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Swine Lake

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~~Not a Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

4

Any picture book illustrated by Sendak is likely to be an event. His pictures for a tale by the late James Marshall are busy, exuberant and crowded with detail and character. However, Marshall's urbane story, of a down-at-heel wolf who becomes a ballet-lover, proceeds at a leisurely pace. I think you would have to be at least 5 or 6 years old to appreciate how an initial interest in eating pigs could turn to the satisfaction of making an unintentional but critically acclaimed entrance on the stage with the Boarshoi Ballet at the New Hamsterdam Theater. You will need to be much older to notice all of Sendak's visual references, and to appreciate his awful puns, and to realise what a strange conglomeration of fairy tales Marshall has put into the plot of the ballet Swine Lake. All in all, the child audience for this homage from one great American picture-book creator to another may be limited, but every page is a joy to look at.

Running Order:

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