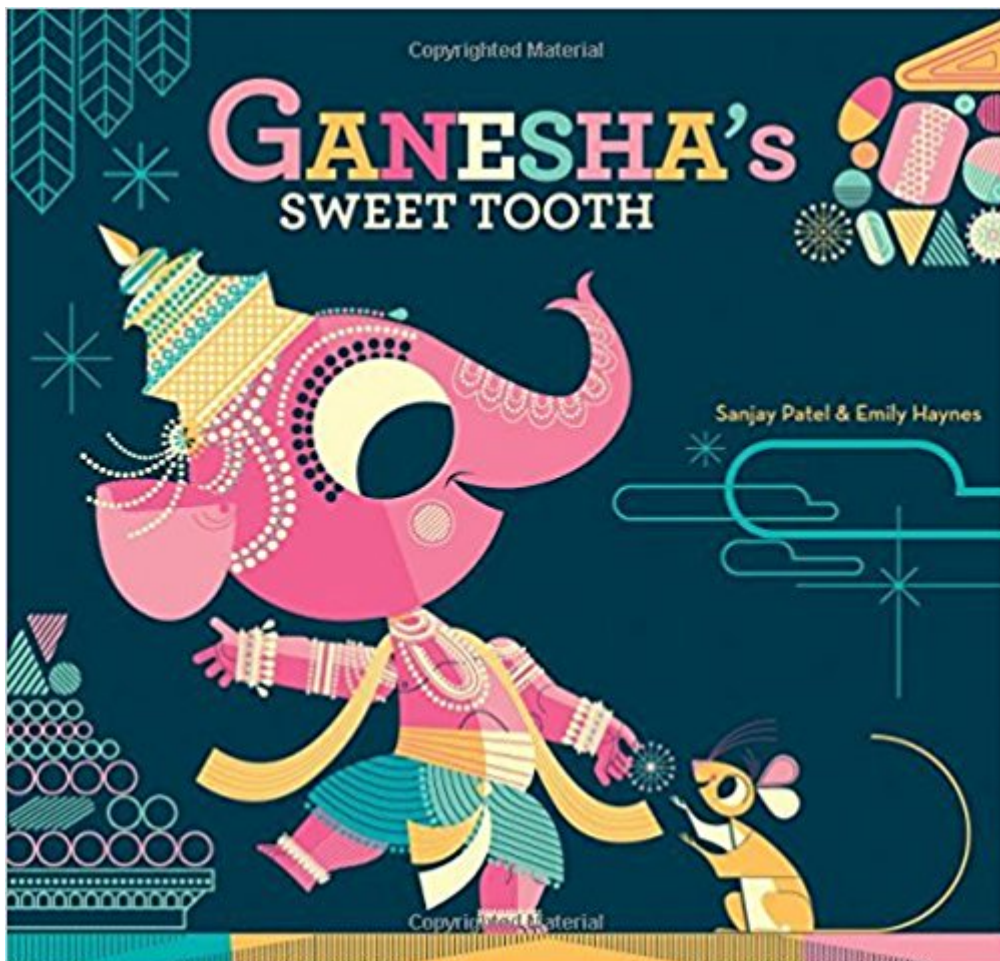


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Ganesha's Sweet Tooth



Synopsis

The bold, bright colors of India leap right off the page in this fresh and funny picture book retelling (with a twist) of how Ganesha came to help write the epic poem of Hindu literature, the Mahabharata. Ganesha is just like any other kid, except that he has the head of an elephant and rides around on a magical mouse. And he loves sweets, especially the traditional dessert laddoo. But when Ganesha insists on biting into a super jumbo jawbreaker laddoo, his tusk breaks off! Ganesha is terribly upset, but with the help of the wise poet Vyasa, and his friend Mr. Mouse, he learns that what seems broken can actually be quite useful after all. With vibrant, graphic illustrations, expressive characters, and offbeat humor, this is a wonderfully inventive rendition of a classic tale.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Chronicle Books (September 19, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1452103623

ISBN-13: 978-1452103624

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.5 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 125 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #47,789 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia](#) #46 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #59 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Elephants](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

With bright, elaborately detailed illustrations, this picture book tells a fictionalized story based on the legend of how the Hindu god Ganesha transcribed the epic poem Mahabharata. Here Ganesha is “just like any other kid” except that he has an elephant’s head, and vividly colored pictures show him cruising around on a magical mouse. He loves sweets (he is a bit “chubby”), but when he bites down on “the super jumbo jawbreaker

laddoo, his tusk breaks off. He is furious and bitterly ashamed until he meets Vyasa the poet, who needs the tusk to write his poem, which is so long that "all the pens in the world would break before it is done." So Ganesha helps the poet and uses his tusk to write the 100,000 verses of a story, which turns out to be so beautiful he even forgets about sweets. Blending computer graphics with traditional images, the intricate, stylized illustrations may be best suited for grade-schoolers, who will enjoy the story's turnarounds and focus on luscious sweets, and many will be ready for the classic Hindu myth. Grades 1-3. --Hazel Rochman

"A classic Hindu tale gets an artful interpretation in this piece of eye candy" - Daily Candy Kids
"Zesty and original... Pink elephants haven't looked this good since 'Dumbo'" - The New York Times
"Two traditional events in the life of the Hindu god Ganesha are imaginatively recast" - School Library Journal
"The wordless two-page spreads retelling the ancient epic Sanskrit poem, Mahabharata is a masterpiece." - Lisa Von Drasek, Early Word
"A fresh and comedic introduction to a Hindu legend, with a winning combination of both eye candy and actual candy." - Publishers Weekly
"A feast for the eyes... So sweet we almost want to pop it in our mouths." - Entertainment Weekly
"A confectioner's palette... strong shapes and a mix of modern objects with traditional designs add to the fun." - Kirkus Reviews

I am tired of oversimplified illustrations that you see everywhere in so many books. I mean that while it is great to have generic stories with typical boys and girls and their families etc, look how culturally loaded this one is! How many details you can see and wonder about (the bracelets, the sari, the laddoo, the beads)! Look at the geometric beautiful patterns and tiny details! Now, my mom said that "that wouldn't be my choice" and I agree, it's probably not for everyone, but the way I chose books for my kid is:- get different styles to let them see different things - they might not like it, but it's good to see different things and choose your favorites, and there's always a chance they will grow to like them later- get different cultures and show kids that people can wear, say and like different things, that's how the world is. Great book, my kid and I loved it!

My kiddos LOVE LOVE LOVE this book! We've been living in the US for years and I've never seen kids versions of Hindu mythological stories. This a great adaptation drawing in themes and concepts that kids are exposed to in their daily lives and tying it back to the mythological story. I ordered this for my young twins (not even 2 yet!) - when they were smaller, they appreciated listening to the story but they also loved the beautiful illustrations. Now that they're closer to 2, they're really

appreciating the different aspects of the story as well! Awesome book, I highly recommend it!

Ganesha is one of Hinduism's most lovable gods. According to the mythology, he does have quite a sweet tooth, though eating a "super jumbo jawbreaking laddo" was most definitely not included in the original. Mr. Patel stretches the ancient story, to follow young Ganesha as he breaks his "tooth", aka. tusk, on this jawbreaking laddo, which lands him the important role of writing down the epic tale of Mahabharata, with his broken tusk. I am impressed with the changes to the original story, because children can relate to this young god and his self-consciousness while missing a "tooth" - it's exactly what happens to young children when they start losing their teeth. The art is attractive, though a little too minimalistic to my taste. I enjoyed the designs, but I am not sure if it's the most effective designs for young children, as they may not notice all the easter eggs hidden in the images. The pacing is interesting, because the story that Mr. Patel chooses to tell, fits within the page count. I felt like the loose adaptation suffered a bit in explaining the Mahabharata. The story is very detailed and too complicated for the premise of this book, but the art linked to the Mahabharata was left without context. I can see this book being very popular with early elementary students.

I suspected, but didn't know for sure, that this was a cultural legend until I read the note at the end of the book. I'm glad to have different cultures' stories in my son's library! Overall, I like the message of the story, but the way it's presented here is pretty uninspiring and likely doesn't do the original legend justice. But the illustrations-- some of my favorite I've ever seen! Bright, geometric, somewhat abstract. I'll forgive the uninspiring storytelling and read this book often just to admire the beautiful, unique illustrations!

I wish we had this book growing up. Being born in the States (or anywhere out of India) this is very helpful for both teaching little children and informal learning as adults. The pictures are fun and colorful, much like the cover. It goes through all the deities and a page or two about their story so children know who they are at a glance. The pictures are also historically accurate (although cartooned) that they can be recognized when going to the temple or when seeing paintings/photos. I've bought this book for all my nieces and nephews as well as one for my newborn daughter. Great baby shower gift for those that ask for a baby book in lieu of card. I highly highly recommend it.

Adorable children's book. It's not the exact story, but hey, if it gets the kids reading, or listening, that's a win! I hope the author writes more books about Hindu gods because there are so many

short delightful stories and there's a serious lack of good books in this field. I wish this was made in board books too. We had to buy 2 books already!

I gave this to my aunt as a Christmas or birthday present years ago so that she could read it to her oldest grandson who loved learning about Ganesha. This is a perfect book for children who are fascinated with learning about the Hindu religion. It's has bright and color imagines and great texts for all ages.

Good book for introducing Hindu God and telling stories. The illustrations are perfect and vivid. My daughter loves this book, even though I haven't had a chance to put Lord Ganesha pic on the walls of our home.

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