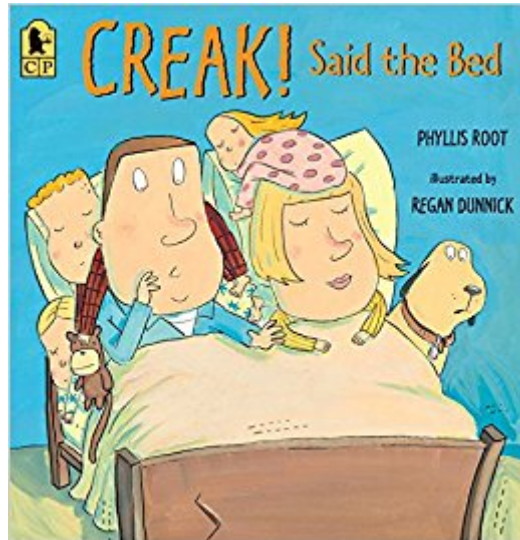




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Creak! Said The Bed



Synopsis

A stormy night, a snoring dad, a houseful of restless sleepers, and some masterfully humorous timing make this a classic read-aloud for bedtime or anytime. It's the middle of the night. Everyone's snoozing in bed when out of the darkness, a squeak goes the door. Mama's eyes fly open. Who is awake? Evie? Ivy? Little Mo? On a stormy night in a little house, only Papa keeps snoring away • snurkle, snark • unaware of the wild weather outside and the growing number of nervous bedmates within. Can nothing wake him? Creak! says the bed. . . . With a cumulative series of comical events, this delightful story sends readers barreling toward bedlam.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 2 • This cumulative tale begins on a cold, dark night when Momma and Poppa are sound asleep and snoring. The door squeaks as Evie appears, and the bed creaks as she bounces in. Ivy comes next, followed by Mo, while the door squeaks and the bed creaks. The children drape themselves over and around their parents' extra-large heads. Thunder booms and Fred the dog enters with toenails clicking and clacking. Poppa sleeps undisturbed through the children's entrances, but he wakes when the dog barks. "Up Poppa popped./Poppa cried, 'Stop!/There's no more room for Fred in the bed.'" The final spread shows the family • and

Fred is asleep on a broken bed, as the floor cracks and creaks. The full-color illustrations are done in acrylic gouache. The cartoon style is a suitable match for the humorous text, which is loaded with sounds. Frequent repetition and rhyming words make this a good choice for emergent readers. Pair this story with Audrey and Don Wood's *The Napping House* (Houghton, 1984) for a laugh-filled storytime.

Mary Jean Smith, Southside Elementary School, Lebanon, TN

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The increasingly crowded bed at nighttime or nap time is by now a standard picture-book plotline. Fresh takes on the subject are hard to come by, but Root manages to make it feel new by punctuating the story with the sounds of impending disaster. Not only does the bed frame go "creak" each time a youngster climbs onto the mattress with Mom and Dad but the door goes "squeak," the thunder goes "boom," and the dog's paws go "clickety-clackity." Meanwhile, Poppa snores and makes other humorous nighttime noises like "snark" and "snurkle." The economy of the story line is paralleled by gouache illustrations (done predominately in a saturated aqua blue and golden-moonlight yellow) that reinforce the bed-centered tale but also pull in and zoom out on its inhabitants for different perspectives. The lantern-jawed, snub-nosed family is cartoon cute, making for a perfect storytime read. Preschool-Kindergarten.

--Karen Cruze

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I teach Kindergarten and used this book to teach author's voice in writing. The kids LOVED it and began using more dialogue and action in their own writing. Awesome Book! You could use it to teach sequencing, dialogue, action, author's voice, etc...

My 2 year old LOVES LOVES LOVES this book! It could be the boom went the thunder, or that the mom kept opening 1 eye when the door opened, but she won't go anywhere without this book. We had checked this out from the library so many times, I had no choice but to buy it for her.

My kindergarteners loved this book.

Wonderful illustrations and the story is really about the way real families live. There's nothing safer or cozier than your parents' bed and nothing funnier to a kid than the bed falling apart.

Used it for read-aloud for writer's workshop as an example of small moments, personal narratives. First grade children loved it.

This book, like Root's "One Duck Stuck," plays with language and sounds to engage and involve young children. "Squeak" says the door, as each new person (or animal) wants to join the parents during a scary thunderstorm, and "Creak!" says the bed as each one plops in! Preschoolers can relate to the frightening storm, and will enjoy sharing their experiences with storms after reading the book. And they love making the squeaking and creaking sounds!

What a great book! Everyone piles in the bed, and you know that funny stuff is going to happen. Each child comes in from their room (too cold, too spooky) to get in bed with mom and dad, and when thunder booms outside, even the dog gets in the act. Every time the bedroom door opens, you get a resounding Squeak and every time a new family member jumps in bed, you get a big Creak. With the thunder that booms, and the dad that snores, it all adds up to lots of fun story time sounds that your audience is more than happy to help you with! The illustrations really add to the humour in this story; from the expressive characters to the little girl sleeping on mom's head. Everyone will appreciate the ending when the floor has the final word. This gives lots of opportunity for the reader and the audience to have fun, and is one of those story time reads that's a sure fire winner!

Our nearly-4 yr. old reads and re-reads it, enjoying its predictive nature. We're wondering if it addresses an unstated concern, too.

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