad Ants” is definitely a book about danger that will excite children for a long time.

Chris Van Allsburg has done a terrific job with both the illustrations and the story as he makes the story as dramatic as he can. Chris Van Allsburg’s story is exciting and intense at the same time as he makes it seem that the story is being told from an ant’s point of view as everything that the two ants encounter are monstrous in size compared to them. Also, Chris Van Allsburg does an excellent job with detailing the theme of this story about the consequences of being disobedient and how important the comforts of home are. Chris Van Allsburg’s illustrations are different from his other books as he illustrates everything with bold black linings including the ants and the man.

Parents should know that there are many intense scenes in this book that involves the two ants being thrown into dangerous situations such as almost drowning in the coffee and almost being cooked in the toaster. Parents might want to read this book before they show it to their children and also they should take some time to talk about the dangerous situations that the ants get into and what the consequences of being disobedient towards your elders can lead you to. Also, parents may need to explain to children about the dangers of being in the outside world by yourself and how their children must prepare themselves for anything that might happen in the outside world.

“Two Bad Ants” is a great cautionary tale about the importance of being obedient towards your parents or your elders and how one must prepare themselves for the dangers that awaits them in the outside world. I would recommend this book to children ages five and up due to the intense scenes of the ants getting into danger.

Review is also on: Rabbit Ears Book Blog

Tatiana says

It's sad to see how many adults on Goodreads can't appreciate this marvelous book. They need to put their childhood-glasses back on.

Two Bad Ants by Chris Van Allsburg couples a whimsical plot with gorgeous illustrations to demonstrate how perspective is everything. For the "two bad ants" in question, sugar is crystal, a human kitchen an "unnatural place" full of dangerous obstacles such as coffee, a toaster, and a power outlet. Unlike other reviewers' summation, the theme is not to conform, it is that after all your adventures, you can always go home.

As an educator, I see innumerable possibilities for skill study, but it's also a story kids will want to hear again and again. Highly recommended.

Angela says

I guess it was supposed to be clever how the ants saw various kitchen areas as harsh obstacles, with only the illustrations making it clear what the obstacles were. That idea was a little too complicated for my toddler to catch onto, though. I liked the illustrations, but they too were a little too complex for him. Mostly the entrepreneur in me objected to the theme. If we all keep working for "the man" -- and stop trying to get a piece of the prize for ourselves -- we'll avoid potential pitfalls.

Marcus Reeves says

Kathy Mathey says

Quite possibly my new favorite picture book...used in writing workshop to demonstrate narrative elements; 7th graders loved it.

Chrissy Muller says

This story had such a great message at the end of it! The bad ants realized that in order to be truly happy (and safe) they needed to be at home where they were needed and appreciated by their mother. This whole book was filled with vivid personification and description of these two bad ants and gave much insight as to what their feelings were at every given moment. I'm positive this book would be loved by most if not all children because ants are something that they see mostly every day and they probably haven't thought of a story that's from a tiny ant's point-of-view. I think the lesson would be one of the most important messages to convey to young readers. Being greedy won't get you anywhere! This would be a good story to tell to young children who don't share well, or just don't work together properly with others. During the night-time sequences of the story, the pictures are very dark and sort of scary, but in the morning while they're in the kitchen, everything is vivid and bright! This aspect does a good job at keeping the reader up to date about the changing setting.

Trista says

This is a great book about perspective. It is illustrated from an ant's perspective. The illustrations and story are fantastic. What Van Allsburg book wouldn't be?

Shauna says

I'm not really into bugs, but i decided to give this book a try. I didn't really like this book. I'm sure it's

because I'm older. This book didn't keep me interested. One thing i did like about the book was the illustrations. I loved how they kept it simple with the color. I also liked how the story intensified as it went on. Just when you thought it was over, the ants ended up into another situation. I thought it was funny how the ants traveled all around the kitchen.

Vicky says

This book was very sweet, and had a good message at the end. In the beginning, the two bad ants decided that they wanted to be independent and tried to steer away from the colony and do whatever they wanted to do. However, once the two ants get into this "new world" they realize that it's not all what it is cut out to be. The ants get into situations that they almost don't escape, and they soon wish that they had never left the colony. When they finally do return back to the colony, they don't ever disobey again and make sure to stay close with those who love them.

I thought this was a good moral, especially for kids. Young kids often feel rebellious and that they can make it on their own with their own rules. But they will soon find that life on their own is not what it seems. Parents love their kids and they have rules to protect their kids. Overall, this was a good story.

Fred says

A really cute book. Beautiful drawings. Unfortunate title, but you don't have to tell the preliterate kid what it's really called.
