

Book Review

Jorge A. Santiago-Blay¹

Du Iz Tak?

by Carson Ellis. 2016. Candlewick Press. Somerville, Massachusetts, USA. 48 unenumerated pages. E. B. White Read Aloud Award & Caldecott Honor Book. ISBN: 978-0-7636-6530-2 (hardbound, in English)

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-scaffolded 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 to 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.

¹ 217 Wynwood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17402 USA, E-mail: blayjorge@gmail.com