

Title	<i>It's a Book</i>				
Author (Text & Illustration)	Lane Smith				
Publication Year	2010	Publisher	Roaring Brook Press		
Translated Versions	Japanese translation available				
Words	163	Pages	32	YL Level	N/A
Synopsis					
<p>Monkey loves books. Today as well, he is sitting on the sofa and reading a book. Donkey comes along with his computer and starts asking him questions: "What do you have there?" "It's a book." However, it seems that Donkey has never read a book and does not know that you cannot scroll, use the mouse, or send mail as you read a book. Impatiently, Monkey shows Donkey the book he is reading. Losing track of time, Donkey starts reading the book. How will the book end?</p>					
Introduction					
<p>I would recommend this book to junior and senior high school students and children who are rapidly losing interest in books. It is not preachy, but conveys the fun of books as opposed to electronic devices. It is written in simple English using short sentences, so it can be used in elementary schools. The dialogue between Monkey and Donkey is exquisite—this is a picture book that you definitely want to read aloud. You can also have the children read the lines of Monkey and Donkey to each other in pairs.</p> <p>The book that Monkey is reading is Robert Louis Stevenson's <i>Treasure Island</i>. Part of that book is quoted. It may also be effective to teach students to read these books at the same time. There are also many versions of this book using simplified English, such as Pearson English Graded Readers: Level 2, Oxford Bookworms: Level 4, Ladder Series: Level 3, etc.</p>					
Related work/Reference URL					
<p>[Other recommended picture books by Smith]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It's a Little Book</i> (Roaring Brook, 2011) (No translation) This is a version with Monkey and Donkey as babies. 					

(Text: Motoko Fukaya)