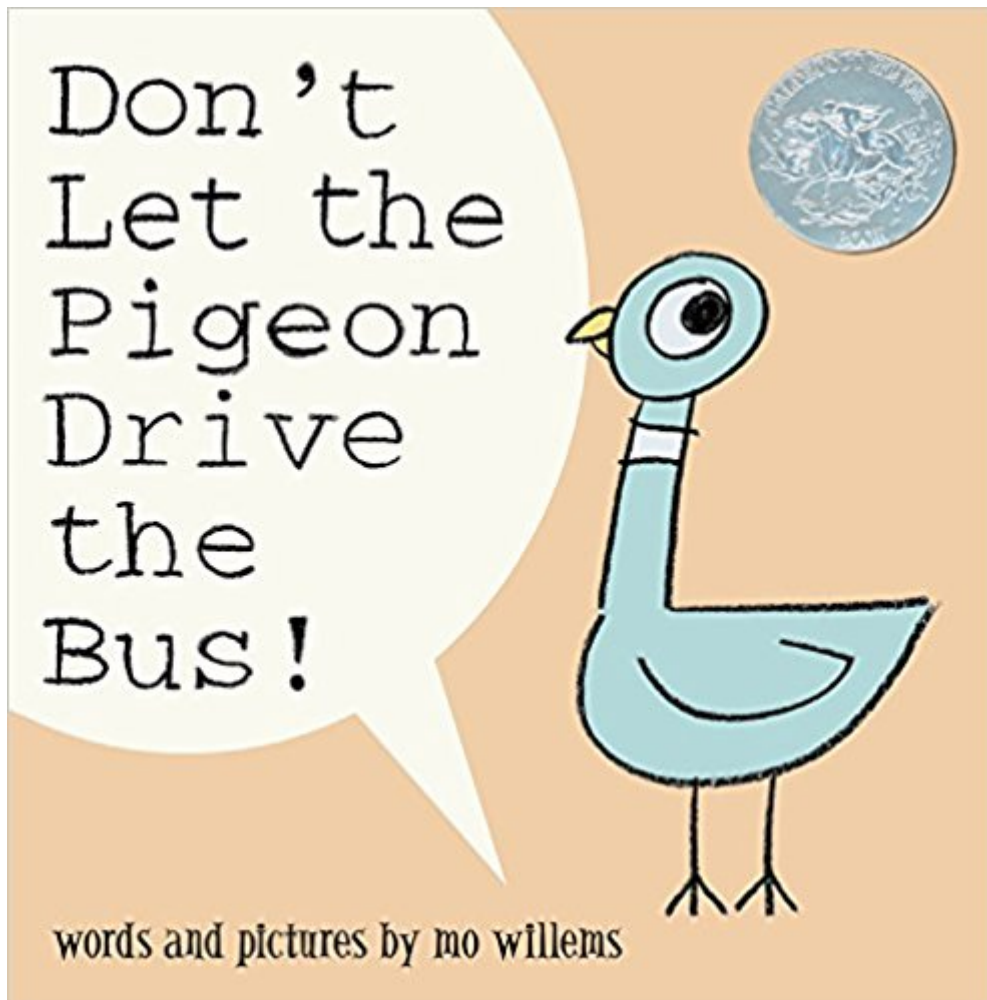




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# Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus!



## Synopsis

When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place-a pigeon! But you've never met one like this before. As he pleads, wheedles, and begs his way through the book, children will love being able to answer back and decide his fate. In his hilarious picture book debut, popular cartoonist Mo Willems perfectly captures a preschooler's temper tantrum.

## Book Information

Age Range: 2 - 6 years

Lexile Measure: 120L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Scholastic; 1st edition (2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 786 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #765 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Animals > Children's Books > Animals > Birds](#) #8 in [Animals > Children's Books > Early Learning > Beginner Readers](#) #13 in [Animals > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Beginner Readers](#)

## Customer Reviews

Exclusive: The Pigeon: A Life in Pictures (Click on images to enlarge) Back in 1993, I was cartooning for a [comic magazine](#). Due to a lack of other material, we decided to make the December issue a sketchbook with just my cartoons. I have been producing small cartoon and story sketchbooks for clients and pals every year since then. In 1998, my sketchbook featured a new character, the Pigeon. Born in the margins of a 1997 notebook filled with potential picture book ideas, he was complaining that his ideas were better than mine. To mollify him, I put him in that year's sketchbook. The original sketchbook was much longer than the final published volume, but some of the lines were the same. In late 1999, an agent essentially agreed with the Pigeon and rejected my picture book ideas. She suggested I revisit my sketchbook with an eye to turning it into a picture book. My wife was working at a school library at the time and had read the

sketchbook to her kids, who had enjoyed it. So I suppose it wasn't too crazy an idea. I started to revise the layout and work with color. At the end of 2001, after several dozen rejections because the book was "unusual," an editor decided that "unusual" was a good thing. Plus, it made her laugh. I began reworking and rewriting. The Pigeon was now starting to look more like his mature self. Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! was published in April 2003 and, to my surprise, proved to be popular quite quickly. Thankfully, that Pigeon doodle in the notebook back in 1997 was so insistent. He was right!

PreSchool-Grade 2-A brilliantly simple book that is absolutely true to life, as anyone who interacts with an obdurate three-year-old can attest. The bus driver has to leave for a while, and he makes one request of readers: "Don't let the pigeon drive the bus." It's the height of common sense, but the driver clearly knows this determined pigeon and readers do not-yet. "Hey, can I drive the bus?" asks the bird, at first all sweet reason, and then, having clearly been told no by readers, he begins his ever-escalating, increasingly silly bargaining. "I tell you what: I'll just steer," and "I never get to do anything," then "No fair! I bet your mom would let me." In a wonderfully expressive spread, the pigeon finally loses it, and, feathers flying and eyeballs popping, screams "LET ME DRIVE THE BUS!!!" in huge, scratchy, black-and-yellow capital letters. The driver returns, and the pigeon leaves in a funk-until he spies a huge tractor trailer, and dares to dream again. Like David Shannon's No, David (Scholastic, 1998), Pigeon is an unflinching and hilarious look at a child's potential for mischief. In a plain palette, with childishly elemental line drawings, Willems has captured the essence of unreasonableness in the very young. The genius of this book is that the very young will actually recognize themselves in it. Dona Ratterree, New York City Public Schools Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

What really drew me to this book - other than the fact that it's a Caldecott Honor Award winner - was knowing the author, Mo Willems, has been a Sesame Street writer and animator, and I have so much respect for the value of that show in finding fun and thought-provoking ways to teach youngsters. Though we're giving this book to our 2 year old grandson on his birthday, I wish I'd had it when I was full-time babysitting our 4-1/2 year old grandson at that age! Just love him to pieces, all of that spunk and fire, but - out of our three grandsons - he's the one who seemed to be "pushing the limits" from Day 1! This is an interactive type of book, beginning with a bus driver telling your child that he has to leave for a bit, asking that your child keep an eye on things while he's gone and to - above all - "Don't let the Pigeon drive the bus!" Now what child isn't going to be immediately

drawn into a book that puts HIM/HER in charge?! Throughout the book (with VERY simple, pale illustrations - not a lot of busyness on each page), the Pigeon looks directly at and speaks directly to your child, using all of the methods of pleading to get your little person to give in to letting him drive the bus that he/she might typically use to try to get his/her way with YOU (i.e. "Please?", "I never get to do anything!", "How 'bout I give you five bucks?", "No fair!", etc.) The Pigeon finally resorts to throwing a physical and verbal tantrum... "LET ME DRIVE THE BUS!!!" and then sulks when he's still not allowed to. The driver returns, thanks your child, and then it ends with a big semi-trailer arriving, the Pigeon eyeing it and saying, "Hey...", ready to begin the whole scenario again - as children will do! This is a silly little book where it'll be interesting to watch your child's reaction to having the tables turned!

the book from the outside looks a 1950-60's school book. everyone i showed this book to asked if this was an old book. i had just purchased it, so i assured them it was new. it's funny how people judge so quickly. anyway, ignore the outside and dig in! this story correctly and humorously represents everyone at one point in their lives. every kid has hounded a parent to do something that they knew was futile to try- but did that ever stop us when we were kids? -- of course not. i loved this book. It is refreshing that an author doesn't need elaborate and flowery syntax to get his story to touch both young and old--thanks Mo Willems, your book was enjoyable and I get it!

I bought almost all of the Elephant and Piggie books by Mo Willems and my niece started asking for the Pigeon books since the Pigeon makes an appearance on the inside books cover of the Elephant and Piggie books. The deceptively simple illustration shows a lot of character. My 5 year old niece loves this book and I suspect I'll be buying more Pigeon books soon.

You have to love the pigeon, its manipulative tactics, and its tantrums. This isn't a book just for toddlers--I use it with older kids. Do we see the pigeon having a full-on tantrum, yes. The point isn't to teach kids bad behavior--any smart, responsible adult reading this is going to use the book to talk with kids about the bad behavior and better choices the pigeon could make. Kids need to learn that they are going to be told NO, and they need to learn how to accept NO gracefully and appropriately. Don't like the pigeon's attempts to use guilt to manipulate? Talk with kids about how to appropriately express themselves, including appropriate ways to try to persuade people to change their minds. Don't like the tantrum? Teach kids about making good choices to use positive coping skills. The pigeon is SUPPOSED to be outrageous so that kids can recognize how inappropriate and silly their

own emotional outbursts are. Once they can laugh at the way the pigeon is acting and that its behavior is bad, they can be empowered to admit that they've acted the same way and look just as ridiculous, and then they can be motivated to make better choices in the future!!

This book is hysterical! I bought it for my 6 year old to read, and we ended up reading it together. The pigeon is hilarious. His expressions, his attitude, and his body language is awesome. He's basically yelling the whole book. One line that made me die laughing was "I bet your mom would let me drive the bus!" It's very snarky and sarcastic and I love it. My son has read several more of the books from this series and said all the books are good. He said we need to get the one where the pigeon finds a hot dog. I cannot wait to order and read it. This book is a must-have for a child with a sense of humor!

I checked this out at the library about 4 months ago when I saw it on the suggested reading for children shelf. We checked it out with about 4 other books, but this was the only one that got read more than once. We ended up checking it out 2 more times during the summer, the only other book to rate that was "The Lorax" book. Anyway, we just moved and when my daughter was sent home from pre-school with the book bag to bring in her favorite book, so we went to the library and they didn't have it...So I'm ordering it today. This book is great, my daughter LOVES answering "No" to all of the pigeon's requests and the look in her eye and the love she's gaining for books is worth whatever the asking price.

This book is FUN, and the concept is very memorable. Especially if you live in a place where your kids will see pigeons or buses (that is, most everywhere). Two year olds think pigeons are interesting anyway, and this book gives them new reasons to think so. ("NO! NO BUS FOR YOU!") Ditto for buses. Five year olds are coming to grips with the reality that sometimes the answer has to be "no" regardless of how one asks. This book doesn't moralize on the subject, but that's probably why older kids relate to it so well. (Beginning readers also will like the clean, big, round letters!) As a parent, I also like it because it's fun to read. Often.

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