



People

Blexbolex (Creator)

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Mother and father, dancers and warriors, gardener and farmer, hypnotist and genie. . . . All sorts of people appear in *People*, linked together in ways that begin to emerge page after page. Real, mythic, and imaginary types inhabit this extraordinary, gorgeously rendered world, referring to each other through form and function. Like Blexbolex's earlier book *Seasons*, this is a conceptual book, where the connections between the images are both clear and subtle.

Stunningly illustrated with retro-looking silkscreened images, *People* is a sumptuously produced volume, with a lavishly illustrated jacket that folds out into a poster. The manner of the realization and the quality of the book are so strong that *People* (as did *Seasons*) serves to remind us once again what a book can be at its very best.

Seasons was a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book of 2010 and a Best Book of the Year for *School Library Journal*.

People Details

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ISBN : 9781592701100

Author : Blexbolex (Creator)

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Cheryl says

My edition gives the Caucasians ugly pink skin. I don't find the art style appealing, and I do find many of the images dated and/or stereotypical almost to the point of being offensive.

Nor is it a book, even though it is shaped like one.

It's an odd little work of art, or it's a game that could be called "Call the Relationship." I almost said 'guess' instead of 'call' but for a lot of the connections there is no one right answer.

If your library bought it, check it out. Otherwise, don't fret if you don't want to buy it, as imo it's not that special.

Kelly says

There are many types of people, and this book attempts to introduce them.

Allie says

Another minimal, beautiful children's book from Blexbolex; but one that I can't really recommend. The book is structured as pairings of people, meant to juxtapose something about one with the other. Some of the associations are visual or superficial, others are quite deep. However there were only really about a third of the pairings that I liked. The second third I didn't like (boring, stereotypical, or racist!), and there was about a third of them that I don't think I got. Read Seasons because it's way more interesting and way less fraught.

Jim Erikson says

This was so much fun! Blexbolex continually sets us up to switch on us. Construction and deconstruction over and over. You think it's going to be the basic "there are people of all shapes and sizes and colors" kind of book, and then suddenly: CORPSE, RETIREE. Blexbolex is in control of the juxtaposition on every spread, but uses it differently in waves. Sometimes the pages are visually related (super multi modal!), and sometimes they are semantically related, and sometimes a little of both, and then sometimes NONE of these. The workup to the ending creates tension, and then there's a brilliant discussion to be had on the last page, because of all the workup. I'll be buying this one! Warning: Some daring Euro-style illustrations.

Elizabeth says

I'm really not sure who the audience is for this.

Albanie Casswell says

Qué lástima los estereotipos.

Tosh says

The cover of "People" drove me to this book. At first it looks like a great kids book - and technically it is, but alas, there is something being said here that is not obvious. Typically Blexbolex draws an image of a music "conductor" but then on the opposite page, with the same held baton he draws a "tyrant." So one starts to make comparisons between the two pages. Another example is an illustration "party goers" and the opposite page is "hermit." And so forth.

There is something very Jacques Tati about it all. It maybe due to the retro look of the book, but also the commentary on the images where one thinks there would be no commentary. "People" serves many purposes. It can be an excellent book for a second language reader, or for those who need graphic design ideas, or..... there is the textural meaning what it means to be labeled and filed in a specific manner and form. Blexbolex is working on many levels here and this is an excellent book.

Charlos says

Clever. Reads on multiple levels.

Brent Legault says

With this book, I just held it like I would hold any big-eyed mammel I'd found lost in the woods while weeping softly (at its brilliance, at my own lack of talent) and trying not to drip tears on its lovely little pages.

Joella www.cinjoella.com says

Odd book. The pairings are sometimes similar, sometimes opposites, sometimes strange. I don't know who the intended audience is. It seems like it is written simply for a young audience...but I don't believe they will always get the connection (are there only some connections?) between the two pairings of different kinds of "people".

For example some pairings are:

Puppeteer | Puppet

Team | Worker

Sleeping | Sick [pictures of two people asleep in a bed]

Hunter | Soldier [they both have guns]

Giant | Dwarf
Corpse | Retiree
Nudist | Invisible Man
Secretary | Yeti
Fairy | Marionette
Flight Attendant | Cat Burglar

Like I said...strange.

Nancy says

Bizarre and brilliant. Such pairs of people! And then the game -- what the heck are these two doing together? Sometimes it's obvious (Cop, Robber), sometimes it's through a visual thread (Station Attendant, Alien), sometimes a conceptual one (Bicyclist, Balloon Pilot). And sometimes --Secretary, Yeti -- I just don't know! Plus I wish my name were Blexbolex.

Lisa says

This book is a great way to have complicated conversations with your kids. I love the sometimes subtle juxtapositions. I didn't love the use of some terms that have negative connotations or that are considered offensive (gypsy, oddball, hunchback, etc). Executioner was a tough one to explain to my five year old!

Laura5 says

It was the art drew me to pick up this book.

This has the feel of an art book, rather than a picture book intended for young children.

That said, I sat with my 6 year old and we "read" the whole thing together.

Each page has a title and an image. He is a new reader and figured some of the words out. We read this book very slowly. I paused a bit before each page turn waiting for...

"Mom, what's a _____"

Fill in the blank with: corpse, contortionist, fugitive, vagabond, fakir, immigrant, monk, cyclops, hermit, executioner, centaur, tyrant, etc.

My 6 yr old is not a reader who gives his attention to books he is not interested in out of "readerly duty", and this book had his attention the entire time. It also sparked many interesting conversations. We looked things up when I didn't have a good way to explain something. We got out maps. And my son asked a lot of questions.

I really enjoyed the experience this book provided us.

I also liked the juxtaposition of people in the double page spreads. I didn't see the back of the book until we had finished, but it states: "All sorts of people are pictured here, linked in ways that begin to emerge page

after page."

Pairings like...

Conductor (music) / Tyrant

DJ / Chef

Contortionist / Plumber

Homeless Person / Camper

...the pairings made more thought provoking with accompanying paired images.

It would be interesting to use this book with older students with writing.

Lu Benke says

At first glance I didn't think I would like this book. I wanted to do my old style of looking quickly through to determine if/how I'd use the book in the future and move on to the next book. At a glance, it felt like a catalog of interesting but flat illustrations. Hah! Before I put it down, I came across the facing pages of NUDIST and INVISIBLE MAN and the connections, humor, layers and constantly shifting "mediating" of meaning on each set of facing pages overtook me. What fun this book would be to use with a kid where you had time to look at each page and let the associations spill out.

Dana says

A series of visually juxtaposed stereotypes that hinge on deep and superficial connections, which, when not entirely cute and benign, fluctuate remarkably from uncomfortably serious to uncomfortably trivial. So, for instance, the chef and the DJ are both mixing! The sleepwalker and the cave explorer are both walking in the dark! The moonstruck girl and the emir both have, uh.... wait. Wait. Oh! Moon symbolism! Moons, as symbols. Right. The corpse and the retiree are both, well jeez, close to the grave. The secretary and the yeti are both.... unattainable? Yikes. Basically, this book is beautiful and odd enough to suit the beautiful, odd minds of children.
