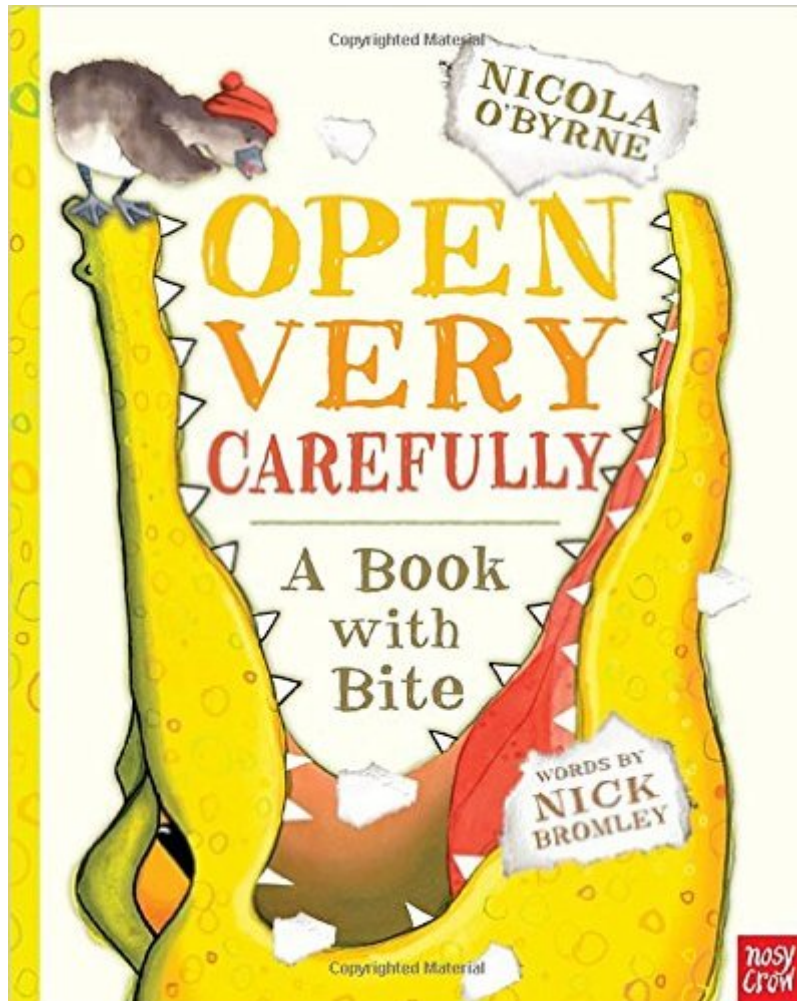


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# Open Very Carefully: A Book With Bite



## Synopsis

What would you do if you were settling down for a quiet bedtime story and you realized that a crocodile had fallen into your storybook and was "not to put too fine a point on it" wreaking havoc? Would you slam that book shut and cram it back onto the bookshelf? Or would you be brave enough to peek?

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Nosy Crow (February 26, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763661635

ISBN-13: 978-0763661632

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.4 x 11.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (59 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #32,346 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Alligators & Crocodiles #1726 in Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

I picked up this book while browsing the children's section with my 4 year old twin nieces. They walked ahead, but soon came back because I was laughing so much at this book. The first page of the book starts to read like the classic "Ugly Little Duckling" until the duckling notices something odd. There is a crocodile tail on the page. The duckling leaves the story to find out why there is a crocodile in the story. I loved the interactive nature of this book. Rocking the book back and forth to make the crocodile go to sleep. Shaking the book to try to make him fall out. We bought two copies of this book because I knew the girls would want to take one home and I wanted a copy for my house. It is one your kids will ask you to read again and again and again!

Are you looking for some laugh out-loud fun? What starts out as a sweet retelling of The Ugly Duckling, turns into a story hijacked by an annoying crocodile. The Ugly Duckling does not have time to be concerned that his siblings are beautiful; he has to get rid of a pesky crocodile. "Watch out! He's on the move. What is he doing? He's eating the letters! He must be hungry!" Get ready for an

interactive adventure with each page turn. Can you help the Ugly Duckling?"Now he's gobbling up....whole words and sentences! We can't have a book without words! What will we read...if there aren't any sentences? We've got to make him stop..."Young readers will have to rock the book side to side on one page and shake it on another. Armed with a crayon, the Ugly Duckling adds his own artistic touch. Make sure your little ones know that the Ugly Duckling's crayon is part of the story. You don't want to start finding surprises in all of your books. Teachers, parents, and children will enjoy this fun story-time adventure. The playful font is big and the placement of words on the page is creative. Bold illustrations are lively and the oversize book enhances the reading experience. Similar to a sturdy board book, the stiff pages scream that this story is ready for some action! The author does a great job with the narrative text that speaks directly to the audience. Young readers will enjoy anticipating what will happen next as they help the Ugly Duckling throughout the story.

There are some great things about this book. Similar to "Press Here" a far better action book, this book has directions to shake or tilt the book to move the story along. But "Press Here" does it much better with in erasing complexity and terrific humor. There are two problems with this book for me. 1) part of the conflict resolution involves a character scribbling in a book. If you know toddlers and preschoolers at all, you do not want to encourage scribbling in a book. 2) the way the character resolves his fear of the beast by drawing a tutu on him. That is to say, turning him into a girl! That astounded me! Did the author and publisher consider the message this sends to boys and girls? The character could not have just imagined the beast in sleeper pajamas or a bathing suit or a birthday hat? It may be that the better aspects of this book outweigh the two points that I've raised. But for me and my grand children the book offers very little. If you want a fun, silly, interactive book to read, where kids will have a chance to identify colors, count, follow directions and laugh heartily, then skip this one and buy Press Here.

This book has been a total hit with our kids. Cute pictures and they love the storyline! Their favourite part is at the end, when the crocodile bites through the back of the book. There is actually a hole at the back, with zig zaggy edges, that you can literally see through the back of. They love this feature! Having said that, however, there are two things that could be done to improve it. My 7 yr old has suggested that it would be even better if the back of the book shows the crocodile coming out of the book. The last page shows his back end still in the book and it's obvious that the croc has gone out the back of the book, but there is no front end to the croc on the back cover. I agree with my son, that it would be even cuter if the front half of the croc was pictured climbing out of the back of the

book, through the hole. Also, the last page, which has the bite out of it should either be reinforced or made out of stronger material, as since there is a hole in the page, it is asking for accidental rips and tears. The kids will want to put their fingers and hands through the hole, and ours was slightly torn after only one day. If the edges at the hole were stronger, this could be prevented. The kids also love the part where the croc gets annoyed at having a tutu drawn onto him...very cute book and we highly recommend!

This is one of the cutest books I have read! My first-graders loved it! It lends itself quite nicely to Writer's Workshop!

The presentation, and art, in this offering are terrific. Watch the eyes of your four year old as s/he shakes the book one way, or tilts it another as invited to rid the book of the crocodile! The playful "tension" of the story is delightful for even the very young...after all, this is a very "un-scary" crocodile. I might quibble a bit with his gobbling up of letters and words which might, without some artful reader supplement, be a bit thin for a young ear. I'd have given the book an extra star save for the weak and anti-climatic ending...definitely a whimper not a bang. Way too bad because until the last page the young listener is glued...and then? The end.

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