

Storywraps - wrap your mind and heart around a good story!

Words, books, adventures, excitement, fun! Come enjoy the experiences wrapped up in good story. Get carried away and let your imagination cause you to dream again.

Hi,

Please feel welcome on this blog as we encourage and share our favourite children's storybooks. Kids books are not just for kids but adults too can indulge in the wit, humor, and awesome illustrations that are portrayed in a good book. Storywraps wants to make a difference in a child's life by introducing him/ her to fabulous literature. Reading together creates a special bond between a loving, caring adult and their very special child. An adult who cares enough to pass the skills and love of reading on to the next generation will be empowered to do so here. Our story begins with you.....and your child's story begins at home!

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Spartan & The Green Egg - a book review

About Me



 **Marilyn Panton**

I am a reading specialist and consultant. My passion is to share great children's



"My test of a good novel is dreading to begin the last chapter."

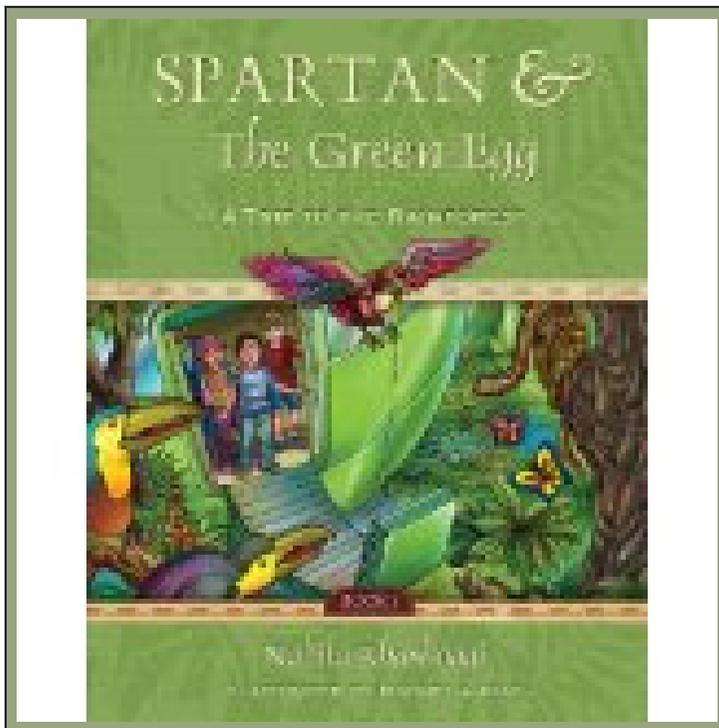
~ Thomas Helm

Title: Spartan & The Green Egg (A Trip to the Rainforest)

Author: Nabila Khashoggi

Illustrator: Manuel Cadag

Ages; 6-12



picture books with kids all all ages (adults too). It is not only necessary for kids to have the skill of reading but also the love of reading. It is truly a selfish occupation because I really love what I do and it feeds the "little girl" in me to be surrounded by these awesome treasures captured between the covers of endless miles of books. My blog is an extension, an overflow really, of what I am personally enjoying and I delight in passing these finds on to you for your reading pleasure. I am always inspired and astounded at the creativity and talent of those writing and illustrating their stories. My mantra is read on and read always. Sometimes though I must admit, I want to run away and join Cirque de Soleil! Dream on...

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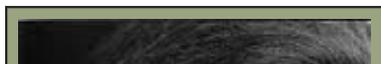
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This book is written in graphic novel style which will certainly appeal to an older reader. The main characters are young, savvy and very adventurous. They team up and use their imaginations to contact alien explorers who begin communicating with them. An egg-shaped spaceship that is itself an organic alien being, is the vessel through which the communication takes place. Spartan, his three friends, and his dog, Grimm are transported to the Amazon Rainforest where they come in contact with two local village kids, Yara and Juma, who they quickly befriend. "The Egg" as he wants to be called, provides futuristic technology and gadgets so the team is able to understand and solve problems much more quickly.

The locals invite the team to swim and hang out with them in their village. They feast on scrumptious food, dance into the night and meet the Shaman of the tribe. After all the excitement they need to go to sleep. During that sleep the Shaman sends them a dream to let them know the truth about what is actually going on in the Rainforest and the looming destruction and possible extinction of all the plants and animals found there. When the team wakes up they discover they all have had the same dream, a nightmare really, that needs their immediate intervention to help solve this impending crisis. If the Rainforest is to be saved for future generations to enjoy they must make a valiant effort to stop the devastation and destruction that is now taking place. The courageous group nobly rise to the occasion and succeed in getting a warning out to the perpetrators and a message of hope back to the villagers. Feeling successful they find it time to return back to their homes. Their new village friends show their gratitude by giving gracious gifts and kind words, even inviting them back for a return visit. Spartan and his team are overjoyed to have had a part to play in this very honourable and necessary cause. They board the egg spaceship and fly off...destination... home.

The illustrations in the book are colourful, vibrant, expressive and beautifully detailed. The pictures add so much life and personality to the story and are so well executed. Like I mentioned before, older kids will like the comic-book/graphic novel style set up of the book. As a former teacher I would have used this book as an enrichment tool when I taught a unit on the Rainforest. This would be a perfect add on for reluctant readers or kids who are turned off or intimidated by stilted textbooks. The book contains a lot of facts and knowledge regarding the Rainforest and the information is introduced in the more relaxed and relatable form. You will enjoy this book and I know there are more coming for you to check out.

About the Author:



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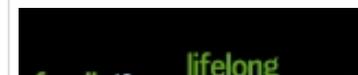


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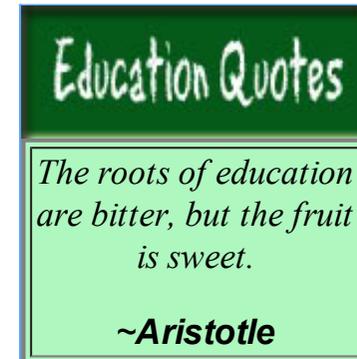
The 15 minute solution - teaching kids to read





from the heart

Education Quotes



Nabila Khashoggi's Bio

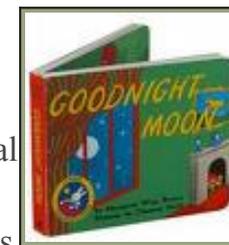
Nabila Khashoggi - Actress, Author, and Businesswoman

Nabila Khashoggi currently lives in New York, where she writes, develops her upcoming natural cosmetic line, and raises money for various projects. Ms. Khashoggi was raised in Beirut and went to school in England, France, and Switzerland before joining her father at Triad Commercial Corporation and Al-Nasr Trading. As Vice President, Nabila Khashoggi organized financing and marketing for a Russian commercial fleet and integrated agricultural complexes in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

In 1983, Nabila Khashoggi co-founded Infoplex, a system of computerized portals designed specifically for travelers. Available in hotels and airports, Infoplex's rich information bank gave tourists and business travelers access to reservations in the United States and Europe well before the advent of the Internet. In 1984, Ms. Khashoggi began working with her brother Khalid on a real estate development venture. In this role, she developed and marketed properties in Spain, France, England, the United States, and Korea. Her other projects included management of a Kenyan tourist camp and the distribution and financing of mobile hospital units and medical equipment.

Additionally, Nabila Khashoggi has garnered recognition as an actress. She has appeared in television series, films, and theatre productions, including a lauded performance of John Cargill's one-woman play Everything in

The best good night book



Still #1 best seller

the Garden.

Throughout her career, Nabila Khashoggi has maintained involvement with a number of nonprofit organizations. She served as Director of the Khashoggi Foundation, facilitating grants and funding to underserved children and families in the Middle East. Today, she continues her charitable work with The Children for Peace (ONLUS), a nongovernmental organization co-founded by her stepmother and based in Rome, Italy.



Book review rating: 8 (Fantastic!)

Read on and read always.

Posted by [Marilyn Panton](#) at 10:55 AM [0 comments](#)



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Tuesday, July 9, 2013

My Bag and Me - book review



Stories under the stars!



Books illuminated

Green is Beautiful!



Start today to share your "green" values

Word dreaming



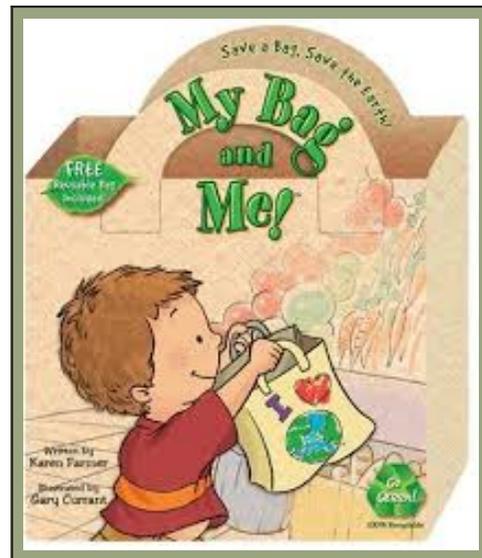
pen to paper....words and ideas
flowing...heaven

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" "Books let us into their souls and lay open to us the secrets of our own."

~William Hazlitt

Title: My Bag and Me
Author: Karen Farmer
Illustrator: Gary Carrant
Ages: 2-preschool



I ran across this book in my travels and was thrilled with the message and packaging. It is a larger format of a board book and the message teaches your child about being eco-friendly by reusing, reducing and recycling. The book is 100% recyclable itself. Somewhere between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year. On the other hand, notes the Sierra Club, a sturdy, reusable bag only needs to be used 11 times to have a lower environmental impact than using 11 disposable plastic bags. The book promotes the love of our earth and introduces young children to how they can be good stewards of their planet even at a very young age and prevent further damage one bag at a time. The neatest thing is that tucked inside the back of the book is a "free" reusable Tyvek shopping bag that your child can take on his next shopping excursion. What a creative and fun idea! Your child will be thrilled to take this "surprise" to the grocery store and be part of making his world a much better place in which to live.

Let's face it , with names like Farmer and Currant (both very ecologically friendly names) how can this endeavour go awry? This book is a perfect gift to give too!!





On being green.....



When you were a kid, did the word “green” conjure images of Kermit sitting on a log singing about the difficulties of fitting in? Or perhaps it brought to mind Dr. Seuss’s timeless classic about the questionably colored eggs and ham.

Chances are if you ask your child what he thinks of the “green” movement, he’ll surprise you with his knowledge of the topic. Like any other major media message, kids are being inundated with information on the need to protect the environment.

“It’s important for parents to help kids sift through all the information to find real ways they can make a difference, even at a very tender age,” says Karen Farmer, a children’s book author and environmentalist. “Kids can really feel empowered by participating in the green movement, and

they'll be establishing environmentally conscious habits that will sustain them their whole lives.”

Here are some practical tips on nurturing the budding environmentalist in your children:

- **Bag it.** Teaching youngsters to choose reusable cloth bags for shopping not only makes environmental sense, it could be preparing them for a world in which plastic shopping bags are no more.

Communities around the world are banning the use of plastic shopping bags, which take approximately 1,000 years to decompose. Each year 500 billion plastic bags are used around the world, and the costs of bags given away “free” by retailers can top \$4 billion annually.

- **Teach conservation.** “If they’re old enough to wash their hands on their own, kids are old enough to learn how to conserve water,” says Farmer.

Parents should teach children to turn off the tap while brushing their teeth, and keep the water flow to a pencil-thin stream when washing their hands. As soon as they’re old enough to safely stand in a shower stall and lather up on their own, toddlers transition from baths to showers.

- **Reach for recycling perfection.** Children can learn what items regularly used in their homes can be recycled, from soft drink cans and milk bottles to detergent jugs and spaghetti sauce jars. Toddlers and preschoolers can participate in separating and grouping recyclables. Elementary school children can help with washing items and removing labels. Older kids can even get involved with volunteer groups that clean litter throughout the community and recycle trash found on the roadside.

Courtesy of ARAcontent



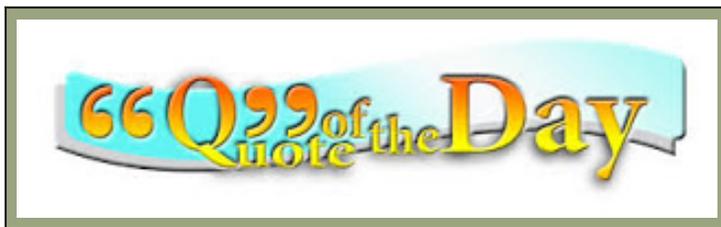
Book review rating: 8 (Fantastic!)

Read on and read always!

Posted by [Marilyn Panton](#) at 9:49 AM [0 comments](#)

Monday, July 8, 2013

There's Going To Be A Baby - a review



"A book is like a garden carried in the pocket."

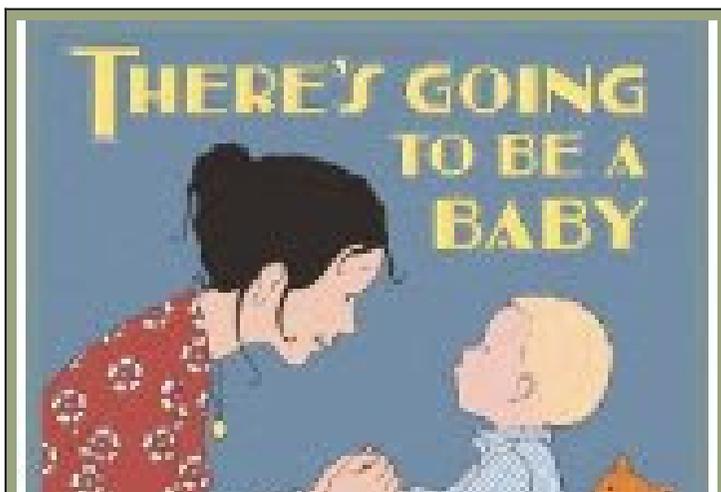
~Chinese Proverb

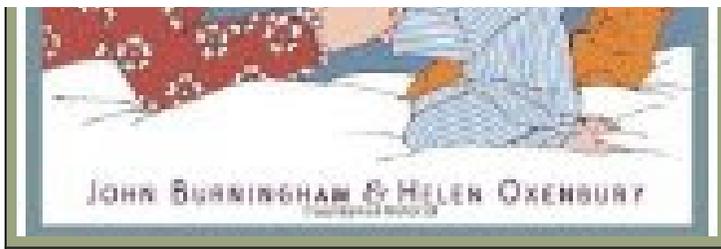
Title: There's Going to Be a Baby

Author: John Burningham

Illustrator: Helen Oxenbury

Ages: 3-7





I loved this book. It shows sensitivity, wit, humour and the illustrations are magnificent. This is the first ever collaboration between two greats from the world of children's literature. The text by John Burningham walks us through six months or so of a loving mother telling her son that a new sibling is on the way. During this gestation period they talk of when the baby will arrive, what the baby might be when he/she grows up and these discussions strengthen the already existing bond between them.

The mother's words are captured in pale blue while the little boy's words are in dark blue. The mother's ideas prompt her little boy to imagine what the future might be like. Their ponderings are captured by comical comic-book-like illustrations. Many precious discussions occur between the two, and when the baby finally does arrive the little boy boards a bus with his grandfather to go to the hospital to meet his new sibling. His final words to his Grandpa as he is walking towards his mother's hospital room are, "Grandad, the baby will be our baby." "We're going to love the baby, aren't we?" This book is highly recommended and represents children's literature at its best.

[Check out these related themes for:](#)

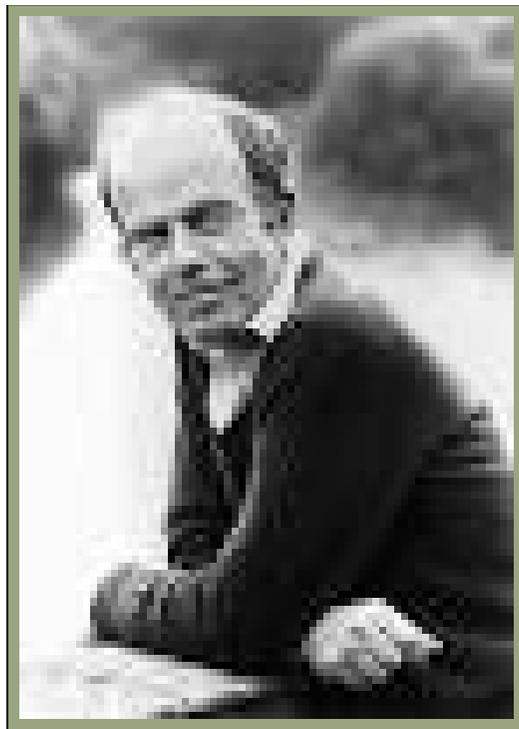
Toddler: We Have A Baby by Cathryn Falwell, Our New Baby by Rebecca Finn

Preschoolers: Will there be a Lap for Me? by Dorothy Corey, When the New Baby Comes I'm Moving Out by Martha Alexander, Happy Birth Day by Robie H. Harris, Hello Baby by Mem Fox and Steve Jenkins

Preschool: School Age: A Place for Ben by Jeanne Titherington, Pinky and Rex and the New Baby Baby by James Howe

Related Videos: [Author's Baby](#) [Sesame Street: A New Baby in My Home](#)

[About the Author:](#)



John Burningham is an English author and illustrator of children's books, especially picture books for young children. He lives in north London with his wife Helen Oxenbury, another illustrator. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: April 27, 1936 (age 77), [Farnham, United Kingdom](#)

Spouse: [Helen Oxenbury](#)

Education: [Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design](#)

Movies: [Granpa](#)

Awards: [Kate Greenaway Medal](#)

[About the Illustrator:](#)





Helen Gillian Oxenbury is an English author and illustrator of picture books. She lives in North London with her husband John Burningham, another children's literature author and illustrator. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: 1938, [Ipswich, United Kingdom](#)

Spouse: [John Burningham](#)

Awards: Kate Greenaway Medal, Nestlé Smarties Book Prize



Book review rating: 9 (Close to perfection!)

Read on and read always!

Posted by [Marilyn Panton](#) at 8:46 AM [0 comments](#)



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...



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- Peter Rabbit

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