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English 403 - Children's Literature

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### **This Is Not My Hat - Jon Klassen**

#### 1) Age Group

This book is meant for ages 4 and up. The story's humor will appeal to all ages, and the lush illustrations are wonderful for very young children. It's also very short, for those young ones with short attention spans.

#### 2) What Is The Theme Of The Story?

The theme of this story is repercussions - what happens when you do something you know is wrong. Although it's not explicit, it is implied that the main character is eaten for his indiscretion.

#### 3) List 3 Books you could recommend to a child who likes this story and wants to read more.

Three books that I would recommend that are similar to this book are:

Jon Klassen's earlier book, *I Want My Hat Back*, with a similar theme and illustrations.

Dr. Seuss's *The Butter Battle Book*. A classic story showing possible repercussions.

Eric Carle's *Papa Please Get the Moon for Me*. Wonderful illustrations.

#### 4) Review

In *This Is Not My Hat*, we are presented immediately with a small fish who blatantly declares “This hat is not mine. I just stole it.” (Klassen, 1). The fish goes on to list all of the reason why he doesn’t think that he will be caught for this dastardly deed, including the victim’s ignorance, a lack of witnesses, and a good hiding place. The victim, a much bigger fish, who was asleep during the theft, is considered sluggish and ignorant by the little fish. As we come to find out, not only does the big fish realize what has happened and who has done it, but he is intent on tracking down the perpetrator and reclaiming his property. This story is told with a minimal amount of words, and wonderful illustrations that convey the big fish’s thoughts and intentions. The consequences of what happens to the little fish is left up to the reader’s imagination (and would provide a good teaching point), but it is implied that the big fish has caught (and probably eaten) the little fish, as he is shown at the end to have reclaimed his hat.

### **Works Cited**

Klassen, Jon. *I Want My Hat Back*. Candlewick Press, 2011. Print

Carle, Eric. *Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1991. Print

Geisel, Theodore Seuss. *The Butter Battle Book*. Random House Books For Young Readers, 1984. Print

Klassen, Jon. *This Is Not My Hat*. Candlewick Press, 2012. Print