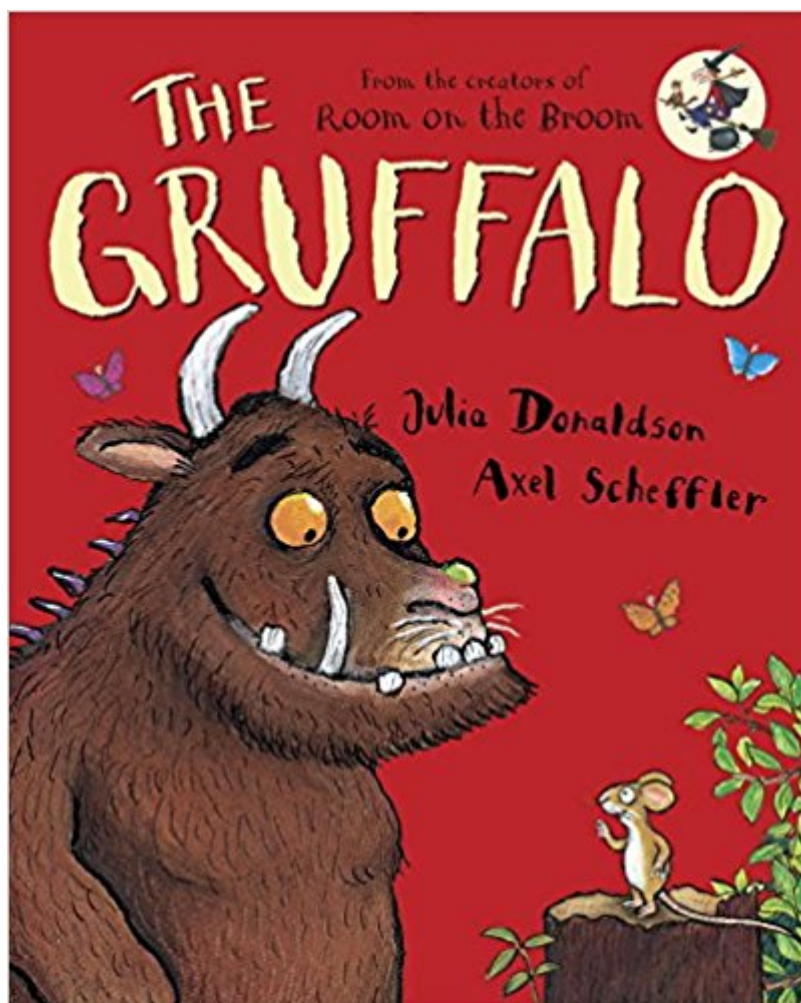


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# The Gruffalo (Picture Books)



## Synopsis

A mouse is taking a stroll through the deep, dark wood when along comes a hungry fox, then an owl, and then a snake. The mouse is good enough to eat but smart enough to know this, so he invents . . . the gruffalo! As Mouse explains, the gruffalo is a creature with terrible claws, and terrible tusks in its terrible jaws, and knobby knees and turned-out toes, and a poisonous wart at the end of its nose. But Mouse has no worry to show. After all, there's no such thing as a gruffalo. . . .

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD200L (What's this?)

Series: Picture Books

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Dial Books (February 7, 2005)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.3 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 1,390 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #9,104 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Interactive Adventures](#) #28 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels](#) #38 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Halloween](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

The eponymous character introduced by this British team owes a large debt to Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*. When Mouse meets Fox in the "deep dark wood," he invents a story about the gruffalo, described very much like Sendak's fearsome quartet of wild things: "He has terrible tusks, and terrible claws, and terrible teeth in his terrible jaws." The gullible fox runs away when Mouse tells him that the gruffalo's favorite food is roasted fox. "Silly old Fox!" says Mouse, "Doesn't he know? There's no such thing as a gruffalo!" Owl and Snake follow suit until, with a turn of the page, Mouse runs into the creature he has imagined. Quick-thinking Mouse then tells the monster, "I'm the scariest creature in this deep dark wood. Just walk behind me and soon you'll

see,/ Everyone for miles is afraid of me." Fox, Owl and Snake appear to be terrified of the tiny mouse, but readers can plainly see the real object of their fears. By story's end, the gruffalo flees, and Mouse enjoys his nut lunch in peace. Despite the derivative plot line, debut author Donaldson manipulates the repetitive language and rhymes to good advantage, supplying her story with plenty of scary-but-not-too-scary moments. Scheffler's gruffalo may seem a goofy hybrid of Max's wild things, but his cartoonlike illustrations build suspense via spot-art previews of the monster's orange eyes, black tongue and purple prickles until the monster's appearance in full. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

PreSchool-Grade 3-To save himself from being eaten by a fox, an owl, and a snake, an enterprising mouse declares that he is having lunch with a monster whose favorite food just happens to be the animal who is at that moment threatening him. With each telling, the gruffalo becomes more menacing until all of the rodent's tormentors leave him unharmed. The mouse scoffs at them, for everyone knows "There's no such thing as a gruffal...." But a turn of the page reveals-you guessed it-a gruffalo, that thinks the mouse will "...taste good on a slice of bread." Undaunted, the rodent devises a plan to frighten the monster off. Young readers will love the humor in this preposterous story of a trick that backfires and the way the protagonist talks himself out of his difficulties. Best of all, they will relish being in on the joke as they join in the reading of the delightfully repetitious rhyming text. Scheffler's cartoonlike illustrations, rendered in watercolor, colored pencils, and ink, are large and well paced. Facial expressions contrast the animals' alarm with the jaunty nonchalance of the mouse. The double-page spread that reveals the gruffalo-terrible claws, black tongue, poisonous wart, purple prickles, and all-is just scary enough to tickle but not frighten youngsters. Serve this one for a rollicking good time.Marianne Saccardi, Norwalk Community-Technical College, CT Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Review for Arabic version. I am not a native Arabic speaker, I am just reading for learning purposes. I can't comment on the exact quality of translation, but it appears to be good. Most of my review is from the perspective of a person who is learning Arabic as a second language.The localization is pretty good, too. It's not a straight word-for-word translation -- it's more like the whole story was rewritten: it's all rhyming poetry, and uses different (more eastern) words for foods, e.g. kabab. The pages read right-to-left like they should and the images have been flipped to make it appear correct.

Great quality job over all. It sounds pretty cute when read aloud. From a reading level perspective, it is a bit harder than some children's books, but not overly difficult (6-10 lines of poetry per page). Some vowel markings are present on harder words. I found the story to be very cute and would definitely read to kids. It shows that being clever can get you quite far. Just watch out for that *gruffalo* in the forest!

One of my friends recommended this book after she read one of my four-year-old son's stories. She thought he might like it and be able to relate to the mouse. She was very right. My son scares away scary monkeys and other terrifying creatures in his stories. He certainly can relate to this mouse. I read that Julia Donaldson originally planned for the *gruffalo* to be a tiger, but had to create a *gruffalo* to fit her rhyming scheme. I am so glad that she did. The mystery of the *gruffalo* builds the suspense of this tale. This book pays homage to Sendak's "Where The Wild Things Are", but still stands easily on its own. The rhyme and meter are well done and the conclusion is quite satisfying. The illustrations by Axel Scheffler also pay homage to Sendak, but they, again, stand very well on their own. All the expressions and emotions of the mouse are conveyed by the eyes, tail and arms -- everything else remains almost static. It is a very effective technique. The *gruffalo* is scary, but not too scary; he does look as if he might be tricked by a clever mouse. All in all, I'm glad my friend recommended this book. It makes a delightful addition to my son's library.

This story was new to me, but I really liked it. I saw right away that the *Gruffalo* reminded me of *Where The Wild Things Are*. The *Gruffalo* looked like some of the characters in *Where the wild Thing Are*. The illustrations are fantastic, the rhyming of the words are perfect and the main characters are the mouse and the *Gruffalo*. The other animals make the story come alive because the mouse outwits them all and they're suppose to be the most scary animals there are. The end of the story where the *Gruffalo* becomes afraid of the mouse is beautiful. I would recommend this book for the last semester of the 1st grade and the 2nd grade.

This book, and its companion, "The *Gruffalo's Child*," are delightful stories for young children. Better yet, there is a double feature DVD (Link: <http://smile.com/dp/B00NT964PO>) available with both stories animated and wonderfully narrated by talented actors you probably know: Helena Bonham Carter, Tom Wilkinson, Robbie Coltrane and John Hurt. Parents of children as young as two years of age have commented favorably on the just-enough drama of the stories, their beautiful illustrations, excellent narration and soothing musical scores. A modern classic.

Great book! It is a nice funny story for toddler and young children. I really like the pictures a lot. My 3 years old loves the story and can almost tell it by herself (you can guess how many times I have read it!). It is a story of a smart mouse who makes up a meeting with a monster to cross the "deep dark wood", until the made-up monster appears in front of him! Now the mouse has to make up something else to survive... offers the video as well for Prime Members so check it out!! definitely recommend this book for toddlers and young kids.

There is no other way to describe this book as anything other than delightful! It's so fun to read, and my 3 year old adores it!! My husband and I both enjoy reading it. Great follow up book to the Gruffalo, which is equally as great!!

I was the "mystery reader" for my granddaughter's first-grade class and chose The Gruffalo and Gruffalo's Child to read to them. They LOVED them both. They are written in very dramatic rhyme and tell a great story about a clever little mouse who uses the Gruffalo to thwart his potential forest predators and then uses the predators' fear of the Gruffalo to escape being eaten by the Gruffalo's child. Very cute stories and it is easy to see why they are classics. Wonderful illustrations, which always make a children's book special.

A fascinating tale for all ages. I reviewed the DVD and this book in the DVD review. Just to summarize; A really great read that will have your kids learning the story piece by piece, so when you pause while reading, they will fill in the rest of the line. The artwork is wonderful. The story is wonderful. I don't know if it teaches anything for real except "if you can keep a straight face while you tell a lie, you might just get away with it and not be eaten by the wild creatures of the forest" (until you really meet up with the G R U F F A L O). The ending is classic and the book and DVD are great companions. Toilet training happened with numerous readings of this book.

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