



Avocado Baby

John Burningham

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The Hargraves want their new baby to grow up big and strong. But the puny mite will hardly eat a thing. One day Mrs Hargraves finds an avocado in the fruit bowl and the baby gobbles it up. Soon, the strangest things start to happen...

Avocado Baby Details

Date : Published 1982 by HarperCollins Publishers

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From Reader Review Avocado Baby for online ebook

Shemona says

'Avocado Baby' is fun book which is ideal when teaching children about growth or healthy eating, especially in EYFS and KS1. The book is about a family, The Hargraves, who have just had a new-born baby. The Hargraves want their new baby to grow up big and strong, so they try to feed him all different kinds of foods but he refuses... until they give him an avocado! He eats avocado and becomes so strong that he can tackle burglars and bullies! It's an amusing book which both the teachers and children will like. Once the book has been read, children can find out which other types of food are good for one's health and why.

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

Yet another 1001 CBYMR. I knew the author, but I'd never heard of the book. I easily found a copy at the public library. The Hargraves were quite worried their new baby would not be strong, just like the rest of them. But the baby got hold of some avocados and, next thing you know, this little guy is taking care of bullies and fighting off robbers.

Melki says

This is a cute tale of a puny baby who doesn't like to eat...UNTIL...it's discovered that it (the baby is always referred to as "it" or "the baby," so I guess the gender is left up to the reader. Clever, huh?) LOVES avocados.

Just one avocado a day seems to imbue the tot with Popeye-like strength and it is soon pushing cars and hefting baby grand pianos.

The illustrations are simple but evocative My favorite was when the baby leaps from its stroller to save its older siblings from some bullies. You go, baby!

There is no "message" to the book. It exists solely to entertain. It can't even be taken as a parable for picky eaters as the babe never tries any other foods.

This message brought to you by the California Avocado Growers' Association.

Deborah Malaponti says

'Avocado Baby' is an entertaining and funny story about a hero, but not an ordinary hero. The hero is just a

baby. John Burningham tells the story of the Hargraves family, where Mrs Hargraves is expecting another baby. They are hoping that the baby won't be as weak as the rest of the family. The baby is born and is a weak baby. He is an extremely fussy eater until one day a mysterious avocado pear appears and Mr and Mrs Hargraves feed it to the baby. From this point the story changes, as the baby becomes stronger and stronger. He becomes so strong that he deters burglars, he stands against bullies, helps with the shopping and helps move the furniture and Mr Hargraves has to put up a sign on the gate saying 'Beware of the Baby'. This story is a fun story to read with great illustrations and I believe can be used in KS1. This book is a great way of getting children to think about types of food and eating certain foods. It is also great for class story time. The adventures of the baby make it engaging to read.

Lisa says

Taylor's favorite book when he was very little!

Shahina Khanom says

This story is fun and enjoyable to read, it is about a baby who is fed avocado everyday and becomes very strong. The baby becomes so strong that he starts to fight off bullies, moves furniture and frightens burglars. This book is very fun to read to early years and KS1 as it has lots of fun colourful illustrations. The story also promotes healthy eating as it shows children that eating fruits and vegetables is important and can easily be used in an introduction lesson on fruits and veg.

Anna says

"Avocado Baby" constitutes an entertaining and funny story about a hero, but not the ordinary one but a special hero because it is just a baby. The baby that can stand against the bullies; the baby who would help with shopping but also with much more heavier jobs as moving furniture; the baby who can frighten the burglars. The most interesting is the fact that this baby's strength is caused by eating avocado pears. At the beginning of the story, the baby is an extremely fussy eater and does not want to try anything till it gets an opportunity to taste an avocado pear which becomes its main meal.

This book is a perfect resource for a story time. The fabulous pictures and interesting adventures of the baby make it an engaging read. Moreover, it can be used as an introduction to the lesson on various fruits and vegetables and leads to a discussion on healthy eating.

Khalida wahid says

The Hargrave family are a small family who are physically quite weak. They have a new arrival to the family a little boy. He will not eat anything and the family worries he will be weak and unwell. One day Mrs. Hargraves finds an avocado and gives this to the baby – and he eats it all up. He continues to eat avocados

everyday and grow very strong – so strong that he has super human powers.

This is a great book to use with children of all ages as a stimulus to think about meanings of ‘hope’ and ‘strength’. It can also work well with talking about new arrivals to families, groups, classes and how they can bring new thing to the old dynamics.

u1124876 UEL says

I was so excited to lay my eyes on this book in the library so I quickly swiped it off the shelf and have brought it in to the computer room to write a review on it. John Burningham tells the story of the Hargrave family which is a 2.4 family but Mrs Hargraves is expecting another baby. The hope is that the baby will not be as weak as the rest of the family.

As feared the baby is born but is weak and does not like any food until one day a mysterious avocado pear appears and they feed it to the baby. Well, how the story changes as the baby becomes so strong he deters burglars, pulls a cart of children up the hill and eventually gets so strong Mr Hargraves actually puts up a notice on the front gate stating 'Beware of the Baby'.

This is a fun story and I believe it will encourage children to try avocado pears, which are pleasant in my opinion. KS1 children will enjoy this story I think and possible points to extract from it are super foods and the teacher could bring in super foods to school (having checked with the parents about any allergies) and experiment with what children think of them.

Sarah Jacquie says

I was a dork, I thought the Avocado Baby was incredible as a kid. I still love it. Now I see it was a ploy to eat vegetables. Well, I never even had an avocado until I was working for Togos around 17 years old ;)

Julie says

I really enjoyed reading this book to the Year 2 children in my class during SEA. The story is about a family called the Hargraves. Unfortunately the Hargraves are a physically weak family and they are worried that the new baby they are expecting will also be weak. The baby is born and sure enough he is such a fussy eater (he won't eat anything!) that the baby is the weakest of all the family. One day the baby eats an avocado pear, and then eats nothing but avocado bear and becomes an incredibly strong baby. The adventures that ensue had the class laughing every time, particularly when the baby deals with some bullies in the park.

The children enjoy this book and could be used when discussing healthy eating, good foods and diet variety. Or you can just use it to have an enjoyable read with your class.

Ashley Chance says

The 'Avocado Baby' is a story about the Hargraves' family who give birth to a weak baby who develops into a very fussy eater. The older siblings suggest feeding the baby an avocado. The Mother mashes up half an avocado and feeds it to the baby. Suddenly the baby gains super strength and can lift furniture, carry shopping and even defeat two bullies by throwing them into a pond head first!

The illustrations are simply fantastic-having said that the pictures are its only saving grace. The pictures are clear and very well draw which captivates the reader's imagination. From the pictures alone, the reader is able to deduce meaning and create their own version of the tale of the 'Avocado Baby'.

Nonetheless, the story lacks substance and does not develop a through-line of thought. The book implies that avocado's are a super food, which is not true. The story also sums up the idea that fruits and vegetables are good for you and keep you fit and healthy. This is somewhat misleading as we know that eating fruits and vegetables is one way of staying healthy, but it is actually a combination of both eating healthily and regular exercise which keeps you fit and healthy.

The book is very much written for its era (1980's) however children in the Early Years Foundation Stage or KS1 would enjoy reading this book. The 'Avocado Baby' could be read to the children on the carpet and a discussion about healthy and unhealthy foods and regular exercise would reinforce the stories idea about healthy eating and keeping fit. The book could also be used for guided reading sessions where children in the middle ability range for literacy could read it together and look at some of the descriptive language used within the story. This could lead onto a Physical Development lesson where children learn why it is important to keep fit and healthy through physical exercise.

Rebecca says

The story is about a family welcoming a new baby into the world. The family are described as physically 'weak' and have concerns the baby will follow suit. The avocado is discovered to be only food that the baby likes and gives him strength. The baby then goes on to make good use of his strength becoming a hero in the process. The book does many things for young children; it teaches them about a food that they may not have heard of, linking that food to human strength. The book also provides a very realistic setting with mum, dad and siblings which makes the events in the book more believable. There are examples of what bad behaviour is and the author is precise in making sure that the main character in the story opposes the unacceptable behaviour every time. I would suggest that this book would be suitable for 5-8 year old's as it lacks a big finish that older children may be looking for. A clear happy ending or serious consequence could make younger children forget details that occurred beforehand. The book ends abruptly which is perfect for children who will remember the funny parts to go along with the pictures. The story can be read out in class during carpet time by the class teacher, sad tones at the beginning and strong and loud throughout the rest. This can inspire children's writing by displaying that the story has a point. There was a problem and a solution had to be and was found. This is a stage for children to learn once they can simply recall an event and tell a story which has no plot.

I have given the book a 4 star rating because the book would excite children. The illustrations are clear and aid the story as it unfolds.

Anna says

The avocado baby is a book written about the Hargraves family expecting a baby. However, when the baby is born he is very small and weak and causes the family great concern as he will not eat anything. One day a mysterious avocado appears in the fruit bowl and Mrs. Hargraves feeds it to the baby out of desperation - only to discover he loves it and eats it all! The avocado's cause baby to grow big and strong enabling him to move furniture, stop bullies and one night single-handedly stop a robber from burgling the family home. This book is great for children from age 3-7 and they will particularly enjoy the fantasy aspect of a baby being strong enough to stop the burglar and it might get them to try avocados!

Shoeb Narot says

'Avocado Baby' By, John Burningham

The story is about a baby, who is born into a very weak family but grows super strong once its mother begins to feed it mashed up avocado. The baby continues to eat avocados everyday and becomes very strong. Before you know it, the baby is taking care of bullies and fighting off robbers! A truly funny and engaging story.

I read this story during the healthy eating topic in a nursery setting in SEB. It was used as an introduction to my lesson on various fruits and vegetables and it formed the basis to a successful discussion on healthy eating. The story can also be used during a PSHE lesson when talking about a new arrival in a family. Some of the children were very fascinated, as you can imagine not many three year olds have seen an avocado, that in itself prompted a lot of curiosity and a healthy discussion.

I would recommend this story for children in early years and even up to children in KS1.
