



# Happy Dreamer

*Peter H. Reynolds*

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A celebration of the colorful spectrum of what it means to **dream** and the many ways to find **happy**!

While the world tells us to sit still, to follow the rules, and to color inside the lines, *Happy Dreamer* celebrates all those moments in between when the mind and spirit soar and we are free to become our own true **dreamer maximus**!

## Happy Dreamer Details

Date : Published March 28th 2017 by Orchard Books

ISBN : 9780545865012

Author : Peter H. Reynolds

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction, Inspirational, Art, Storytime, Psychology, Growth Mindset, Realistic Fiction, Health, Mental Health, Kids

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## From Reader Review Happy Dreamer for online ebook

### Becky says

Happy Dreamer. Peter H. Reynolds. 2017. Scholastic. 32 pages. [Source: Review copy]

First sentence: I am a happy dreamer. I'm really good at dreaming. Daydreams. Big dreams. Little dreams. Creative dreams. Dreamer maximus!

Premise/plot: This book asks, what kind of dreamer are you?! It also encourages every reader to be true to themselves.

My thoughts: I really enjoyed this one. It thoroughly explores the subject. It isn't always easy. Sometimes the world wants to box you in, shut you up, tell you who to be and how to be. But dreamers have a way of bouncing back, moving forward, and finding their voice.

This one is a bit wordy. It's also a bit philosophical. I'm not sure if either of these would keep it from being a good choice for a read aloud. It probably depends on YOUR little one--especially in terms of long attention spans. Attention spans being one of the many things mentioned in the book itself.

I liked the book very much. I liked the message for the most part. I do think you have to learn how to function in the world in spite of having big, big dreams with a mind of their own. But there is always, always a place for dreaming.

Text: 5 out of 5

Illustrations: 4 out of 5

Total: 9 out of 10

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### Joshua Gross says

The artwork was ok, it's fun to be imaginative, but this kid gets really depressed if asked to clean his room. I'm not sure what the message of this book was.

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### Hannah (FreeInFiction) says

This was such a cute book!! We got this for my baby cousin yesterday and it was on sale at Barnes and Noble so I would go check it out! What kind of dreamer are you?

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### Michelle (FabBookReviews) says

Peter H. Reynolds has quite the number of acclaimed (and loved) picture books on his roster: everything from The Dot, Sky Color, and Ish to his illustrative work for the Judy Moody series, Someday and Tess's Tree. Reynolds's work encapsulates a kind of lovely positivity- always gently uplifting but not saccharine- and I consider myself quite a fan! Happy Dreamer is an ode to the ones who dream (excuse the La La Land

nod!); the quiet dreamers, the loud dreamers, the colourful dreamers, the individuals who don't fit and don't feel right when forced into a tidy box.

A broad theme in Reynolds's work is that of expression and staying true to one's self: that message carries across in Happy Dreamer with a lovely message that the 'best way to be a happy dreamer' is to be one's self. It is tricky to balance sweetness, guidance, praising individuality and proffering hope without veering off into a lane of moralizing, but Reynolds keeps the line firmly in the corner of encouragement. In the description above, comparisons are made to Oh, the Places You'll Go!— a longtime staple (and standard) of gifts-to-grads. I personally have not reached the high levels of affinity for this particular Dr. Seuss title as many other readers have, but I would still like to contend that Happy Dreamer is indeed as wonderful an inspirational bookish treat, just the right thing to hearten and show love and appreciation. The heartening, compassionate nature of his picture books often reminds me of work by authors such as Alison McGhee, as well as the work of Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Patrick McDonnell. Any readers who have already read and enjoyed Reynolds' previous work or have enjoyed work by the aforementioned authors might especially appreciate Happy Dreamer.

*I received a copy of this title courtesy of Scholastic in exchange for an honest review and for the purposes of a blog post. All opinions and comments are my own.*

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### **Jessica says**

This book tells about all the different type of dreaming you can do and that dreaming can lead to moving forward , not back.

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### **V.A. Trafton says**

This story is perfect for my grand niece-she has dreams and is always on the move. It's okay to have dreams, in fact I can relate to several of the dreams in the story(at end) and ways to be happy. As I'm sure you will find you do too and how awesome it is to be you!

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### **Pauline says**

Loved this book!!! Gorgeous, whimsical illustrations paired with the perfect message for readers of all ages!

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### **Kayla says**

Not as charming and on-point as his other works, but still fun. I especially liked the chart of all the different "types" of happy at the end of the book. Great for helping kids learn about what makes them happy and what they can do to get themselves out of a funk.

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## Catherine says

All of Reynolds' books are gold!

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## Brittany Van says

Orchard Books, 2017, 32 pgs., Genre: Fiction, Grade level: 1-5, GR level: M, Lexile level: 490L  
Happy Dreamer is one of my favorite picture books due to its inspiring moral message, vivid illustrations, and creative ideas. This book helps the reader reflect upon what type of dreamer they are and what inspires them in life. In addition, it helps the reader become aware of different types of individuals surround them and when they are the most creative. With this, the main character also helps readers stay true to themselves even when encountering times of hardship.

Teaching ideas:

This is a picture book that should be taught and talked about. It would work well for a read aloud for a whole class in the elementary age group setting. You can easily create a lesson on individuality and creativity. For this book, I would read the book at the beginning of the year to inspire students as well as learn more about them as individuals. Prior to beginning a writing piece, I would form a class discussion on what types of dreamer the students themselves are as well as what other types of dreamers they see their peers as. I would then have students write a five to six paragraph narrative essay explaining what type of dreamer they are and drawing a creative picture to illustrate it. For this activity, they will have to think more abstractly than explaining what they physically dream about. They will be expected to explain what type of dreamer they are based upon who they are as a person. To expand upon a literary skill being studied, I would like to incorporate the use of similes in their writing. An example I would provide for this is being a creative dreamer by having numerous ideas burst in my mind like fireworks at the mention of a topic or project.

NYS ELA CCS:

RL.4.2, W.4.11

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## Elisabeth says

Love the messaging! These pages, in particular, spoke to me (for some reason): "I have so many dreams it can get messy. CREATIVE CHAOS. Cleaning up hides my treasures. If you make me, I will put my things away. But then there is less ME to show."

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## The Reading Countess says

Dear Peter Reynolds,

I ♥? Ish, and would never think to begin a school year without it. Ish pushes many of my kids outside of their comfort zone (you know the ones...the perfectionists who want to pitch you JUST what they THINK you want?), and it encourages many kids to push those boundaries further than they thought they ever could...those lines are suggestions at best and imaginary in a perfect world. Now you've sent HAPPY DREAMER out into the world...and I can't wait to share it with my students. Many will see themselves reflected in your imaginative illustrations. Thank you for "getting" the beauty of whimsy, for capturing the unadulterated joy of childhood, and for embracing the unique qualities our kids have...some lie hidden waiting to be discovered. Thanks to you, you invite them to live out loud. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

### **Steve Holden says**

I love the message from this one by Peter Reynolds. It's beautiful to look through. I do feel that it's missing a bit of the feeling you get from his other works where you read it once and think, why didn't I come up with this idea and put it down on pages to teach all kids?! It doesn't make this one a bad book, but I love the other books so much, I feel this one needs a lesser rating from me.

The message here is one that again promotes creativity and individuality. It's so important for kids to realize they can take on tasks and problems, and take them on in their own way with who they are. I feel if you read all of his books together, he promotes and teaches those difficult ideas so well.

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### **Shiloah says**

Loved the theme of this one! It will be our standard birthday gift for all the birthdays we go to for the rest of the year.

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### **Archit Ojha says**

"I am a shout-at-the-top-of-my-lungs dreamer!"

There are so many ways to be a happy dreamer. What kind of dreamer are you?

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