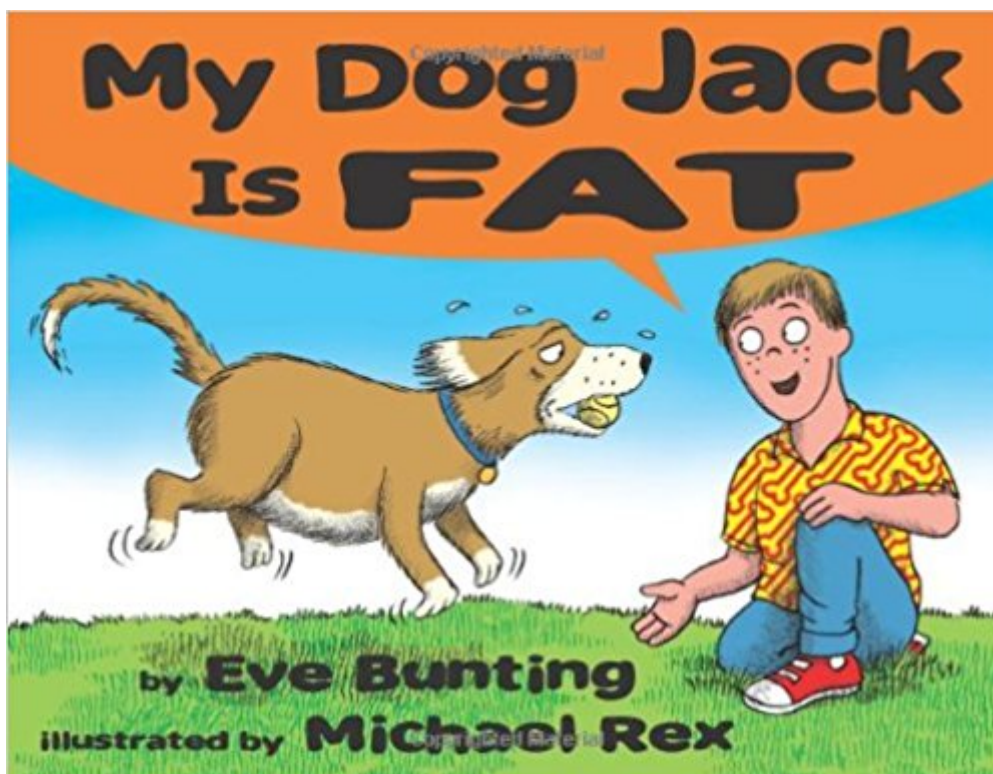


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# My Dog Jack Is Fat



## Synopsis

With dialogue, thought bubbles, and colored-pencil drawings, Eve Bunting and Michael Rex have created an amusing story about staying healthy. When Carson takes his dog, Jack, to the vet for his annual check-up, he discovers that Jack is overweight. The vet gives Carson a list of things to do to help his dog lose weight. But as Jack diets, exercises, and sheds pounds, Carson snacks and gains weight. By the end of the book, Jack is thin and Carson is fat!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD300L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Two Lions (March 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761458093

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Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 0.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,647,088 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Weight #3494 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets #7633 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1st - 3rd

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2 When the vet tells Carson that his dog needs to lose weight, neither the boy nor his pet is happy. But they set to work, and before long Jack's changes in diet and exercise start paying off. Unfortunately, Carson supervises all of the pup's hard work while lolling around and eating junk food, with predictable results. Can he bear to hear some hard news about himself? This appealing take on a common problem has understated, smooth writing and colorful, digitally rendered cartoons enlivened by Rex's characteristic humor. --School Library Journal, May, 2011  
Grades K-3 This brightly illustrated story of an overweight dog gets right to the point that being overweight can be unhealthy for animals and people. Carson's dog, Jack, is told by the vet to lose some weight. As Jack spends the next month working out and eating less, he keeps the reader entertained with his sarcastic comments. While Jack is dropping weight, Carson is gaining weight as he sits and eats

while Jack exercises. Using traditional text and speech bubbles, Bunting engages the reader with humor while Rex's colorful drawings keep the reader focused on the action. Primary readers will enjoy this story of a boy and his dog while upper primary readers will appreciate the sometimes sarcastic comments by Jack the dog. This is an entertaining story dealing with an ever-increasing problem in our society. Recommended. --Library Media Connection, Steven Hodge

Author Eve Bunting is the author of over 200 children's books. She lives in Pasadena, California. Illustrator Michael Rex is the author and illustrator of many books for children. He lives in the Bronx, New York.

Cute book with which will inspire children to translate to themselves. Gave as a gift

The idea of a pet being over weight and being put on regiment of exercise and smart eating is okay, but Carson, the pet's owner, is not portrayed as a caring master. While Jack is being exercised, given smaller portions of foods and no snacking, Carson is pigging out with junk food and unhealthy eating. The author portrays Carson as a uncaring pet owner and in the end, Carson has put on weight and now looks at himself as "fat" and gets upset. Not a very good way for a little boy to look at himself. I really don't know what the author was trying to say, but he should have had Carson support Jack with his weight loss by eating healthy along with him and exercising. Didn't really like the tone of the book and the ending was a bit abrupt too and ended on a sour note for me with Carson not feeling good about himself.

This starts with a cute idea. Carson is a young boy who learns that his dog Jack is overweight and needs better diet and some exercise. Carson helps Jack eat healthy food and exercise, but eats so much junk food in the process that he gains weight himself, and at the end, he starts his own fitness program alongside Jack. That's OK, and it's a good message for kids that they should eat healthy food and get exercise, but it's a tricky line to walk, and I'm not sure this book gets the line between good advice and "fat shaming" right. The execution is also OK but didn't wow me. The story and art are fine, and my daughter enjoyed reading it to me, but I am not sure she'll ask to read it again.

The idea that a young pet owner overfeeds his beloved pet is nothing new. What is a bit different with this story disguised as a children's book is the message: that being fat is not good and one should be ashamed. Overfeeding and overeating are real problems in our society. We do have fat

pets and most are simply loved to death. So when Carson takes his dog Jack to the vet and the vet tells him the dog must lose weight, Carson immediately puts the dog on an exercise regimen. Oddly, Carson is not fat in the beginning, but while Jack has to exercise, suddenly Carson is ordering his dog to get active while he is lounging around eating junk food. A month later, during Jack's follow-up visit, Jack loses the weight but Carson has put it on. Jack is there to console Carson and promises to help Carson lose the weight again. All this is nice, but the story should not have ended there. This is why I am not rating this too highly. The message is better suited for preteens but not younger children. Eating healthy and exercising are both great to do but the message could have been presented more positively.

I thought that "My Dog Jack is Fat" was going to be a story about a dog - it turned into a slam against slightly chubby children. I would not read this book to a child, chubby or not, as it is simply too harsh a message. Some children in the target age are slightly chubby in preparation for a growth spurt. While this doesn't seem to be the case in this book, it takes a condemning attitude towards weight gain in general. I also don't think it is up to a vet to talk about this to a child. Also, why are we shown this child in their underwear? It is simply inappropriate and mean spirited. I don't recommend the book for any age group. I asked two other adults to read the book and asked their opinion (without giving any idea what the story was about) and both objected to the book on similar grounds.

I found this one hard to read to my son. It's drawn in a cute style, and tells a cute story about a boy who helps his dog lose weight, only to gain it all himself. I didn't like the story or the style, though. The thought bubbles and non-rhyming, non lyrical story was tough to read - I had to pay attention to go in order to make the story flow, and worse, there are such short blurbs that it's not really interesting. Disappointing, as the art is cute and the story has potential. It's just too dull to read as a parent to let it come into our regular rotation.

Yes, I thought I would not like this. I read it and thought "nothing special, it is OK." Then my 4 year old began to read and re-read it. Something was going on!! Kids love dogs generally speaking. Here is this dog with a problem. Jack's little boy takes on helping Jack to lose weight in various ways all the while doing the OPPOSITE of what he is having Jack do!! As I am sure you have guessed, Jack succeeds. But now, it is his owner who looks in a mirror and sees.....he is fat!!! It ends w/ the duo taking active action. The illustrations are a bit above average. You can tell thought was put into them and the book teaches through using a dog slimming down and the various methods while

using the heavyset boy to illustrate what NOT to do. In a humorous manner. When the boy realizes he, too, is still heavy....he makes a decision based on if the dog can do it, so can I. Will this help to motivate any child thin or heavy to do the right things ??? Perhaps it was wise to use an animal who is loved to overcome this issue of eating and exercise etc and it being successful. It was realistic in many ways while simultaneously being imaginative. So, since my 4 year old who is normal sized liked it a lot, I am thinking it was a very good idea using the boy helping the dog to get the point across and help teach ways to stay in condition. Check inside the book on and see if you think it will suit you.....and maybe let your child see a preview,,,,,it was a child who helped me give this a good review and THAT is the audience that matters!!! Hope I have helped

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