



## Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise

*Sean Taylor , Jean Jullien (Illustrations)*

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Hoot Owl is no ordinary owl – oh no! – he’s a master of disguise! And he will use his expert camouflage powers to trick his unsuspecting prey into succumbing to him! Tiny animals of the night ... beware! But, somehow, Hoot Owl's prey keeps escaping... Hmm, perhaps he isn't quite as masterful as he believes. Will he ever succeed in catching himself some dinner?

## Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise Details

Date : Published February 10th 2015 by Candlewick Press (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN : 9780763675783

Author : Sean Taylor , Jean Jullien (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 48 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Storytime, Humor, Funny

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## From Reader Review Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise for online ebook

### Amy Layton says

This book was super super cute. Our fourth graders loved it!

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### Christine, says

This is fun to read to a group too. Hoot Owl is hungry and disguises himself to catch his dinner. However, each of his disguises fail, and he keeps trying until he finally gets to eat...a pizza. I love the humor, repetition, and vegetarian ending. Kids learn a little bit more about owls and the plot development is spot on and engaging. The illustrations are simple and big.

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### Mathew says

There is so much that I adore about this little picturebook. I like the compact, almost square size which is a little unusual in picturebooks as well as the little owl himself who's like a little painted egg with overly large eyes and a tiny, rather insignificant-looking beak. The book as a whole is near-perfect in terms of picturebook format with a mutual (and I would say respectful) balance between words and pictures. Sean Taylor is an accomplished writer and illustrates himself but I am overjoyed that it was Jean Jullien's who illustrated this book (please visit his instagram site). Neither artist or illustrator steal the limelight. Instead, there is a respected partnership.

The first page introducing Hoot Owl, as he peeks from the bottom right corner of the page to warn the reader of an impending attack is humorous in itself and is an insight, perhaps, into the almost Milne-esque approach to this character. Here we have, as Hoot tells us, an owl who is known to be wise yet throughout the book, he over-complicates his methods for hunting his foes, taking an almost Looney Tunes approach to ensnaring, and failing, in the capture of his meals through various over-the-top disguises (much to the amusement of his prey).

The book is a series of lovely, dark double-page spreads with Hoot Owl swooping through the night (as black as burnt toast) 'as quick as a shooting star' and 'like a wolf in the air'. As the story progresses, his disguises and methods of trying to catch the various animals as well as the language used to describe his movement from page to page become more absurd and nonsensical yet remain within an effortlessly poetic repeating rhythm with Hoot Owl constantly swooping to the right inviting us to turn the page just as the text does: Text and image working together in harmony :)

The fact that the only prey he manages to capture using his various disguises happens to be an italian-sausage-flavoured pizza only adds to the humour and joy of the story. (It seems that no animals, not even Hoot Owl's self-esteem) were harmed during the making of this book.

Hoot Owl is wholly endearing in his language and appearance: how anyone could not find his 'ornamental birdbath' disguise hilarious would be beyond me. More Hoot Owl adventures please!

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### Mischenko says

*Hoot Owl* by Sean Taylor is a cute picture book for children. Hoot Owl spends the entire story swooping down for prey he can't seem to catch, until...

We loved the narrator, Rick Adamson. He really makes the story spark.

*a juicy little lamb stands, helpless,  
in the cool of the night!  
The lamb looks cuddly,  
but soon I will be eating it.*

The illustrations are cute and we loved the ending.

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### **Miriam says**

Hoot Owl narrates his nighttime search for prey in cliched super-hero voice over as he spots one potential meal after another, always failing to feast upon the hapless animals due to his desire to lure them into the trap of his cunning disguises rather than swooping upon them in the standard owl manner.

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### **Angie says**

Who, oh who is Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise? He's kind of a superhero, and kind of a spy, and kind of a comedian. First I nodded in appreciation at his cleverness, then I chuckled, then I finally hooted out loud. Hooray for Hoot Owl!

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### **Hannah Higson says**

This is an enjoyable book.  
I like the irony that although Hoot Owl keeps saying that owls are wise and masters of disguise, yet owl struggles to catch any food.

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### **Noura says**

Cute lil' book with pretty illustrations that are simple and colors that compliment them perfectly.

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### **Megan Whalen says**

This book would be great for teaching figurative language to young children as the author uses lots of similes and metaphors. There's even an example or two of alliteration. Uncommon vocabulary in this book is also a plus. Words like devise, bleak, ornamental, and transform, which you don't normally see in picture books for young children, add to its effectiveness as a teaching tool. Really liked the illustration style too.

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**SarahEmily1990 says**

Hilarious book about an owl and his different disguises

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**Sherry Philippus says**

So many things I love about this book! Dry, witty humor...figurative language that is easy to understand (this could be an outstanding mentor text for similes and metaphors)...bold, funny pictures that complement but don't overshadow the text. Love it and can't wait to share it. Some of the more advanced vocabulary will have to be explained (i.e. "ornamental birdbath"), but that's how kids learn! 4.5 stars

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**Helen White says**

Hoot owl was great. He is indeed a master of disguise - his best effort being an ornamental bird bath. Genius.

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**Grg says**

I had never seen a noir picture book before.

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**KC says**

A silly story of an owl that's trying to disguise himself in order to "catch" dinner. Illustrations are reminiscent of Bryon Barton.

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**Charlie says**

The pictures really save this book! I enjoyed the plot twist at the end of trying to catch a pizza, however, I was not a fan of the books sentence structures and its half attempt of rhyme? the pictures, however, were beautiful and funny. I enjoy the cartoon-style and the attention to detail.

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