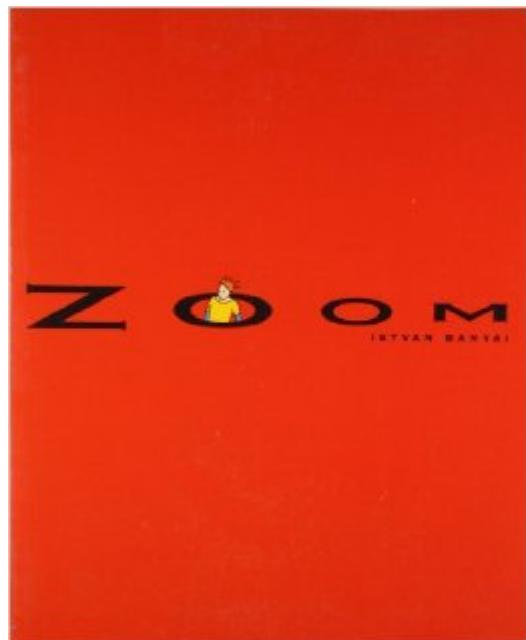


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# Zoom (Picture Puffins)



## Synopsis

As seen on the SERIAL podcast, season 2, episode 1 ("Dustwun")! Open this wordless book and zoom from a farm to a ship to a city street to a desert island. But if you think you know where you are, guess again. For nothing is ever as it seems in Istvan Banyai's sleek, mysterious landscapes of pictures within pictures, which will tease and delight readers of all ages. "This book has the fascinating appeal of such works of visual trickery as the Waldo and Magic Eye books." -- Kirkus Reviews "Ingenious." -- The Horn Book

## Book Information

Series: Picture Puffins

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (July 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140557741

ISBN-13: 978-0140557749

Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 0.2 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (187 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,060 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Â Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Painting #155 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Though he's illustrated books for other authors before this, it was really with "Zoom" that artist Istvan Banyai first tried his hand at the wide world of children's picture books. Do a quick Google search of Banyai and you'll see that the man has dipped his toe in everything from book illustrations to pictures for Playboy. Now as a children's librarian I am always on the lookout for good wordless picture books. The wordlessier they are the better. My favorites up until now have been titles like "The Boy, the Bear, the Baron, and the Bard" by Gregory Rogers and "Anno's Journey" by Mr. Mitsumasa Anno himself. In light of his more recent efforts ("The Other Side" comes to mind) it's funny to see how simple his books were at the start. "Zoom" is not a particularly new idea for a book, but it is a fun concept and is sure to garner itself some solid fans throughout the years. The very first thing you see, on opening the book, is a fleshy and pointed starfish-like creature, but with

too many points. Turn the page and the next image is of that same pointy image, but we can see that it's actually the crest of a rooster's comb. Turn the page again and we back up even farther still. Now the rooster is seen perched on a fence while two captivated youngsters look on. You get the gist of the book. The thing is, Banyai keeps backing up, even when you think that there would be nowhere else to go. A farm scene suddenly becomes a toy farm set with a child playing with it. A city street becomes a television program. And a cruise ship resolves itself to be an ad on the side of a bus. As the book backs off farther and farther and farther, in the end the earth recedes until it is only a single white dot in the center of a very black page. Want your kids to grasp the concept of their own inherent insignificance in the face of a vast unyielding universe? Then "Zoom"'s the book for you! It took me a little while to realize it, but the book that bears the closest resemblance to "Zoom" is Barbara Lehman's Caldecott Honor winner, "The Red Book". Of course, the advantage of "The Red Book" is that it actually had a plot of sorts. "Zoom", for all its charms, is plotless. In some ways, the best wordless picture books are the ones that dare to tell some kind of a tale. "Home" by Jeannie Baker, for example, told the story of a girl's life from birth to adulthood and how the world changes around her. As Banyai becomes more comfortable with creating children's books he begins to understand their purpose. Therefore "The Other Side" has an ending that summarizes nicely whereas "Zoom" simply drifts off into space. Which isn't to say that the book is poorly done. It ain't. Using his customary thin thin black pen lines and a palette of all sorts of colors, Banyai brings to life everything from the hypnotic eye of a rooster to New York's Flatiron Building. Unfortunately for me, the version of "Zoom" that I am reviewing is the paperback edition. This is a real shame as I've been delighted by Banyai's small touches and flourishes made to his books' covers and bookflaps. If it comes down to purchasing the hardcover edition of this story or the paperback, I highly urge you to consider the hardcover. Though I can't vouch for whether or not there are any fun details attached to it, why take the chance? Besides, when it comes to viewing Banyai's books with true appreciation, only hardcover will possibly do. As with most high-concept picture book, "Zoom" isn't aiming to be universally beloved. It will instead be enjoyed primarily by those children of the correct mindset. Some kids will get a huge kick out of the perpetually shifting realities captured in this minute little booklet. Others will be weirded out by the concept and clutch their "Dora the Explorer" paperbacks a little tighter to their chests. I sincerely hope your child is in the former category. "Zoom" certainly deserves to be looked at and makes a fine addition to anyone's wordless picture book collection.

The friend who shared this book with me had received it from a family member who bequeathed it to

her as she lay dying of cancer. It is a very beautiful and visual way of internalizing the concept that our lives and everything that happens to us and that we see around us is part of a bigger picture.

I ran into a description of this remarkable book that is entirely of images in a Sharon Salzburg's "Faith" Learning to Trust YOur Inner Experience". Salzburg, a well regarded Buddhist teacher, used Zoom to make that point that at every point of our existence our vision of what is real is always a tiny piece of what really is.. This deceptively simple book is meant to be looked at slowly and contemplatively. Each frame yields to a progressively bigger and bigger view so that the net effect of moving through its expanding perspective is to loosen our imaginations about what we think is the ultimate environment. Worth spending time with at ANY age.

I used this book as an activity when I was facilitating a workshop on leadership roles. We were able to make a great point of what type of leader you are by handing out pages of this book to have the group figure out how it goes back together. Worked wonderful! You could tell who was able to manage the group with only pieces of the big picture. Loved it!

Although I am a professional writer, my review isn't nearly as technical as the previous two readers'. This, quite simply, is a FUN BOOK! My four month old daughter enjoys the bright images on each page and adults love the zoom concept! It keeps you guessing and reminds you to look at the bigger picture in life... perhaps reminding you that you're not in the world all on your own. Add this to your bookshelf and then pick up an extra copy as sometimes it is not easy to find and you'll surely want to give one as a gift!

I have both books and posted this review in Rezoom as well. This is a gorgeous book; you can keep looking at the images for a long time and see new things. I actually use the book in class; I teach a subject that required a non-linear perspective, but rather I have to get the students to see things from a Macro to Micro perspective, not in a this happens then this happens. This book has been very successful in helping that process to occur. I actually disassemble the book, laminate the pages, and can adjust for it groups taking out some of the pages for the activity. I will not allow the students to show one another the pages, but instead, they have to describe what they think is important. Most students, based on how they have been taught to think, will describe the scene in terms of events of what is occurring, giving little emphasis to the detail of the images. Instead, about ten minutes in I let the students know that sometimes a story does not start where they think it

starts; some cultures value emphasis on events or things over being linear. Then, after a bit more time, I let the students know the name of the book; which clues them in a little bit. Finally, I let the students show one another the pages, which they then put in order pretty quickly. It's a great activity to teach perspective. A lot of times we are trained to see things a certain way, but not all people and cultures are that way. This book is great for that type of activity and lesson to teacher. It's also work well with one's own child, even trying to guess what happens next in the story.

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