



The Magic Word

Mac Barnett , Elise Parsley (Illustrations)

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A hilarious take on what a magic word really is from Mac Barnett, the award-winning, bestselling author of Sam and Dave Dig a Hole and Extra Yarn, and Elise Parsley, the bestselling author/illustrator of If You Ever Want to Bring an Alligator to School, Don't! and If You Ever Want to Bring a Piano to the Beach, Don't!

When Paxton C. Heymeyer's babysitter tells him to say the magic word, she could never have imagined that what would happen next would be a walrus chasing her, an elephant in the living room playing cards, and a full water park and moat in the front yard. And that's just the beginning...

The Magic Word Details

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Author : Mac Barnett , Elise Parsley (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review The Magic Word for online ebook

Lindsay says

Pretty fun, but I'm not sure I like the ending...

Cara says

The illustrations in this book are pretty awesome, but I'm not really into the message that this book is sending. I know that we don't always read for a message, but telling a kid that he can have anything he wants with no consequences and he doesn't really learn a lesson seems like a bad idea. Maybe that's just me.

Becky B says

A little boy is tired of being asked to say "the magic word," so in one moment of defiance he says a made up word and accidentally stumbles on a truly magical word that grants him his every wish. He no longer needs to ask nicely for cookies, they will appear at his word. He no longer needs to listen to the babysitter or his parents, his magically summoned walruses take care of them, and he doesn't have to deal with friends who don't always agree with him, walruses take care of them too. But it turns out having everything you could wish for can be a bit lonely and not happy.

I liked the imagination of this book and that the boy eventually learns his lesson (though the babysitter gets chased off a second time after all the others are brought back...some may not like that...though you could argue that he needs a new babysitter anyway, one who is a little more creative and able to out-think him). Parsley was a genius choice to illustrate this. She nails facial expressions and the imagination of a boy.

Kristina Jean Lareau says

Paxton accidentally discovers the magic world that will grant him whatever he wants. After walruses chase away all his antagonists, he has to learn what his actions have cost.

With dynamic and colorful digital illustration, this subversive picturebook is amusing and leading to conversations about manners without being didactic in any manner. A fun read aloud.

The Library Lady says

Funny enough. The plot line is pretty predictable, but I like that the final bit allows for a little bit of unrepentant glee.

Oh, and Paxton? If you can still use that magic word, could I borrow it and transport the current resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and all his court to Mars? PLEASE?

Robin says

Not on par with the author's other works. Something was off about the book design and what could have been a great plot fell flat and felt mean. Ages 5-7.

Relyn says

The Magic Word is a Show Me nominee this year, which means it's up for the best picture book of 2018 as chosen by Missouri school children. I read each of the ten nominees to all my second, third, and fourth graders. For those of you who are counting, that's 15 read alouds in one week. Even the best books can lose their luster with that much reading aloud. This one didn't. Better, it had all the students squealing and saying the magic word with me as I read. Even better, it had them laughing and talking and really, really imagining. Mac Barnett books are always a hit with kids - no easy feat. This one is definitely one of my favorites. Plus, I absolutely love Elise Parsley's illustrations. Love it!

Christy says

A hilarious take on what a magic word really is from Mac Barnett, the award-winning, bestselling author of Sam and Dave Dig a Hole and Extra Yarn, and Elise Parsley, the bestselling author/illustrator of If You Ever Want to Bring an Alligator to School, Don't! and If You Ever Want to Bring a Piano to the Beach, Don't!

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Gretchen says

We all think of the "magic word" as please and so does Paxton. But he decides to try something different one day and discovers another "magic word." Suddenly he is able to have everything he wants, or so he thinks it's everything he wants. Paxton finds out that having everything with no one to share it with isn't having everything. But, he remembers the magic word for the future, just in case.

Amanda Brooke says

I am reading this one aloud to my students as it's one of the Washington Children's Choice Picture Book nominees. It is also serving to talk about our book selection skills. First I show them the cover and we talk about the title and how we know the author and illustrator (I can use information about an author or illustrator to select a book). Our school loves Mac Barnett and Elise Parsley - so we will probably like this book too. Unless it's really about the magic word. I mean really - do our students need another book that

teaches to be polite? So then we look at the back of the book and there is the magic word, Alakazoomba. It's not please! Did you think this book would be about saying please?

The magic really starts when Paxton transforms the house. The wow factor from the students leads me to think this book will get the gold sticker of approval. Teachers will like the book for the meaningful apology lesson, but the ending might feel inappropriate to them. The kids laugh, but it gives us a chance to ask, "does everyone really deserve an apology? Is it possible that some people are unforgivable?"

Heidi-Marie says

Mac Barnett imagination and humor. School-age will like it. Pictures go along very well with it. A fun lap-read and read-alone. Could make it work in preschool storytime. Will the adults be ok that I read that ending to their children....?

7/13/17 Used at an Outreach storytime (American Diabetes Association Utah Day Camp with a Magic theme). They were K-3rd age. The perfect crowd for this. Most of them have had baby-sitters, so they laughed a lot at the baby-sitter's fate. One kid seemed confused that his using the word didn't make her forgive him. Guess he missed that lesson!

Diane says

Paxton Heymeyer just wants a cookie. But when the babysitter asks him for the magic word, he discovers Alakazoomba! Suddenly, he has walruses to chase away the babysitter. He has a water slide in the middle of the house. When his parents come home and try to ground him, Alakazoomba! When Rosie comes over to play and insults him, Alakazoomba! But after awhile, Paxton discovers it's rather lonely. Can he Alakazoomba everyone back?

My students loved this one.

Breanne says

Ask any parent, "What is the magic word?"

It's "please"! PLEASE!

But not in this book, instead this boy uses 'magic' to turn his family and friends into walruses. I'm not opposed to silliness but I like books with a "message" and 'when you get mad at people you can just get rid of them' isn't a very positive message.

Kara Garcia says

1. The book we are going to read today is The Magic Word by Mac Barnett. What is a "magic word"? Do

any of you know any “magic words” to make things happen? In this story, the main character, Paxton C. Heymeyer, finds a magic word to make what he wants to happen. Instead of “abracadabra”, though, his magic word is “alakazoomba”.

Let’s take a quick look at some of the illustrations without reading the words. Look how the illustrator shows what Paxton’s wishes are. How can we, as the readers, tell that Paxton has wished or used his magic word without even reading? [There are blue sparkles] Also, as we read, pay attention to how the illustrator shows the characters’ emotions, and makes the characters’ facial expressions add even more understanding to the text.

2. *Tell the meaning of a key word

*Draw attention to the writer’s or illustrator’s craft

*Copyright 2016

*Missouri Show Me Book Award Nominee 2018-2019

*Iowa Goldfinch Book Award Nominee 2019-2020

*Washington Children’s Choice Picture Book Award Nominee 2018

Patricia McLaughlin says

Hilarious story of a spoiled brat getting everything he wants, perfectly illustrated by Parsley—until the point of reckoning, when what should be “the magic word” loses all of its power and forgiveness becomes a meaningless concept.
