

Scranimals



Synopsis

We're sailing to Scranimal Island, It doesn't appear on most maps.... Scranimal Island is where you will find the fragrant Rhinoceroses, the cunning Broccolions, and if you are really, really lucky and very, very quiet, you will spot the gentle, shy Pandaffodil. (You may even hear it yawning if the morning's just begun, watch its petals slowly open to embrace the rising sun. So put on your pith helmet and prepare to explore a wilderness of puns and rhymes where birds, beasts, vegetables, and flowers have been mysteriously scrambled together to create creatures you've never seen before -- and are unlikely to meet again! Your guides -- Jack Prelutsky, poet laureate of the elementary school set, and two-time Caldecott Honor artist Peter Sis -- invite you to join them on an adventure you will never forget! Ages 4+

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Poet Jack Prelutsky again pairs up with two-time Caldecott Honor artist Peter Sís to create Scranimal Island, a fantastical, off-the-map place inhabited by unusual animals from Hippopotamushrooms to Potatoads to a pride of Broccolions. A boy and girl on a scooter, equipped with essentials from umbrella to inner tube, fly from habitat to habitat over Sís's dreamy, mountainous landscapes -- la Tibet: Through the Red Box. They make their way through the clutch of Spinachickens, past the Camelberta Peaches to the "Sweet Porcupineapple, / Unflappable chap, / You happily amble / All over the map." Prelutsky's biological inventions are as clever as they are

silly, and it's wonderful that kids are allowed to figure out the hybrid themselves in Rhinoceros, Cardinalbacore, etc. Prelutsky's glee is contagious, and kids will get a kick out of the wordplay in poems like "Oh Sleek Bananaconda": "You slither on your belly, / And you slither on your chin. / You're only unappealing / As you shed your slinky skin." Pronunciation guides for each creature garnish each page, in case you can't pronounce Toucanemones right off the bat, and an iconic guide to the island's animals adorns the table of contents page. Gorgeous endpapers reveal SÃ's map of Scranimal Island and its curious denizens. It's impossible to pick a favorite, between the unbelievably cute Pandaffodil and the detested Radishark. Highly recommended. (Ages 6 to 10)
--Karin Snelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The masters of madcap are at it again. This time, Prelutsky and Sis (The Dragons Are Singing Tonight) head off on safari to Scranimal Island, an exotic spot full of odd hybrid creatures just ripe for their devious brand of silliness. Whether tracking a caravan of Camelberta Peaches ("All have humpy, bumpy backs, Stocked with water, juice, and snacks, So the creatures never need Wonder where to drink or feed"), avoiding the clutches of the dread Radishark ("Its appalling, bulbous body Is astonishingly red, And its fangs are sharp and gleaming In its huge and horrid head") or spying on the Bananaconda ("How sinuous and sly you are, How slippery, how yellow"), they scramble up a smorgasbord of flora and fauna. Prelutsky tweaks language with his characteristic glee, wedging in plenty of humor ("Poor Avocadodos, Ungainly and green, You're gone from today's Biological scene") and, as always when Sis is on board, his exquisite artistry raises the bar, adding depth to Prelutsky's light verse. Plying his trademark delicate line and crosshatching, Sis sets off the fantastic creatures against spare, expansive vistas, investing the muted ink-and-watercolor illustrations with a quizzically visionary style. A pair of brightly clad young explorers lurk at the edge of each scene, adding a droll visual grace note. All ages. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Jack Prelutsky books have become a special bond between my 6 year old son and I. He has this book, Behold the Umbrellaphant, and Stardines, and we both love the silly poetry. We both also like music, so the rhythm of the poems is fun as we can almost sing it. He loves the wackiness and thoroughly enjoys the pictures. The silly names of the animals are fun for him to try and sound out, so not only is it fun for me to read to him, but he also is learning about words as he reads it to me, without even realizing it. I'd buy any book by Prelutsky and recommend them for anyone with children of any age (my 10 year old daughter loves them as well).

I made it 5 stars because when I put one star it wouldn't let me post it. In the description it claimed to have slight notations, did not realize that "slight notations" meant long notes written on almost every page. I'm very disappointed in this, although it was very cheap I guess I should've expected something like this. I will not be purchasing from this buyer again.

I was intrigued and amused to see another reviewer say her children were obsessed with "Scranimals" -- because that's the same reaction we got with our kid! Jack Prelutsky evidently knows the secret of how to captivate children, especially when teamed up with illustrators like Peter Sis. Nearly every Prelutsky book that enters our home gets the same treatment: fascination, amusement, and above all, lots of reading and re-reading. One might say that this is not Prelutsky's most ingenious work, since it's basically a single concept stretched out into a series of variations, not all of which are equally clever. But there's more to it than that. The illustrations are compelling and fun. And much of the poetry is more highly-crafted than one might expect, given the silly first impression the book makes. A great example is the description of the "Bananaconda" (that word alone always makes ME laugh!) in which the author slathers syllabent syllables in silly sequences. I took the opportunity to point out to our first-grader how a poet describes things differently than other kinds of writers. I then read it aloud to demonstrate that point, simply by extending each of the syllables on the page. At that point, most kids can make the connection between the sound of the words, and their understanding of "S" as the sound made by a snake -- something many of them learn in preschool, if not earlier. And of course those words were written ABOUT a snake. For a kid to learn that words can have multiple layers of meaning, and to learn that concept at such an early age... well, that's really something. And Prelutsky is one of the best at delivering that kind of depth, even when combined with utter silliness. In short, Scranimals is definitely a worthy addition to any child's collection, at nearly any age.

Love this book! My 4 yr old asks me to read from it every night. since they are standalone poems you get to decide how much you want to read.

Thank you.

My son loves this book. Such a silly mix up of animals and food, with very catchy rhymes. My 3.5 yr old has most of them memorized and does not tire of hearing them again and again. It has also

helped to broaden his vocabulary. So happy I had it in hardcover, the first time I looked for it, a few months back, I could only find paperback.

My kids love this book. Peter Sis' illustrations are so timeless and amazing, and the poems are wonderful. This book truly will exercise the imagination. Every page takes you to a new, fantastical (and somewhat eerie) setting that is a joy to explore. The creatures will become part of your kids' world forever (my kids like to pretend they are a radishark chasing me in the pool). It would be great for a school teacher to use in a classroom setting for a poetry unit or for a lesson about make-believe creatures. My kids have loved it from the moment they could sit up and it is interesting enough for an adult. To me, this is a must for any children's book collection.

I read this book to my kids when they were younger and they loved it. Now I have a grandson I've begun reading it to him also. When I hear my children reading to him they read it in exactly the same way. Love it. Them feels.

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