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*Jonah Winter , Calef Brown (Illustrator)*

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Gertrude

is Gertrude

**is Gertrude**

**is Gertrude.** And Alice is Alice.

And Gertrude and Alice are Gertrude and Alice.

And you are welcome to join them for tea. But beware, for there you will find a bear in a chair, just barely scary. And here is a beard with a man attached to it. And then, of course, some words might appear, uninvited , but delighted in spite of their lightbulbs. But, but, but, but - that doesn't make any sense! Yes!

In a story inspired by the oh-so-modern groundbreaking writing of Gertrude herself, not a lot makes sense. Even so, the oh-so-popular author Jonah Winter, and the ever-so-popular illustrator Calef Brown, and the *most* popular poodle of all time, Basket, invite you to enter the whimsical world of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas.

## Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude Details

Date : Published February 10th 2009 by Atheneum Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9781416940883

Author : Jonah Winter , Calef Brown (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Biography, Art, Lgbt, Nonfiction

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## **From Reader Review Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude for online ebook**

### **Gabrielle Blockton says**

Date: October 14th, 2014

Author: Jonah Winter; Illustrated by Calef Brown

Title: Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude

Plot: Jonah Winter's picture-book biography focuses on Parisian writer and art-loving Gertrude Stein and her fabulous Parisian life that consisted of socializing with the finest modern-art artists and associating with various and prominent members of the fine and literature art scene.

Setting: Paris (Historic)(Before WW1)

Characters: Gertrude Stein, Alice, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Ernest Hemingway

Point-of-Views: Third-Person

Theme: No theme is indicated

Style: Picture-book; Style of writing is repetitive, playful, and childlike; Historical non-fiction

Copyright: 2009

Notes: I did some research on Gertrude Stein because I had no idea who she was. From what I read from the online source, she was a writer known for her repetitive and often childlike way of writing. She had a lot of influence in the art world during the time of Picasso and Hemingway. Her "friend" Alice, as portrayed in this book was in fact her life partner in real life. I know that young readers who may not know Gertrude Stein may think that "Alice" is a best friend character, when in fact they were romantic partners. I can see this book being a problem for some parents if I placed this in my library, but depending on where I work, if the school district is less conservative and have more liberal views, I don't see why having a book that features a woman ahead of her time would be a problem.

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### **Courtney says**

A catchy story about Gertrude Stein and all the people she knew (including Pablo Picasso and Ernest Hemingway). This would be great to read aloud.

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### **Amanda says**

2.5

## Heather says

"[Pablo Picasso] just invented Modern art which is not the same thing as being angry but then again maybe it is."

I mean, fair.

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## David Schaafsma says

"Pages and pages and pages with words all over the pages. My goodness, what fun. What fun to write whatever words occur."

This is a picture book biography of modernist (and lesbian!) writer Gertrude Stein, written to echo her nonsensical, repetitive style. Matisse, Hemingway, Picasso and others knew her in Paris, so they kind of float through the book, which is whimsical and brightly-colored and pretty fun and confusing. Not sure who the audience is. I have a feeling it is more for adults that know her work and expatriate Paris in the twenties than kids.

"You see Miss Gertrude is a genius. And a genius is a genius. So what if no one understands a word she writes. Some day they might."

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## Mark Victor Young says

Very repetitive - on purpose! Borrowing Gertrude Stein's writing style for a children's book about Stein's life in Paris was a neat little trick. The visuals were likewise superb and my daughter and I enjoyed this very much. Great to read aloud.

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## Kris Dersch says

I'll admit: it's not easy to read.

I'll admit: neither is the work of Gertrude Stein.

To try to write the story of her life and to do so in the style of her writing is a feat not many writers would take on.

This one did it well.

Featured on the No Extra Words podcast, episode 110.

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## Cheryl says

Ok, I know of Gertrude and Alice, but I'm not familiar with Stein's work. All I know is A Rose is a Rose..., and that is here, obviously, and Pigeons in the Grass, Alas, which I say to myself every time I see that scene, which is not included here. So, a star off for not including my favorite. (My review, my whim, indulge me.)

I really liked the page spread that mentioned Matisse that actually reminded us of his style by showing us some bits of some of his work. And I like that this focuses on the playful and childlike aspects of her work. I would like a bibliography of other introductions to her work; the brief author's note included expects us to jump right into Stein's own books and I'm not ready....

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### **Maman Francaise says**

My grand-daughter thought this book was so funny, but I thought it was hard to understand.

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### **Viviane Elbee says**

This is a biography about the writer Gertrude Stein, written in her nonsensical, repetitive style. She organized large parties with famous artists and authors (like Matisse, Hemingway, Picasso) so these figures make an appearance in the book.

This book is not for everyone. It is probably most interesting for fans of Gertrude Stein and modern art. It will also appeal to children who love nonsensical phrases.

Many children, even those in upper elementary and junior high, will probably find the whole book confusing.

However, my 6 year old niece loved this book. She re-read it by herself 3 times and then insisted on acting it out, while giggling over the nonsensical phrases. There's a bear in this chair! And a rose is a rose is a rose. Thank you for this cow.

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### **Emily says**

"You see Miss Gertrude is a genius. And a genius is a genius. So what if no one understands a word she writes. Some day they might."

Love Gertrude. This picture book made me miss college.

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### **Anna says**

Jonah Winter's picturebook biographies seem to be a bit divisive, with a population of readers saying that they lack the content they should have to be reliable narratives of the subject's life. These people definitely have a point, but Winter is quite straightforward when he takes creative license with his subjects' lives, and it's not his fault that his books are classified as biographies. He has a true genius for relating an artist's life in

a way that echoes their life and spirit, and the spirit that motivated their art. *Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude* is a perfect example. It makes very little sense, but it makes absolutely perfect nonsense, just like Gertrude Stein herself. The last page is my favorite. "Thank you for this cow" indeed. All books should end in random expressions of gratitude for farm animals.

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## Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

Thoughts:

Go ahead and call it a children's picture book, but I think you are wrong; the children I read this book to looked at me in bewilderment. It looks like a picture book. It reads like a picture book. But reading it to young children is like asking junior high students to read *Great Expectations*; it can be read, but it should be saved for those old enough to really appreciate it.

I loved it. It would probably be among my top picks for best nonfiction picture book. It's bright and colorful. The text mimics the style of the subject, poet Gertrude Stein. It's funny.

As Gertrude Stein might say, A picture book is a picture book is a picture book is a picture book. But sometimes it's not.

A Sample:

"Talk talk talk talk. Laugh laugh. More talk.

Laugh. Okay. Enough.

And now it's time for tea.

Teatime is teatime.

And look who's here,

in time for tea.

It's Pablo Picasso the Spanish artist.

Pablo Picasso looks so angry but no.

Pablo Picasso is Pablo

Picasso.

He just invented Modern art

which is not the same thing as being angry

but then again maybe it is.

Maybe it is

and maybe it isn't.

Then again maybe it is.

It's so hard to invent

Modern art.

Maybe it is

and

maybe it isn't.

Maybe."

Children's Comments:

Sydney, 6, said, "Never want to read. It's wacky."

Vanessa, 6, said, "It's weird because they have a dog named Basket."

Joey, 6, said, "The title was weird."

Jony, 6, said, "The bear was in a chair!"

Children's Ratings: 3, 1, 4, 1, 3, 4, 5, 2

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## Shel says

Winter, J. (2009). *Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

141694088X

*Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude* is a biographical picturebook written in the style of, and about, Gertrude Stein. This is a book that needs a lot of background information to get completely. Also, because of its prose style, a teacher will need to read this book aloud multiple times (or encourage rereading) to help students get the meaning. (Of course, there's nothing wrong with just sharing the book for enjoyment of the words and the way they flow either. It all depends on your goal for the day)

With some beautiful lines, this book would be great to accompany sharing some of Stein's writing.

The illustrations are fun and colorful and compliment the text well. They help to provide a sense of fun and play with perspective.

Activities to do with the book:

After sharing this book, a teacher could encourage students to write freely, whatever thoughts go through their heads.

There are a number of ways a teacher could use this book with larger individual or group projects. A teacher could assign research papers or presentations based on Modernism and the artists and writers of the school (including Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, Ernest Hemingway, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso), their art and the historic events.

While this book could be used with a number of age groups, if a teacher chooses to share it with the upper grades, at least a few students will assume the unseen narrator is on drugs and the teacher will have to challenge students to think more deeply.

Also, if any teachers out there happen to be as nerdy as me, he or she may want to try having a tea party after sharing this book by taking an hour to two to have the students go to the school library or other homey school space, dress in period clothes (maybe for extra credit) talk about literature and art of the period and maybe even read Stein's poems and others' works aloud in small groups.

Favorite Quotes:

"And now it's time for tea. Teatime is teatime. And look who's here, in time for tea."

"Pages and pages and pages with words all over the pages. My goodness, what fun. What fun to write whatever words occur."

"You see Miss Gertrude is a genius. And a genius is a genius. So what if no one understands a word she writes. Some day they might."

For more of my reviews, visit [sjkessel.blogspot.com](http://sjkessel.blogspot.com).

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## David says

What's that you say? There aren't enough children's books about experimental lesbian writers from the modernist period? Well, Jonah Winter and Calef Brown have felt your pain and are rushing to the scene with an analgesic salve known as *Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude*, a picture book dedicated to the life and times of Gertrude Stein. (Can a William Gaddis coloring book be far behind? Hold your breath for that one, kiddies.) Stein's questionable politics and her penchant for muff-diving are gracefully skipped over in favor of (suitably whimsical) details about her Paris salon and the writers and painters she influenced, championed, and badgered, in equal measure. The writer Jonah Winter seems to have set two goals—to celebrate artistic creativity in all of its anarchic abandon and to loosely mimic Stein's characteristic writing style. While he succeeds at the first, his sentences certainly lack Stein's musical rhythms. Gertrude Stein is, after all, the gertrudesteiniest person in town—so woe betide the pretenders who dabble in her unique wordsmithery. They wind up sounding as parodic and off-course as Peter Brady's Bogie. ('Porkchops... and apple sauce... Isn't that swell?') But all in all, it's an immensely satisfying means of indoctrination for liberal arts parents who want to cut Dora the Explorer off at the pass. For Christ sake, let your little ones' first lesbian be Gertrude and not Ellen! [*Thanks, Tommie. You're my number one tomato.*]

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