



Anno's Journey

Mitsumasa Anno

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A Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Winner

Join Anno, recipient of the Hans Christian Andersen Medal, on a spectacular tour of Europe!

A pictorial journey through the traditional countryside, farms, and towns of northern Europe takes readers past familiar storybook characters, visual jokes and puzzles, tricks of perspective, and other surprises.

"With paintings, visual puzzles and tricks of perception, Anno introduces geography and science by focusing on children and adults at work and play, as well as on art, architecture, composers, and painters, as he conducts an imaginary tour of England . . . Lush paintings, exquisitely detailed . . . An exceptional book."--*Publishers Weekly*

"Executed in meticulous and gently hued watercolors, this imaginative rendering will fill hours of wonderment, always with the delightful anticipation of seeking still one more amazing detail."--*Booklist*

Anno's Journey Details

Date : Published August 4th 1997 by Puffin Books (first published April 15th 1977)

ISBN : 9780698114333

Author : Mitsumasa Anno

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From Reader Review Anno's Journey for online ebook

Isaac D'Souza says

Anno's Journey is a lovely portrait of rural Europe. I love the scenery, it's never too young. It uses your imagination well.

Dolly says

A wordless picture book that is busy with activities, buildings and people. The fun is in finding some of the unusual items (like scenes from famous paintings or odd characters from books - or even Sesame street) as well as seeing the subtle changes in the items as you peruse through the pages. It's a fun book to play "I spy" with children.

This book was selected as one of the January 2011 - Wordless Picture Book reads at the Picture-Book Club in the Children's Books Group here at Goodreads.

This book was also selected as one of the books for the March 2018 - Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Picture Book Winners 1975-1982 discussion at the Picture-Book Club in the Children's Books Group here at Goodreads.

Lisa Vegan says

This book is amazing, outstanding, and its pictures and storytelling via those illustrations are exquisitely done; they're just beautiful. I need to reread this over and over and over. I might have to get a copy for myself someday. I've never been to Europe but there are a lot of clues about the various locations in the story. I thought that I was being incredibly observant but in the notes at the end, I see I missed so much, so much. I can't say enough good things about this book and I'm so enthusiastic I am sad that I can't give a more useful review.

What I'll say is that the author (illustrator) is a native of Japan but he's been interested in Europe and its culture and architecture and art, and its folk & fairy tales, its people, etc. etc. These illustrations tell stories of two of his trips, and they include a lot of fantastical elements. Brilliant and fun and appealing to the eye.

I can recommend this to everybody. Pre-readers and readers of any and all languages will be able to read this wordless picture book.

I wish I knew even more about art, folklore, and Europe because I know I'd get even more from this book than I do. But, even as things are, this is now a favorite book of mine.

I'm beyond impressed. And I'm off to reread it again.

I can't thank the Children's Books group enough! I learned about this book because of the members of that group. When this was nominated for one of our January wordless picture books to read for the Picture Book

Club, I immediately put it on reserve at the library. I'm deliriously happy that it is one of our six books for our book discussion next month. The other five selections I've already read, and I've read many other wonderful wordless picture books too, and this book is definitely one of the outstanding examples of the genre.

Enough said. I'm off to re-read it. I hope to get to at least one other picture book today and back to my novel this evening; I'll have to see. This might be one I don't return when I get to the library next time. I think I'll keep it for nearly the three weeks.

Hours & hours of entertainment are in these pages!

Addendum as I'm shelving this: I'm having a hard time choosing all the appropriate shelves.

And, I'd really enjoy reading some kids' book reports about this book!

SaraLaLa says

Okay, maybe I just don't get what's so amazing about this book. The best thing I could say about it is it's like Where's Waldo, but we're just looking for Anno. I think I was irked since the inside jacket of the book said that I'd find visual jokes and puzzles. I guess it went over my head and I just didn't find it amusing.

Jim Erikson says

This has to be one of the best examples of a postmodern picturebook, because the jokes on both content and form are woven in subtly while play with time is also so gradual that I have to watch the details to notice it.

Loved revisiting this after noticing so many picturebooks that are using the wide-angle panoramic spread. This is one of the best uses of a wide establishing shot throughout the entire book. The thing that stays consistent is that the viewpoint is always just above and back from the scene. It's like I as a reader am sitting in a hot air balloon that floats along with the anchor character as he moves from scene to scene.

Aaron Becker's wordless series owes a great debt here, as does the more wordy work of David Macauley.

Sarah Ravel says

Anno's Journey by Mitosumasa Anno is a wordless picture book depicting one man's travels through Europe. The excerpt at the end tells the reader that the drawing are based on Anno's own journey through Europe. The drawings are full page illustrations with no framing. Each turn of the page lends to a feeling of movement through the countryside. The illustrations are shown from an aerial perspective, emphasizing the the size of the buildings compared to the small figures of the people. In a way, the illustrations are a testament to the communities built by people. These is a great deal of detail in the drawings; they are filled with cultural references. I know that these are many that I missed as I perused the book. Published in 1977,

the drawings seem reminiscent of that time, with muted colors and pencil drawings. I was not pulled into the book through the illustrations. Had the author provided a reference guide to all the references throughout the book, I might have enjoyed the experience more.

Kathryn says

Overall, I enjoyed Anno's Journey and I really appreciated it more after I read the author's note and realized all the things he added, but for me it wasn't really a WOW book or anything that especially touched me. I thought it was interesting that Anno never got off his horse. I suppose part of it is that it was always easy to spot him that way, but I wondered if he mightn't have accomplished the same thing by wearing a more unique outfit or something (ala Waldo). It was just odd to me that he never got down to interact with any of the people/places--he was just passing through and observing.

Fjóla says

As is the case with so many wordless books, this one calls for repeated "readings". I liked to study the details, try to imagine through where the rider was traveling. In particular I liked how some things repeated themselves through the book but in different form/shape: landscapes, groups of people, children. My 4 1/2 year old was pretty drawn into this book as well. We might seek out Anno's other "travel" books: Spain, Britain, U.S.A, Italy ...

Holly says

I gave this book 2 stars because it doesn't have words. I also gave it 2 stars because I can't really read it in my classroom. Anyway, I really liked the illustrations in this book. I would use it in my classroom for "make up a story" activities. I would have the students look at the pictures and write a story based off of it. It was a good book; it just doesn't have words.

Manybooks says

Now I honestly do think that I would enjoy Anno's Journey rather if not even considerably more if there were less freneticism, less activity (and definitely not as many people depicted). However, it is indeed true that Europe is a rather crowded continent, so perhaps less people would not seem all that realistic either.

But I really do like (aesthetically speaking) Misumasa Anno's illustrations of houses, churches and buildings quite a bit more than his depictions of human and animal characters, as they just feel rather featureless and swarming (and I never even realised that the reoccurring person on the horse was Mitsumasa Anno himself, until someone pointed this out to me). And while I am certainly enjoying searching for the hidden literary, cultural and folkloric elements (and appreciate the fact that there is actually a list of sorts included at the back of Anno's Journey with which literary icons, which stories and the like to look for), I have not been able to locate all or actually even most of these. I am not all that adept at finding hidden objects even under ideal conditions, and with Anno's Journey, there are simply too many humans, animals, objects and events for me

to be able to easily find hidden objects (I have neither managed to find the paintings by Courbet, Millet, Renoir and Seurat nor did I locate Beethoven, although I have been able to spot the Pied Piper, the Giant Turnip folktale setting, Little Red Riding Hood, many of the children's games and Don Quixote). And thus, while I do appreciate Anno's Journey, it is my opinion that the human figures are a bit too small, too numerous (with the level of activity too swarming and fast paced), and that more information with regard to the list of hidden objects on the last page would have been beneficial and facilitated searching for and locating them (for example, having the page numbers of where the specific objects are located displayed on the list would really be a help).

Stephanie says

I loved this picture book! I even put it on my "must own list". This little book has so much potential! I can see starting this book with a child and needing to stop after a couple pages, so that you can get to bed.

The illustrations are great! Each page has Anno entering the page and the rest of the page is full, and I mean full of activity! It is great. You could rewrite the story differently each time you and your young reader started the book.

I can't sing my praise loud enough for this little book. A must for creative thinking or even to gain a bond with child that you may be learning to know.

I almost never give five stars and this one, easy five!

Sylvester says

This book redefines "reading". Picking out the various story-lines is so much fun. Somebody is always getting married, there is a duel fought in the field, the farm workers are often from famous artwork scenes, Little Red Riding Hood goes to visit her Grandma...and much more. You could make up a hundred stories to tell your child from this book - I love the idea of "reading the stories" in a scene, it's the same with life, and teaching a child (or adult, for that matter) to find the stories in the world around us seems like a very good thing to me.

Oh, and the illustrations are fantastic.

Miriam says

I would have enjoyed this more had the explanatory end note been at the beginning.

The illustrations in this wordless picture book are lovely and highly detailed. I almost thought it worked like Where's Waldo?, but the artist and his horse were too easy to spot.

Maybe we were just supposed to admire the details. I noticed a couple scenes reminiscent of paintings, and I

spotted Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, and the Pied Piper leading children through a plaza where men dug up the cobblestones behind yellow caution boards. Most ladies wear dresses (some hoop skirts, some shapeless peasant frocks) but the women in the foot race wear sweats. Clearly it is no particular time.

Finally, at the end was a note saying that the illustrations are full of hidden details from European art and mythos, and listing a few examples. As I said, I recognized a bunch of paintings and a couple stories. Others I'm simply unfamiliar with, like "Pulling Up the Giant Turnip." Am I supposed to know who the men are fighting the pistil duel? The man climbing a ladder to spy on the bathing woman? The storks(?) on the roof? This may be confusing for modern American children.

Crystal Marcos says

This is was my last read for this month's Children's Picture Book Club wordless selections found here:<http://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/4...>

My daughter and I read this one together. I managed to keep her attention by calling out things like "Anno, Anno where are you?" The illustration and color choices were too busy for her and sometimes myself. I had trouble finding Anno on a couple of pages. I did enjoy the story and the author note at the end of the book was a nice touch. I didn't find everything there is to find with this book. The more time you spend the more things you will find. I appreciate that the author was telling a personal tale of his travels to Europe.

Ronyell says

At first when I read this book, I was sort of bored with the illustrations, but now reading it a few more times, I found myself liking this book! "Anno's Journey" is a wordless picture by Mitsumasa Anno, which shows the author exploring Northern Europe and marveling at its beauty. "Anno's Journey" is a great book for anyone who wants to see Northern Europe through a picture book!

I never would have thought that I would be interested in reading (or looking at) a picture book that gives us a close up view of Northern Europe! Mitsumasa Anno has done an excellent job at illustrating this book and I loved the way that Mitsumasa Anno made the illustrations of Northern Europe in aerial view, since it helps readers see everything going on in Northern Europe, including seeing the festivals and people working on their gardens. It was like exploring the customs in Northern Europe with really having to go there in person and it was such a wonderful experience! I also loved the surprising popular fairy tale characters and other well-known characters such as the characters from "Sesame Street" that Mitsumasa Anno put into the illustrations, although I will admit that I had to read the final page of this book to figure this out, but it was worth the trouble to go through the book again to seek these characters out!

The reason why I gave this book a four star rating instead of a five star rating is because I felt that the man in the blue outfit who is riding a horse throughout the book should have interacted with the people and festivals that took place while the man was traveling through Northern Europe since it would have made the book more interesting and more relatable to the audience if we actually got close up shots of the man taking part in the festivals so that way we can see if the man actually enjoyed his journey or not.

Overall, “Anno’s Journey” is a great book for children who want to explore Northern Europe through the comforts of their home. I would recommend this book to children ages four and up since smaller children might be a bit confused about what country Anno is traveling through.
