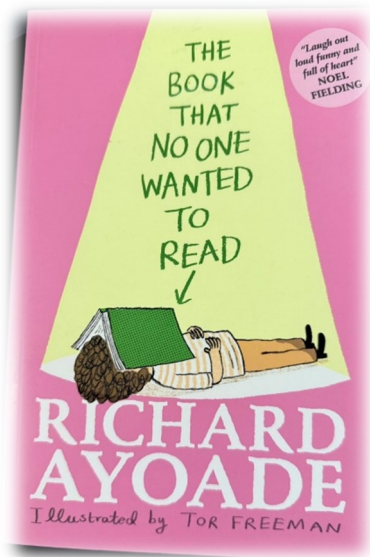


Book Review



Book Title: The Book that No One Wanted to Read
Author: Richard Ayoade
Illustrator: Tor Freeman
Publication Date: 2023
Publisher: Walker Books Ltd
ISBN: 9781529500752

This book is a metafictional story where the narrator of the book is the physical book itself. It directly addresses *you*—the person holding it—initially treating you with suspicion. Through a mix of direct narration and "telepathic" conversations with the reader, the book gripes about "bookists" (people who prejudge books by their covers or skip straight to the end) and details the terrible physical trauma books endure, like dog-eared pages and broken spines.

As the story meanders along, the book decides to make *you* a character in its tale. It guides you through the inner workings of literature, exploring everything from narrative structures and footnotes to the terrifying reality that unpopular books face: being sent to the publisher to be "pulped" and recycled into toilet paper. Ultimately, the plot is about the book learning to overcome its fear of rejection, discovering its true identity, and realizing its worth through the magical connection forged with a willing reader.

Because *The Book That No One Wanted to Read* is so unconventional, it gives parents a fantastic opportunity to engage with their kids

differently than they would with a standard chapter book.

If you are planning to introduce this book to your child, here are a few practical tips and suggestions to get the absolute most out of it:

1. Treat it as a Performance (Read it Aloud)

This book is written like a comedic monologue. If your child reads it completely silently in their head, they might miss a lot of the comedic timing.

- **Do the voices:** Lean heavily into a deadpan, slightly anxious, overly dramatic British accent if you can.
- **Emphasize the formatting:** The book uses varied fonts, bold text, and sudden exclamation points. Read those changes dynamically to mimic a living, breathing book talking to you.

2. Co-Read to Help with the British Irony

The author's humor is deeply rooted in dry, British sarcasm and slightly advanced vocabulary.

- **Inline definitions:** If your child is reading it, be nearby. They might ask you what a specific phrase or dry joke means.
- **The "Telepathy" bits:** When the book enters a "telepathic conversation" with the reader, take turns! You read the book's lines, and let your child read the "Reader's" responses. It turns story time into a fun, two-player game.

3. Use it to Teach "Book Etiquette"

Since the narrator spending a lot of time complaining about how readers mistreat books, you can use the story as a playful, zero-lecture way to teach your child how to care for library or personal books.

- Talk about why the book hates dog-eared pages.
- Laugh together about the book's fear of having its spine broken or getting juice spilled on it.

4. Transition into Creative Writing

The book does a brilliant job of breaking down *how* stories are made by constantly breaking the fourth wall. If your child shows an interest in drawing or writing, use this book as a springboard.

The Bottom Line: Don't hand this book to your child and walk away. It is designed to be a shared, interactive experience. Sit down, embrace the absurdity, and enjoy laughing at the sheer weirdness of it together.

Wanvitu Soranarak
June 25, 2026