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It's Only Stanley (Irma S and James H Black Award for Excellence in Children's Literature (Awards))

By Jon Agee



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Fans of Jon Klassen and Oliver Jeffers will love this mischievously funny read-aloud from award-winning author/illustrator Jon Agee

Mysterious noises keep waking up the Wimbledon family. "That's very odd," says Mr. Wimbledon each time, but when he returns from checking on the sounds, he's always reassuring: "It's only Stanley; he's fixing the oil tank." "It's only Stanley; he's clearing the bathtub drain."

But what Stanley the dog is actually doing while his oblivious family goes back to bed is deliciously absurd: he's turning the house into a rocket ship to zoom himself and his family to another planet for an alien encounter. This is a perfect rhyming read-aloud for fans of irreverent tales like *Click Clack Moo* and *I Want My Hat Back*.



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By Jon Agee Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreS-Gr 2—Agee applies his trademark humor to a wacky new picture book, featuring Stanley, a beagle whose odd nocturnal activities keep his family from sleeping. The single-minded canine drives the Wimbledons crazy one night, howling at the moon, fixing the oil tank, repairing an old TV, and making catfish stew, before finally revealing his master plan. Written in verse, the text serves up plenty of laughs, though a few rhymes seem a bit forced ("It was late as it can get,/When Wanda heard a buzzing noise/That made her all upset."). Agee's signature cartoon style is ideal for the narrative, and the expressions of the various characters, from the endearingly eccentric, steadfast Stanley to the beleaguered Wimbledons, are simple yet endlessly entertaining. The responses of the put-upon family cat in particular will provoke plenty of giggles (for instance, it's seen slurping at the catfish stew on a spread, then turning green on the following one). Sound effects ("SPLISH SPLASH," "KAPOW!") add to the zany humor, making this one perfect for read-alouds. The out-of-this-world but amusing conclusion is appropriately odd and surprising. Agee knows what his young readers want—plain silliness—and he delivers. Hilarious.—Mahnaz Dar, School Library Journal

Review

Praise for *It's Only Stanley*

A Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor Book

Washington Post Best Children's Books of 2015

Boston Globe Best Books of 2015

Booklist Editors' Choice 2015

A Horn Book Fanfare Book

Huffington Post Best Picture Books of 2015 (Winner: Funniest)

"Delightful."—*The Boston Globe*

"[A] superbly absurd tale . . . The rhyming text is natural and paced for surprise. And the droll watercolors handle facial expressions well from aggravation to awe to admiration."—*The San Francisco Chronicle*

* "Agee and his simple, droll watercolors return with a work that manages to be absurdist, alarming, and—just when you least expect it—poignant. . . . Very strange, and very, very wonderful."—*Booklist*, starred review

* "Agee appeals to connoisseurs of the absurd, and he shapes ridiculous developments into a tightly composed and satisfying picture book."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Fun—just plain fun."—*Kirkus*

"Agee knows what his young readers want—plain silliness—and he delivers. Hilarious."—*School Library Journal*

About the Author

Jon Agee is the beloved author and illustrator of many acclaimed picture books, including *Terrific* (a *New*

York Times Best Illustrated Book), *Milo's Hat Trick* (an ALA Notable Book), and the recent *Little Santa*, an ALA Notable Book and recipient of five starred reviews. He lives in San Francisco, California.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lorenzo McAvoy:

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Russell Hardison:

The feeling that you get from *It's Only Stanley* (Irma S and James H Black Award for Excellence in Children's Literature (Awards)) is the more deep you looking the information that hide inside the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but *It's Only Stanley* (Irma S and James H Black Award for Excellence in Children's Literature (Awards)) giving you joy feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by means of anyone who read that because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having that *It's Only Stanley* (Irma S and James H Black Award for Excellence in Children's Literature (Awards)) instantly.

Mark Guerrero:

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