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# **Curious George Rides A Bike**





### **Synopsis**

George helps a little boy with his paper route and gets into all sorts of trouble. "This [book] is as full of amusing detail as are the others". -- Horn Book

#### **Book Information**

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#### **Customer Reviews**

Curious George's new bike leads him to an extended adventure delivering newspapers, making a regatta of paper boats (there are instructions on how to make one!), and visiting a circus after wrecking the front wheel. George is not quite as innocent here as in his other books. He's a little more like Mr. Toad, doing some things he knows he shouldn't do, and he's not always very careful. Still, his exuberance and the winning 1950's illustrations are a delight. As usual, George gets into trouble with people, but eventually he rescues one of the circus animals and is hailed as a hero. It's true that George gets into an circus wagon with two strangers... Be sure to advise your own little monkey not to take rides with strangers. But if that upsets you, you might as well also explain that circuses are often not very animal-friendly. A little too long compared with the simple joys of other George books, but this does extend the curious monkey's adventures to somewhat older kids. Lots of action in the 48 pages, with no more than one to three short paragraphs of text per page.

The whole Curious George series has been a favorite of my kids. From very early on, we started reading them to them, and the older they got, the more there was to learn and understand from the books and the pictures. Some reviewers have complained that these are not the original Curious George books or that the plot is very repetitive. While these are not the originals, my kids do not

seem to mind, and I don't think they are "worse" than the originals, just slightly different if at all. The plot is repetitive but that is because George is always getting into trouble so you have the same pattern--he gets curious, he does something naughty, something bad happens, then something good comes out of the bad event, and then everyone is happy and George is usually a hero. This does not bother me in the least. My kids find his adventures interesting and never get bored with that "plot." To them, it is funny and what makes Curious George funny. Sure, if this was an adult book then the repetition might be problematic but thankfully it is not an adult book! The illustrations are nice and detailed and provide a lot of material for my kids to look at while I read the story to them. The quality of the pages is good and it's nice that there is sometimes stickers or a little activity in the back, though truthfully my kids have never cared for them much. I like that there are many of these books because my kids become familiar with George and the concept of series, and can distinguish one book in the series from another and even have favorites. I really don't think you can go wrong with these books. I don't know many other kids that don't like these. They are a good investment!

In this outing, the Man in the Yellow Hat gets George a bicycle to celebrate their third-year anniversary of living together. Riding the bike in front of their home leads George into a series of adventures that take him further and further from home. He starts off by helping the newspaper boy to deliver papers, and then becomes involved in floating paper boats down a little stream. After his bicycle is damaged in an accident, a traveling circus meets George and allows him to participate in their show for the night. While at the circus, he accidentally feeds an ostrich a bugle, and then redeems himself by tracking down and retrieving an escaped bear cub. This book is a better than the series opener, and has the added bonus of including fairly detailed instructions on how to make a paper boat out of an old newspaper. The watercolor-style pictures are engaging, and the plot keeps moving along in unpredictable ways that should keep the interest of most children. While I'm not a huge fan of this series, this is a decent book that should appeal to most kids.

My two year old son loves everything George. We read a lot of Curious George books and watch the show on PBS. But I'm not a fan of this book. My biggest complaint is that George gets into a car with strangers, and the man with the yellow hat doesn't mind at all. Every time I read it, I make sure to say that it's wrong to get into a car with someone you don't know, but at 2 years old, I'm not sure my son is listening to me or would follow George's example. We borrowed this from the library, so I'll be glad when it goes back. I will not be purchasing a copy for our house. Other than this, the book is

great.

My 21 month old son adores this book. It's the longest book he's ever had us read to him, and he requests it over and over again. He can relate to the story line, it's beautifully illustrated and it's less dated than some of the "George" books.

I love using this book with my students (I remember reading Curious George as a child). There are a number of issues that my students and I talk about. We talk about responsibility (it was the newsboys job to deliver the papers...not George's), bicycle safty (George should be wearing a helmet), and stranger danger (George should not have gotten into the truck with the two men. I always make the paper boat with my students. Curious George books have held up for many, many years...I am sure that they will be around for many, many more.

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