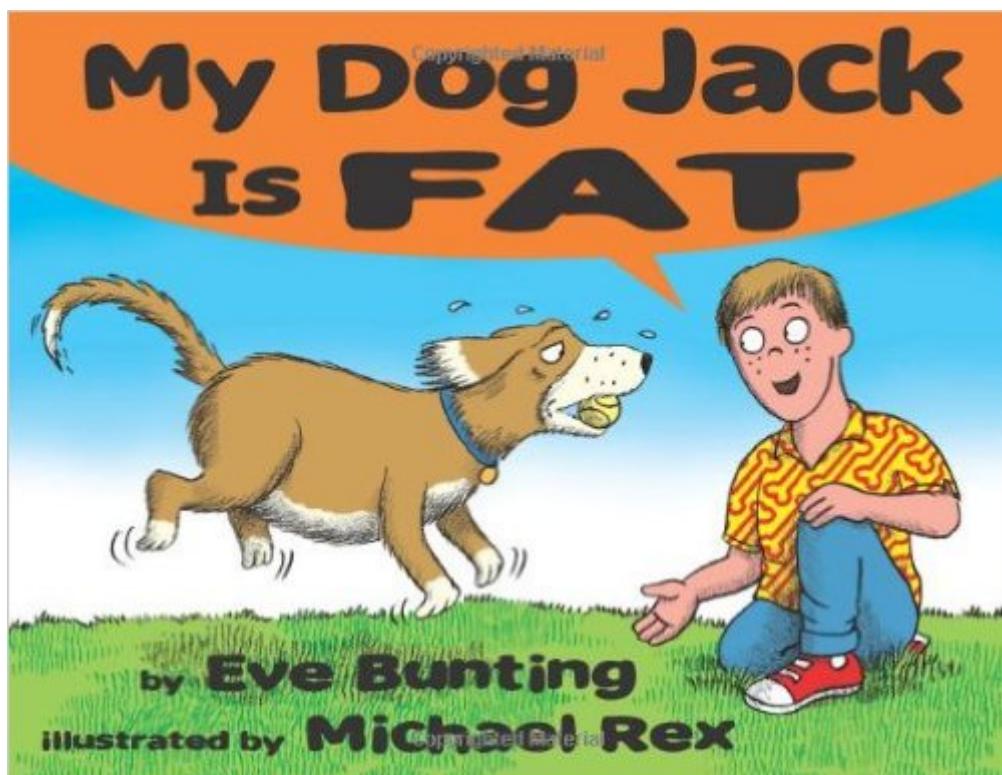


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My Dog Jack Is Fat



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Synopsis

With dialogue, thought bubbles, and colored-pencil drawings, Eve Bunting and Michael Rex have created an amusing story about staying healthy. When Carson takes his dog, Jack, to the vet for his annual check-up, he discovers that Jack is overweight. The vet gives Carson a list of things to do to help his dog lose weight. But as Jack diets, exercises, and sheds pounds, Carson snacks and gains weight. By the end of the book, Jack is thin and Carson is fat!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD300L (What's this?)

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Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 0.5 x 11 inches

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Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,369,903 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Weight #3259 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets #6947 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1st - 3rd

Customer Reviews

This is an OK book for children. It teaches a lesson in staying active, eating less and to be healthier. The book is illustrated nicely, and the text and drawings are big. The book is a nice big size, and easy for children to hold. The humans speak and the dog has thought bubbles, but they do not talk to each other. In the end, the roles are reversed with Jack losing weight, while Carson gains weight, but being true friends Jack and Carson are, they stick by each other and help each other out. It does depict the boy as sad and chubby near the end looking at himself, but this is written for very young children that I don't think they will draw the same conclusions as us self-conscious adults. But as a parent, you make the call. It's a cute book, but it's not a classic.

It's a rather bland story about a dog who is overweight and the trials & tribulations of dieting and

exercise, told at a primary grade level with equally less-than-thrilling illustrations. The end of the book finds the boy is now fat and facing the same route. It's just not a story I anticipate as holding interest very long with a youngster. It's not cute or funny, it's not rhyming, there aren't interesting illustrations...and the story is about getting Jack the dog to lose weight through diet and exercise. It's a morality tale, ala the new millenium. Unless the kid has a fat dog on a diet or is facing dieting him or herself...it's just not endearing. It doesn't even add interest by illustrating the differences between good food and junk food.

I thought that "My Dog Jack is Fat" was going to be a story about a dog - it turned into a slam against slightly chubby children. I would not read this book to a child, chubby or not, as it is simply too harsh a message. Some children in the target age are slightly chubby in preparation for a growth spurt. While this doesn't seem to be the case in this book, it takes a condemning attitude towards weight gain in general. I also don't think it is up to a vet to talk about this to a child. Also, why are we shown this child in their underwear? It is simply inappropriate and mean spirited. I don't recommend the book for any age group. I asked two other adults to read the book and asked their opinion (without giving any idea what the story was about) and both objected to the book on similar grounds.

We have a fat dog, so I thought this would be a cute way to explain to my 2 and 4 year olds why they can't feed our fat dog their people food. As we started reading I was annoyed right away. The format of the book is like a normal picture book, but the story and words jump back and forth between the narration, the kid's thoughts, and the dog's thoughts. It doesn't have much cohesion story wise. And at the end the kid who put his dog on a diet, but still continued to eat crap himself got fat-I don't disagree with this or find it offensive, I just think it's a dumb way to end the story. Overall, this will not be one that ends up in our pile of "regular reads".

It ends with the kid realizing his dog is healthy now, but he's gotten too fat himself. The incredibly simple dialogue can only lead me to believe this is aimed at children in early elementary school. Because you're never too young to be fat-shamed into an eating disorder, or a lifetime of body dysmorphia. Even discounting that, this isn't a book. There's like fifty words in the whole thing, and the drawing aren't that great. This is more of a judgmental pamphlet. You could accomplish the same effect by yelling "you're too fat!" At random children on the streets.

The idea that a young pet owner overfeeds his beloved pet is nothing new. What is a bit different

with this story disguised as a children's book is the message: that being fat is not good and one should be ashamed. Overfeeding and overeating are real problems in our society. We do have fat pets and most are simply loved to death. So when Carson takes his dog Jack to the vet and the vet tells him the dog must lose weight, Carson immediately puts the dog on an exercise regimen. Oddly, Carson is not fat in the beginning, but while Jack has to exercise, suddenly Carson is ordering his dog to get active while he is lounging around eating junk food. A month later, during Jack's follow-up visit, Jack loses the weight but Carson has put it on. Jack is there to console Carson and promises to help Carson lose the weight again. All this is nice, but the story should not have ended there. This is why I am not rating this too highly. The message is better suited for preteens but not younger children. Eating healthy and exercising are both great to do but the message could have been presented more positively.

My two-year-old saw this book at the public library and wanted to read it immediately, so we didn't even check it out before we sat down to read. It started out pretty good--a young boy, Carson, takes his dog to the vet and is told that the dog is too fat, so he'll need to go on a diet. Carson is a good dog owner, and much to Jack's dismay, curbs the pet's food servings and gets him to be more active. In the meantime, the pictures show that Carson is lounging around and eating junk food. So, while Jack is slimming down, the kid is packing on the pounds. Jack gets a good review on his next visit to the vet, but the story ends with the vet telling Jack he's fat and needs to lose some weight himself. Those aren't the exact words, but they're the exact message. And one of the final pictures in the book is of Carson (who might be chubby, but isn't huge by any means) in his underwear looking at a mirror and feeling bad. There are so many ways that we can teach our kids to eat healthy and to be active, but I just thought this book handled it rather meanly. Fortunately, when I saw which way the wind was blowing, I stopped reading aloud and let him just look at the pictures, which were cute enough except for the last one which just made me feel really, really sad for the character in the book and for any young kid who would be shamed like he was.

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