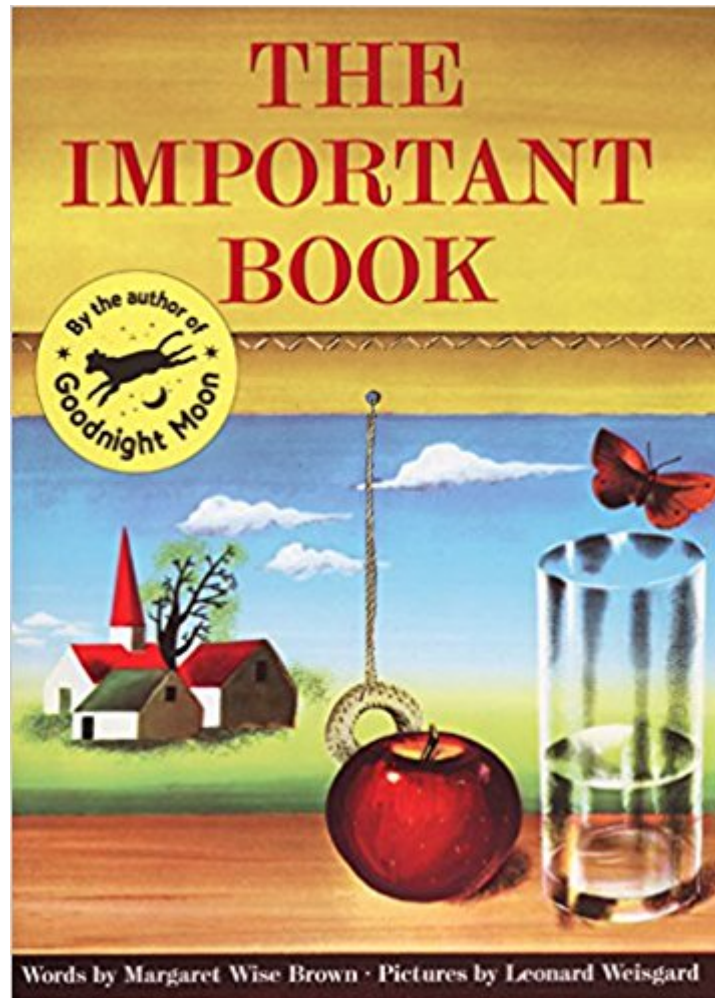




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# The Important Book



## Synopsis

"Rekindles the sense of wonder we were born with. True poetry about perceiving the world around us."\*Margaret Wise Brown, the New York Times bestselling author of the perennial classics Goodnight Moon and Runaway Bunny, asks children to think deeply about the importance of everyday objects, from apples to spoons. With lyrical words and vivid illustrations by Caldecott winner Leonard Weisgard, The Important Book shows children just how important everyday objects can be. What is the most important thing about a spoon? The fact that you can eat with it? What about an apple? Or a shoe? This book helps curious preschoolers notice important details about their everyday surroundings, like daisies are white, rain is wet, and a spoon is used for eating. For the important thing about— The Important Book— is that the book resonates long after it's closed. What's most important about many familiar things—like rain and wind, apples and daisies—is suggested in rhythmic words and vivid pictures. "A perfect book. The text establishes a word game which tiny children will accept with glee," said Kirkus. Chosen as a "Teachers' Top 100 Books for Children" by the American National Education Association. (\*Mark Frauenfelder, BoingBoing magazine)

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD580L (What's this?)

Paperback: 24 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins (May 19, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064432270

ISBN-13: 978-0064432276

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.1 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 149 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,339 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in Books > Children's Books > Classics #192 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

"The important thing about rain is/ that it is wet./ It falls out of the sky,/ and it sounds like rain,/ and makes things shiny,/ and it does not taste like anything,/ and is the color of air./ But the important

thing about rain is that it is wet." Goodnight Moon creator Margaret Wise Brown's *The Important Book* is a deceptively simple exercise--taking familiar things like an apple, spoon, or shoe, and finding the most basic association with those things. The most important thing about an apple? It is round. A spoon? You eat with it. A shoe? You put your foot in it. But why, according to Brown, is the most important thing about grass "that it is green," while the most important thing about an apple is "that it is round"? Why is "that it is white" the most important thing about snow and a daisy? Whether or not you'd distill these things in the same way that the author does, Brown makes us think about the essence of everyday entities in new ways. The illustrations, by Caldecott Medal winner Leonard Weisgard (*The Little Island*), perform the same function--capturing the spoonness of spoons, the roundness of an apple, the motion of wind. Happily, Brown went on to create the companion *Another Important Book*, about the importance of being one, two, three, four, five, and six years old--published for the first time in 1999 with fabulous artwork by Caldecott Honor artist Chris Raschka (*Yo! Yes?*). Both of Brown's "important books" will endure the test of time as fresh, thought-provoking ways to examine the world around us. (Click to see a sample spread. Text copyright renewed 1977 by Roberta Brown Rauch. Illustrations copyright renewed 1977 by Leonard Weisgard. Permission from HarperCollins Publishers.) (Preschool and older) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

The important thing about *The Important Book* -- is that you let your child tell you what is important about the sun and the moon and the wind and the rain and a bug and a bee and a chair and a table and a pencil and a bear and a rainbow and a cat (if he wants to). For the important thing about *The Important Book* is that the book goes on long after it is closed. What is most important about many familiar things -- like rain and wind, apples and daisies -- is suggested in rhythmic words and vivid pictures. 'A perfect book . . . the text establishes a word game which tiny children will accept with glee.' -- K.

As a parent, I know "Goodnight Moon" by Margeret Wise Brown, from memory. I can recite it without looking at the pictures. As an Early Childhood Educator I see great value in "The Important Book" by Margeret Wise Brown. I recently attended a literacy workshop as part of my Early Childhood Professional Development, and this book came up in discusssion many times. I hadn't heard of it and couldn't wait to get a copy. I purchased it on , and I was not disappointed. This book evolves: The brightly colored pages captivate it's "readers." Non-readers will find many interesting details on the pages. Shared readings will allow a rhythmic simple text to allow shared discovery and

comforting repeated reading much like "Goodnight Moon." As a child grows and matures, and emerges as a reader this book's extra texts will offer many opportunities for comfortable but challenging growth with a safe subject matter.

The Important book is an excellent book to use to expose children to philosophical thought and concepts. Do things have an essential property? Children as young as Pre-K can begin to conceptualize everyday items, and what the most important quality of that item is. The book illustrates a number of common items such as spoons and apples, and tells the reader what makes them most important. That very concept of the author distinguishing what's important opens the door to a world of questioning, where young readers with the help of an adult, can begin to question what truly is the most important quality, if any, of an apple and many other items. In the end, this can allow children to become more critical consumers of information through philosophical reasoning.

Great book to help children remember that they are important because they are themselves.

A gift for an adult of one of my favorite "kids" books.

I teach 1st grade. I am also a Teacher Consultant with the Southern Nevada Writing Project. By reading the little poems in this book you create a foundation for a focused paragraph. It distinctly uses an opening and closing sentence and provides three or more descriptive sentences about a topic. Great for beginning or struggling writers. It will fit in with your Common Core Lesson plans.

A classic! Wonderful springboard for writing projects!

Love this simple book. Even though written many years ago, Margaret Wise Brown shows how to recognize those things important in a child's life. The pattern of the text lends itself to easy expansion to include the reader's own ideas, relevant to the child sharing the book. Regarding delivery, I quickly rectified an error in the shipment address and I received the book, just a day after I contacted about this.

Great for teaching main idea.

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