



# **Goops and How to Be Them: A Manual of Manners for Polite Infants Inculcating Many Juvenile Virtues**

*Gelett Burgess*

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The Goops they lick their fingers, /And the Goops they lick their knives, /They spill their broth on the tablecloth -/Oh, they lead disgusting lives! The rhymes and drawings in this hilarious introduction to manners for children still amuse and educate 100 years later, providing lessons valuable today and shedding light on turn-of-the-century American mores

## **Goops and How to Be Them: A Manual of Manners for Polite Infants Inculcating Many Juvenile Virtues Details**

Date : Published June 15th 2005 by Applewood Books (first published 1900)

ISBN : 9781557093929

Author : Gelett Burgess

Format : Hardcover 96 pages

Genre : Poetry, Childrens, Nonfiction, Humor, Picture Books, Parenting



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# **From Reader Review Goops and How to Be Them: A Manual of Manners for Polite Infants Inculcating Many Juvenile Virtues for online ebook**

**Caitlin Johnson says**

I THINK IT IS A GREAT BOOK BECAUSE I USED TO READ IT WHEN I WAS LITTLE AND I THOUGHT IT WAS THE FUNNIEST BOOK EVER  
!!!!!!!

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**Daria says**

I love Goops. However, I hate the Kindle version. it's poorly formatted, No photos, symbols instead of words. Don't waste your money on the Kindle version.

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**Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says**

Originally written in 1900.

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**Sandy says**

A children's book about good manners. The rhymes are catchy and very cute. It does not shy from "big" words, and is age-appropriate for children.

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**Lisa Quenon says**

I grew up hearing the lessons of the Goops. This book is a classic; originally published in 1900.

I enjoy sharing the cautionary tales and lessons of the Goops with young friends today.

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**JoDean says**

What a fun collection of verse to illustrate proper manners. The Goops have been teaching children through their impoliteness for over 100 years.

"For in Rudeness they're Precocious,  
They're Atrocious, they're Ferocious!"

"Ask yourself, upon the Spot,  
Are you Goop, or are you Not?"

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### **Bayneeta says**

A childhood favorite. The original was published in 1900. My brother Doug gave us all copies of this reprint for Christmas. Thought I'd include my favorite here, but I couldn't choose just one. I love all the little round-headed Goop illustrations too. Wonderful memories!

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### **Ramona Honan says**

Read in my childhood back in the 50's and still fondly remember it.

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### **Helynnne says**

When I was small, I had a book of children's poems that had two stanzas of Gelett Burgess's collection about "The Goops"—specifically, the lines about table manners: "The goops they lick their fingers. The goops they lick their knives. They spill their broth on the table cloth. They lead disgusting lives." Henceforth, whenever my table manners flagged, my mother would admonish me "not to be a Goop." The illustrations depict these little losers as ugly, round-headed, bald guys—certainly, not the type any child would want to emulate. What I did not know until recently is that Burgess (1866-1951) wrote several collections of poems about a variety of bad behaviors by the Goops. This particular collection of clever, often laugh-outloud poems has a few more pieces about table manners, but it also includes others that warn kids about the undesirability of lots of other kinds of Goop antics. Some fun poems include "Window-Smoochers," (leaving greasy lip prints on the glass); "A Low Trick" (Goops who pull a chair out from under someone else) "Nell the Nibbler," (pigging out on Goop food); "When to Go" (overstaying one's welcome at other people's homes); "Piano Torture" (banging mindlessly on the keys) and "Visiting" ("It's better to be slighted than to stay when not invited for they *never* ask a Goop to come again!"); and "Book Manners" (scribbling in books); and one of my favorites, "Exaggeration" ("Don't try to be more funny than anyone at school, for if you're not, they'll laugh a lot and think you are a fool.") Some of the poems do not cite infractions, but rather urge kids toward good conduct. For example, "The Duty of the Strong" reminds bigger kids to help the littler ones. Every single poem is a gem and a reminder to kids everywhere to stop the whining, demanding, littering, showing off, wiping noses on sleeves, spitting, nose-picking, tattling, cheating, saying "ain't," and numerous other shenanigans that make parents cringe.

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### **Margaret K says**

This book should help in every home to make learning manners a little bit more fun.

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## **jacky says**

I am not sure if this is the book, but I am marking it for now so I don't forget. My father used to read the poem about the Goops aloud to us, usually at dinner time. It was in a book that had lots of other poems or stories, but being so young, I never knew if it was some sort of collection or a book all by the same author. The Goops is all I remember.

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## **Alyssa Bohon says**

The children seemed to enjoy it thoroughly, even though many words were over their heads. I liked some of the poems, but didn't care for the inconsistent 'set' of the collected poems - some were slightly sarcastic as to how to be a Goop (which you don't want) while others were more directly positive as to what one ought to do, but with each poem you were never sure which direction it was going. Overall, the illustrations and whimsical short lines were delightful for children and we will read it again.

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## **Pat says**

I remember teaching "The Goops" poem to my little sister. It was so fun. I bought her the posters and they scared her so much that she hung them in her closet! We taught the poem to our children when they were learning table manners. My goodness, the fun never ends. 'The Goops they lick their fingers/And the Goops they like their knives,/They spill their broth on the tablecloth/Oh, they lead disgusting lives./The Goops they talk while eating,/ and loud and fast they chew,/ And that is why I am glad I am not a Goop/Are you?

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## **Melinda says**

Clear fun illustrations and old-time polite and useful values. It's a little unclear you want to be a Goop or Not be a Goop, but it's pretty clear which characteristics are desirable.

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## **Rachel says**

This book taught me how to have the terrible manners I have today, such that my friends at summer camp refused to eat at the same table with me because of the way I held my spoon. Thank god for the Goops. I am going to be the creepy aunt that buys this as a present for babies.

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