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# Joel Meyerowitz: Seeing Things: A Kid's Guide To Looking At Photographs





## Synopsis

Aimed at children between the ages of eight and twelve, Seeing Things is a wonderful introduction to photography that asks how photographers transform ordinary things into meaningful moments. In this book, acclaimed and beloved photographer Joel Meyerowitz takes readers on a journey through the power and magic of photography: its abilities to freeze time, tell a story, combine several layers into one frame and record life's fleeting and beautiful moments. The book features the work of masters such as William Eggleston, Mary Ellen Mark, Helen Levitt and Walker Evans, among many others. Each picture is accompanied by a short commentary, encouraging readers to look closely and use their imagination to understand key ideas in photography such as light, gesture, composition-and, ultimately, how there is wonder all around us when viewed through the lens.

### **Book Information**

Hardcover: 80 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 11.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #156,032 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Children's Books

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& Video > History

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

#### Customer Reviews

Though it might be more appealing to someone in junior high or high school, this is really mislabeled as a "kid's" book. I love Joel Meyerowitz's work, and as a photographer myself I had hoped this book would be a great introduction to the art and history of photography for my elementary-school-aged kids. Aside from the cool die-cut cover, they weren't really engaged by the content of the book, and ultimately this ended up tossed on a shelf. It felt a little bit like it was trying too hard to be an 'art book' rather than a kid's book, and ended up going way over their heads for the most part. The photography highlighted was also a very narrow slice that was mostly focused on

a specific type of photography in a very specific time period of the 20th century. I had hoped it would be a little bit more broad.

This is NOT a "book for kids," despite its title. It is, however, and outstanding book for teenagers and adults wanting to learn how to look at, appreciate, and/or take photographs. How good is it? It is so good that I have added it to the list of books required for the documentary photography course I have taught for 15 years at MIT. Using a well chosen selection of famous photographs, Joel Meyerowitz, a photographer best know for his New York street photography and his gorgeous images of Cape Cod, breaks the images down into their visual and psychological components, and forces us to consider the melding of content and composition.

Excellent book! Meyerowitz walks you through the components of each photo, explains the significance of the individual components, and explains how the individual components fit together to form the final composition. He's very insightful and it's well written. My only criticism is that the font size could have been bigger in some places, but I imagine that the target audience (kids) won't have that problem.

I was going to give this book to my 9 year old grandson who is very interested in photography, but after looking it over I decided it wasn't "kid-friendly" enough for that age. Instead I gave it to my teenaged grandson who was taking a photography class in high school. It was a great success! It is a beautiful book to own. The cover is stunning. Each page has a photograph by a different photographer with comments by Meyerowitz about what elements make the image memorable.

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