Book Review

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_Du Iz Tak?


My wife, an experienced instructional designer, gave me a little Christmas present that I accepted with great delight, _Du Iz Tak?_ Immediately, we immersed ourselves in our shared world of live-long learning and teaching. Like _Joyful Voice Poems for Two Voices_, authored by Paul Fleischman and illustrated by Eric Beddows, _Du Iz Tak?_ is a book about bugs in action. However, _Du Iz Tak?_ contains only one, richly-illustrated story.

Some animals, mostly those with jointed appendages, or arthropods, begin to wonder, in “their” author-invented own language, what can they do with the leafy, green object, a newly-germinated flowering plant? With the help of a ladder and a lot of inventiveness, the creepy creatures build a house. However, a large, villainous spider menaces their little, botanical-scafolded paradise. A much larger bird picks up the eight-legged creature and, thereafter, all is well again in happyland until the autumn and winter ensue dictating their inexorable changes.

It is up the readers to decipher what the creatures may be saying. For some of us, the illustrations also make us wonder what kind of organisms are being represented and what activities they were or are engaged in, such as munching on a leaf, mimicking a dead twig, or rolling up unto a ball. The observant reader will also note minute, time-telling changes, such as the growth of grassy blades and other plants, the appearance of a snail, the opening of a mushroom cap, the wilting of the plant, the emergence of an insect from a pupa, the serenading of the just emerged female moth by a male, and many others.

At the conclusion of _Du Iz Tak?_, the reader is left smiling as the beginning of a new spring is depicted, to cheer us and crowd of little creatures again.

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