

Title		Into the Forest			
Author (Text & Illustration)		Anthony Browne			
Publication Year		2004	Publisher	Walker Books	
Translated Versions		Japanese translation available			
Words	523	Pages	32	YL Level	N/A
Synopsis					
<p>"I" is woken up in the middle of the night by a terrible sound. In the morning, his dad is gone. Mom does not know when he will be back. The next day, mom asks "me" to help with an errand, to visit grandma who lives on the other side of the forest and deliver a cake. Ignoring mom's advice not to go into the forest, "I" wants to take the shorter road, and cuts through the forest. What is waiting for "me" in the forest?</p>					
Introduction					
<p>This is the type of picture book that is more about finding tricks hidden in the illustrations than the story. It's just a story of a boy going into the woods and eventually arriving at Grandma's house, with the plot of "Little Red Riding Hood" superimposed on it. On the cover, the boy's shadow looks like a rabbit, and there are frogs and apples hidden at the base of a large tree. The world of the forest that the boy enters is depicted in black and white, but it seems to be a fairy tale world, and the boy encounters a succession of characters who seem to have been lifted from fairy tales, including Jack from <i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i> with a cow; a blonde girl (Rapunzel?) who wants to eat the cake the boy is taking to his grandmother; and Hansel and Gretel, who seem to have been abandoned by their parents. As you turn the pages in the black-and-white forest, you will see Cinderella's shoes, pumpkins, Puss-in-Boots, Little Red Riding Hood's wolf, and so on. Finding these hidden pictures can be fun, even if it is not clear how they relate to the development of the story.</p> <p>In addition, the color pages also conceal some mysteries. The first page shows a lightning bolt and a boy sitting up in bed with an anxious look on his face. What was the loud noise he heard? Why is mom's face in the beginning and mom's face at the end painted with a completely different touch? If you "read deeply," you may experience a forest adventure different from "Little Red Riding Hood."</p> <p>Or maybe it's all just some fun on the author's part, and there's no particular meaning to it...maybe. That's fine too.</p>					
Related work/Reference URL					
[Other recommended picture books by Browne]					

- *Voices in the Park* (Corgi, 1998) (Japanese translation available)
More information about this book is available on our website.
- *The Tunnel* (Walker Books, 2008) (No translation)
More information about this book is available on our website.

(Text: Motoko Fukaya)