



[Home](#) > The Car Ride | A Good Job

---

## The Car Ride | A Good Job

Books Reviewed:

[The Car Ride](#) [1]

Books Reviewed:

[A Good Job](#) [2]

Issue:

[58](#) [3]

Reviewer:

[Liz Waterland](#) [4]

News to Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

0

Yes. Well. When you consider what John Burningham is really capable of - the bare bones authenticity of **The Blanket**, **My Dog** or **My Baby**, the simple, logical entertainment of **Mr Gumpy's Outing** - how are the mighty fallen? The pictures are good as ever and very Burningham - spare, understated and pale - but the text is poor stuff.

Of the two **A Good Job** is probably the better. Written in a 'rat-a-ta-tar' rhyme pattern, it describes the problems facing a boy and teddybear who come to clean the house. But the rhythm sometimes falters and the rhyme deteriorates into banality. As for **The Car Ride**, take my advice: if you want a really good story about a trip in a car by John Burningham, then read **Mr Gumpy's Motor Car**. I found **The Car Ride** very difficult to read; some pages do rhyme, some don't, the rhythm stops with a clunk several times and the idea seems rather ordinary.

The children were interested in the books as soon as they recognised the artist but, although they enjoyed a first reading of both of them, agreed that they much preferred 'Mr Gumpy' because, as Daniel said, 'there's more in them and they're easier to read'.

Running Order:

42

---

**Source URL (retrieved on Jun '19):** <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/58/childrens-books/reviews/the-car-ride-%C2%A6-a-good-job>

**Links:**

[1] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/the-car-ride>

[2] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/a-good-job>

[3] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/58>

[4] <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/liz-waterland>