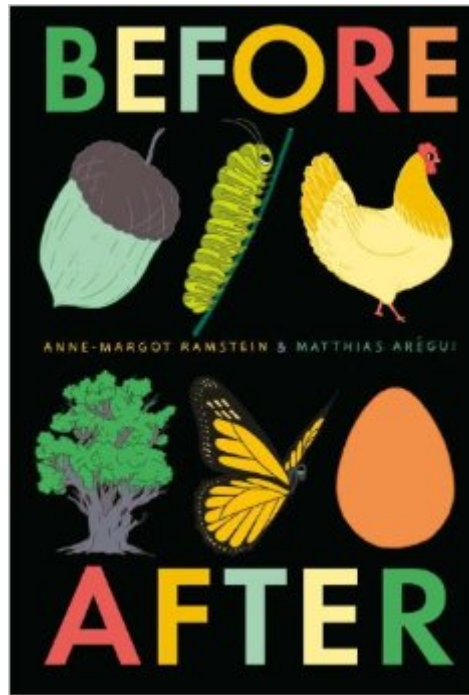


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# Before After



## Synopsis

Which came first? No words are necessary in this beautiful, artfully humorous book, in which every turn of the page offers a surprise. Everyone knows that a tiny acorn grows into a mighty oak and a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. But in this clever, visually enchanting volume, it's also true that a cow can result in both a bottle of milk and a painting of a cow, and an ape in a jungle may become an urban King Kong. Just as day turns into night and back again, a many-tiered cake is both created and eaten down to a single piece. With simple, graphic illustrations sure to appeal to even the youngest of children, this beautiful rumination on the passage of time will please the most discerning adult readers, too.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (October 14, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763676217

ISBN-13: 978-0763676216

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.8 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (30 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #51,716 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life](#) #1010 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: [Preschool - 3](#)

## Customer Reviews

Anne-Margot Ramstein and Matthias Aregui's picture book "Before After" could be a good choice for your non-reading toddler. Each set of facing pages features a pair of illustrations - one the "before" and one the "after". The soft hues of the drawings that vary from those resembling primitive folk art to more highly detailed cityscapes and forest scenes make this book without words visually appealing. Understanding most of the "Before After" pairs is intuitive for adults, but little ones may have some difficulty understanding why a large monkey atop the Empire State Building is the after of that same animal in a jungle setting. I like that "Before After" provides many different opportunities for discussing the relationship of the picture pairs with a child. The lack of words accompanying the

pairs also provides ample opportunity for creative storytelling. I liked that at least one of the pictures in the "Before After" pairs was something with which little ones may be familiar. Anne-Margot Ramstein and Matthias Aregui did an excellent job providing both a broad spectrum of categories and using variety in the types of pairs presented for comparison. The one thing I did not care for was the size of the actual volume. Little ones require a book that is easy to hold and manipulate. They need a book that will lay flat when they open it to study the pairings. While the approximately 6 7/8" X 9 7/8" size of the book would have been ideal, the 1 1/2" thickness of "Before After" does not allow the book to lay flat unless you crack the spine - something that should never be done. If you are looking for a unique book for your child or grandchild, you will want to consider "Before After". It is a real treat!

As a home schooling mother of eight children, I've learned the value of a quality wordless book and this one is no exception. Beautifully illustrated and printed on a lovely matte finished paper, this well-bound book has quickly become a family favorite. From a slingshot with a pile of rocks to a broken window or a nest full of eggs to a nest full of baby birds, Before After allows the pre-reader to "read" a story with little to no help. After going through this book WITH your child and discussing the before and afters, your child will very quickly want to take over the "reading" part. Not only do my youngest, nonreading children enjoy Before After, I often find my older readers going through it and many adults have been drawn to the illustrations. I'm glad I took a chance on Before After and see myself gifting this one again and again.

I can't believe this book hasn't been reviewed here yet. It is absolutely amazing! I stumbled upon it a few weeks ago at our local bookstore, and thought it would be a wonderful "read-aloud" with my 3 and a half year old daughter. The illustrations are stunning, and because there are no words, we as the readers end up "telling" the before / after vignettes to each other. She insists on reading the volume in its entirety every time we read it, and it's really long! There are so many amazing things to discuss, and I have a feeling we're actually going to be reading it for years to come. Honestly, my new favorite "gift book"!

There are no words here at all but the "before and after" illustrations provide the inspiration for YOU to make up a story for each set of pictures. This book is not for all families but those who welcome the chance to be a little creative at story time will adore this unusual volume. Better still...let an older child tell you a story that explains the two pictures you might be looking at! I think a lot of art

museum stores will be stocking this book! Book provided by publisher.

I have bought multiple copies of this beautiful book for my kid and for gifts. It has no words, so they can just look at it. Or you can look at it with them and enjoy the cycle of birth, growth, decay, death, and rebirth, while they just look at the pretty pictures. Let them assign meaning to it or indoctrinate them with your a bleak world view hammered into us all through adulthood. Something for everyone!

First up is *Before After* by Anne-Margot Ramstein and Matthias ArÃ©gui. This is a gorgeous book of graphic illustrations where two images are paired together: a before and after image. There are pictures that are funny pairings. There are poignant pairings. There are just thoughtful pairings. There are some that seem obvious and some that are surprises. I love, for example, that we have all these ingredients laid out on one side of the page, and on the other we have the finished cake. We have an acorn on one page and on the other side we have a fully grown tree. We have fireworks laid out on one side and on the other page fireworks exploding. Those are more obvious and wonderful to look at, but you also have things like a ship at sea and a storm followed by the ship resting at the bottom of the ocean. You have a cannon prepared to fire canning and the next page a hole in the brick wall. It's just wonderful. Surprise after surprise, and it's a good, long, thick book. Lots and lots of pairings to explore. Something that I think kids of all ages can enjoy a lot. This review appears on an episode of the "Best Book Ever [this week]" segment of the Let's Get Busy podcast. Check out the original post here:

<http://lgbpodcast.blogspot.com/2015/01/the-best-book-ever-this-week-january-4.html>

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