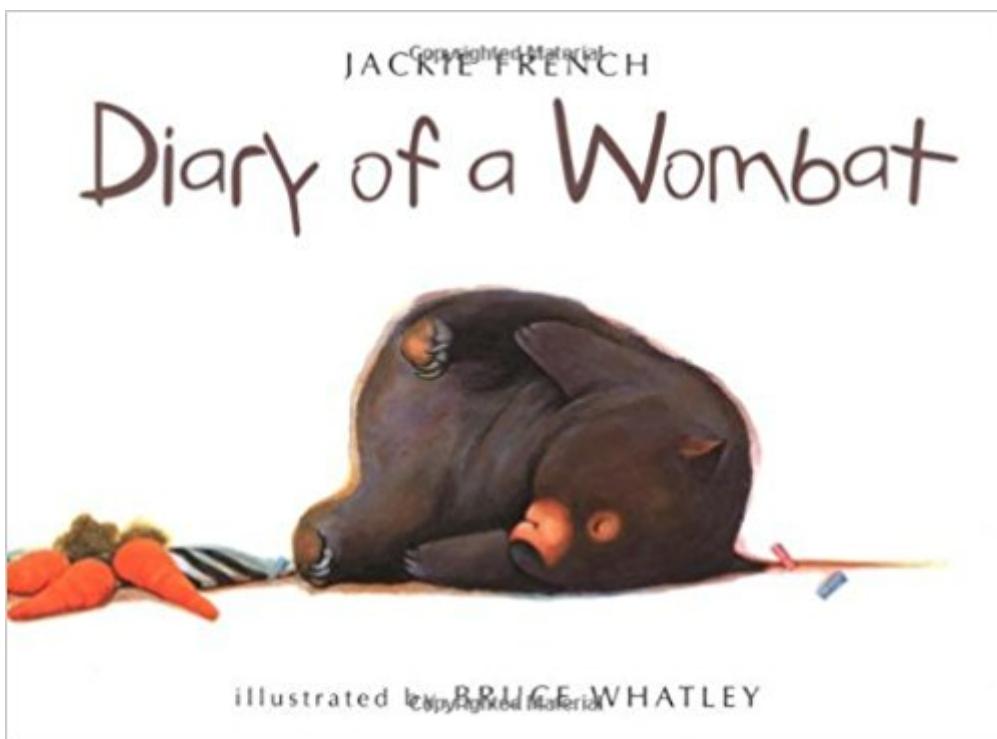


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# Diary Of A Wombat (Ala Notable Children's Books. Younger Readers (Awards))



## **Synopsis**

Wombats are cuddly-looking, slow-moving Australian animals. Their favorite activities are eating, sleeping, and digging holes. Here, in the words of one unusually articulate wombat, is the tongue-in-cheek account of a busy week; eating, sleeping, digging holes . . . and training its new neighbors, a family of humans, to produce treats on demand. This entertaining book, with its brief, humorous text and hilarious illustrations, will endear the wombat to young children, who may recognize in the determined furry creature some qualities that they share.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 170L (What's this?)

Series: Ala Notable Children's Books. Younger Readers (Awards)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books; American ed edition (August 18, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618381368

ISBN-13: 978-0618381364

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 11.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 156 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #361,963 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Australia & Oceania #294 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Personal Hygiene #378 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mammals

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

What, exactly, do wombats do all day? One enterprising wombat answers that question and a few others in diary form in French's (No Such Thing) tongue-in-cheek picture book. After explaining his unique Australian heritage, the star of this volume paints a funny, if rather dull, picture of his daily routine. "Monday Morning: Slept./Afternoon: Slept./ Evening: Ate grass./ Scratched./ Night: Ate grass." Things begin to perk up, however, when the wombat discovers its new human neighbors. Before long, the always-hungry creature is at their door begging for food (preferably carrots or oats), digging in their garden ("Began new hole in soft dirt") and turning his neighbors' belongings into

scratching posts. Happily, the human family appears to take the antics of their adopted wild "pet" in stride (though the wombat sees things a bit differently "Have decided that humans are easily trained and make quite good pets"). Whatley (the Detective Donut books) appears to relish this character study; he paints the chocolate-brown wombat in numerous poses and expressions--rolling, scratching, sleeping, chewing--on an ample white background. The artist gives the star expressive eyes without anthropomorphizing her. The often cuddly looking wombat may leave some readers envious of its languid lifestyle. And those curious about other animals' activities can explore Diary of a Worm, Ages 4-7. (Aug.) Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information.

Kindergarten-Grade 2-Through simple sentences and hilarious yet realistic acrylic illustrations, readers are treated to a week of observations made by a young female wombat who becomes chummy with a human family. The diarist's obsessions with sleep and carrots allow a rest from heavier chuckles over a confrontation with a welcome mat: "Discovered flat, hairy creature invading my territory. Fought major battle with flat, hairy creature. Won battle. Neighbors should be pleased. Demanded a reward." French's text, in Kid's Stuff Plain font, also indirectly informs on habitat and wombats' nocturnal lifestyle. Whatley gives a sublime balance of the adorable charm of the creature, along with its drawbacks as an acquaintance. This title will team nicely with Margaret Spurling's Bilby Moon (Kane/Miller, 2001) for studies of Australian wildlife. Gay Lynn Van Vleck, Henrico County Library, Glen Allen, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

\*\*\*\*\*SPOILERS READ AT YOUR OWN PERIL\*\*\*\*\* One of the funniest stories about the life of a wombat, beginning with the easy life cycle of the wombat. Then the Wombat realizes that there are humans that are living near by, then proceeds to show the destructive nature of the wombat. But from the Wombat's point of view it isn't being destructive, it is merely requesting things and not understanding the difference between the human world and the wombat world. The wombat receives carrots from the humans, and since then have been terrorizing the humans to get the carrots. That was the first mistake they made, as they continue to give the wombat carrots, and when the wombat is tired of carrots, the humans then feed it oats. The wombat considers everything he or she is doing as just part of his life, and some of the things he is doing he considers as a help to the humans. I felt it was an innocent way to describe the different perspective that animals and humans have. What we consider as an animal being destructive, animals are merely looking for food. They do not understand the difference. It is also a lesson of not feeding wild animals. they become too comfortable with humans and messes with their natural life. At the end

the wombat decided that humans are easy to train and make good pets and decided to live under the house of the humans. The art was cute. The story was hilarious. I couldn't help but laugh at the story. I recommend it!

Gave this to my 17-year-old grandson, whom I nicknamed "Wombat" years ago. He enjoys all things wombat. It's a kid's book but darned cute, and he finds it highly amusing.

This story is charming and adorable! After reading it to our 8-year old we just HAD to YouTube Wombats and --of course-- now she wants one. :) This (along with two other books) was a Christmas gift and while she thought "The Day The Crayons Quit" would be her favorite book this one turned out to be the winner of that title! She's an animal lover to begin with though. ;-)

This book is excellent, humorous, delightful pictures, just a fun story for my wombat loving son. He loved it so much he read it to everyone through out the day and everyone in the family from 6-46, enjoyed it.

Best humorous book I've found about this Australian marsupial. (I love working with teens, and volunteer at a detention center. Many of them have lots of stuff going on and need all the help they can get to find a comfortable place for themselves in the world) At first none of them would do more than glance at the cover, apparently too afraid that the others would think them childish) It is beautifully illustrated and looks like a young child's read-aloud book, but once the kids here had the story read aloud to them, several have asked for the book to read it again to themselves. They even recommend the book to new kids coming in. (there's a lot of turnover here.) When I bought the book I also bought a small stuffed version of the animal, which has been very popular with the kids. (See my review about "Batty".) I copied an encyclopedia article with picture of a real wombat, which not really surprisingly, many have read that, too. They are very curious about wombats and often ask questions, which I'm happy to answer. I'm always thrilled when they show interest in something that has nothing to do with their own very real difficulties. I don't know what I'll do next, but this will be hard to beat!

Diary of a Wombat is the best book that explains how wombats act. I thought it was an excellent lesson on how to treat wombats and not to treat wombats. Very humorous.

I bought this book to read to my 3 year old preschool class and they loved it, but the person who loved it even more was my 9 year old daughter. She ended up becomming so interested in wombats that she spent several hours doing research about them. The book itself is the funniest thing ever, and the illustrations are wonderful! I would higly recomend this book for kids 3-99!

\*Not written by an actual wombat but the ghostwriter did a pretty good job capturing his personality.

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