

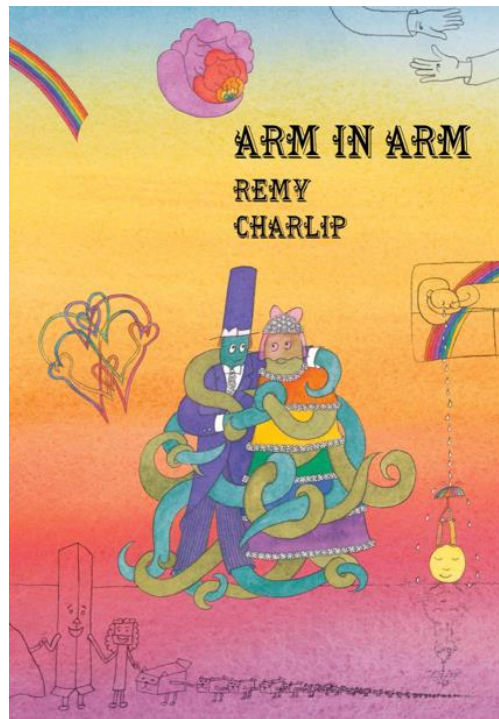
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Review of *Arm in Arm* Written by Remy Charlip

Adult/Educator Reviewer: Jennifer Fraser
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Student Reviewer: Abeer Rajani & Jolanda Young, 6th grade



Charlip, R. (2019). *Arm in arm*. New York, NY: The New York Review Children's Collection.

ISBN: 978-168137-373-7

Adult Review: Jennifer Fraser

This picture book takes the reader on a journey of imagination and word play. The author creates a disjointed, dreamscape in which the reader is struggling to follow pace. There are bright colors, strange repetitions, silly sayings, and words that you must physically turn the book to read. While all the pages are cohesive in their call to the imagination, they do not follow any one single story. There is hardly any continuation of characters besides the octopuses and cats which becomes an “octopuss,” a cat with bright colors and a brilliant array of arms. Although the book does not have one plot or set of characters to follow, it is wildly entertaining.

This book was reviewed because of its fascinating take on a traditional picture book. The book offers the reader a choice to think harder and deeper about the riddles and rhymes and word play or a chance to just sit back and enjoy the ride. This book can appeal to older elementary school children and to young middle school children who are starting to pick up on figurative language such as idioms and puns and hyperbole and repetition.

The only concern with this book is that it does not have a traditional plot or storyline. This book cannot be used for a lesson on plot or narrative sequence. It is strange and mystifying. It may also be difficult for a teacher to read aloud during a story time because the words are very small and hard to read. Students will want to see all the little clues and details the author wrote, and it may be difficult to share this with them in a whole class setting.

Student Review: Abeer Rajani

I do not like the book *Arm in Arm*, but there were some good and bad things about this book that I liked and disliked.

One thing I liked about the book was the puns. For example, on page 1 it has a joke about two octopuses getting married “in arm in arm in arm...”. This was funny to me because arm and arm was the title of the book and, at first, I did not understand the title and picture of the two octopuses getting married. After I had, I found it funny how they linked the first page with the title of the book. This was one thing that I found funny in the book.

One thing I disliked was the swirly words on page 6. On page 6, the swirly words were really confusing to me. I had to turn the book around and around until I finished reading it. This was very weird for me and confusing. Also, I did not like the size of the fonts—that it changed from when you started to read. The font was bigger and got smaller. It was confusing to me because my eyes had to adjust to the font.

Another thing I did not like was the pattern he made on page 15. I did not like this because I did not know where the sentence started. I did not know where in the pattern of the circle I should start reading nor end reading. And in the weird heart pattern it was the same thing as the circle, but it was even more difficult to find the meaning of the words/quotes. Also, inside of the square it was hard to know what the quote meant, and it was hard to find where it started or ended. Though it was a creative idea of the author, it was very confusing to me. That was another thing I disliked about the book.

In conclusion, I *do* like the concepts and jokes of the story, but the way that the author displayed the words and quotes were very confusing to me because they were in patterns and it took me time to find the start of the quote(s). I liked the author’s creativity in this book, but it was rather confusing to me, and that is why I do not like this book so much, though it was a creative, fun book to read.

Student Review: Jolanda Young

Arm in Arm by Remy Charlip is a great book with many different meanings. It is important because it shows how you can be creative by writing in many different ways or with many different techniques. He also shows how we should be ourselves and not worry about being normal. He shows this by writing in different ways like in swirls, curves, and up and down. Charlip could have just written his story regularly, like how everyone else writes their stories, but he did not.

I would recommend this book to any person that is seeking an adventure. I think it is good for any age. I like this book a lot because it is not just your boring simple, normal book. Instead, this is a fun, abstract book. In conclusion, this book is amazing, and I would recommend this book to anyone. Overall, I rate this book five out of five stars.