

Novel Resource #2

You Read to Me, I'll Read to You

Author: Mary Ann Hoberman

Copyright date: 2004

Publisher: Megan Tingley Books, a division of Little, Brown and Company

About the Author:

1. Interesting facts: Mary Ann Hoberman was born in 1930 in Connecticut. She went to public schools and wrote for the school newspaper and edited her high school year book. She earned a Bachelor's degree in history from Smith College and a Masters in English Literature from Yale University. She married Norman Hoberman who is an architect. They have four children and five grandchildren. Mary Ann has taught writing and literature to elementary through college age students. She co-founded and performed with the "The Pocket People", a children's theater group, and "Women's Voices", a group who gives dramatized poetry readings. Mary Ann's first book was published in 1957. She was awarded the National Book Award in 1983 and the Poetry Children's Award in 2003.
2. Author's webpage: [www.maryannhoberman.com](http://www.maryannhoberman.com)
3. Author's email and address: No postal address given.



4. Picture:
5. Other facts: Mrs. Hoberman states, "I knew I was going to be a writer even before I knew how to write!" She decided at the age of four that she would write books like the ones she loved to read. "But I still make things up in my head before I write them down." Most ideas for her books come from childhood memories of which she has a vivid picture.

6. Other books written by author: Yankee Doodle, Whose Garden Is It?, A House is a House for Me, The Seven Silly Eaters, The Looking Book, A Fine Fat Pig, etc.

Annotation: This picture book by Mary Ann Hoberman brings poetry and fairy tales together into new and possibly improved versions. Directions on how to read the book with two voices are given in an introduction. Each reader chooses a side and color to read in turn. At the end of the new tale, readers read together. These adapted tales are a wonderful way to promote understanding and cooperation. The idea that there are always two sides to a story holds true. Even the character's attitudes towards one another seem to mellow as they plan to read together also. The illustrator, Michael Emberley uses contrasting colors such as green and purple to make the multiple illustrations stand out. Even the pictures follow the theme of the story. In the beginning the character are questioning each other in an unhappy manner. As they listen to one another and understand the other's point of view, the pictures of the character's faces change from angry to peaceful. This is an excellent resource when reading multiple versions of fairy tales and a great introduction to poetry, rhyme and rhythm.

Book talk: Do you get really mad at a brother or sister for the things they do? Do your parents tell you to "work it out"? Well, even if you don't want to sit down and listen to what your siblings say, you might want to read this book. Sit down somewhere close to your sibling. (Just close enough for them to see your book) And choose which color of text you want to read. You can choose first. As you and your brother or sister read apart and then together, you might decide to get along just like the fairytale characters in the book.

Characters: Characters are from classic fairy tales such as Jack and the Giant, the Wolf and one of the Three Little Pigs, Cinderella and her stepsisters, etc. In most situations, the so-called villain is given an opportunity to explain his or her actions. Typically, the two fairytale characters understand each other better in the end and decide to cooperate as they read the original story that they star in.

Conflict and Conflict resolution: Each retold, poetic fairy tale begins with the usual conflict between good and bad character. The typically bad character is able to explain his or her actions bringing new understanding to the situation. Most poems end with the two sides now agreeing and reading their original story together.

Genre: Fairytales rewritten in poetic form

If you like: You Read to Me, I'll Read to You, you will love:

Other books by Mary Ann Hoberman: The Llama Who Had No Pajamas, 100 Favorite Poems, All My Shoes Come in Twos, My Song is Beautiful

Other Retold Fairy Tales: The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka, Big Bad Wolf is Good by Simon Puttock, and The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas.

Interest level: K-3

Reading level: 2.6

Setting: The setting varies from Goldilocks' room to Red Riding Hood's Grandma's bed to the pot from the three little pigs (kitchen). The details of the setting are sparse, focusing more on the characters. Michael Emberley, the illustrator, creates multiple illustrations that lend more to the idea of the setting rather than a picture that depicts the setting itself. For example, in the fairy tale of the Princess and the Pea, only the last picture reveals the bed she has been sleeping on.

Point of View: Tales are told from one of the character's perspectives, usually giving new insight as to why they acted as they did. (Third Person Objective)

Theme: Cooperation. The opposing Characters work together like the two readers cooperate to share the reading of each poem.

#### About the Illustrator

Interesting facts: Michael Emberley grew up in Massachusetts and now resides in San Diego, California. Although Michael has no art degree, no writing degree, no kids, no pets, no house, he has been a writer and illustrator 25 years. His father and sister also create children's books. Michael first chose illustrating because he needed to make money. Later in life, Michael chose the same profession because he loves it. He also has a passion for bike racing.

Illustrator's webpage: <http://www.michaelemerly.com/content/main.aspx>. This is an excellent source for Michael's history, ideas, process, and questions and answers.

Other email or addresses: No personal address found

Picture: Photo is copyrighted.

Illustrator's connection to the book: Michael stated that he had not planned to do a sequel to the original You Read to Me, I'll Read to You, but because of the first book's success, he illustrated the second book. Because it was part of a series, the text layout and size were set. He could imagine the illustrations the way he chose, but the text was lengthier, and therefore, reduced the size of the pictures.

Other books illustrated by Michael Emberley:

Dinosaurs, Ruby, The Present, Happy Birthday, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Ruby and the Sniffs, Go, Go Maria, Hello, Benny and more.

Art Medium used: water colors and pastels

Students can understand how the art medium is created by: Go to Michael Emberley's website to the question and answer segment. He discusses his tools and how he uses them. Students may want to experiment with water colors and pastels or trying the wash technique.

The medium was chosen to convey the meaning of the story because: The colors of the characters are in bright, contrasting hues such as the personalities of the two sides of the story. Yet, they do not completely repel each other. The colors represent the theme of the book.