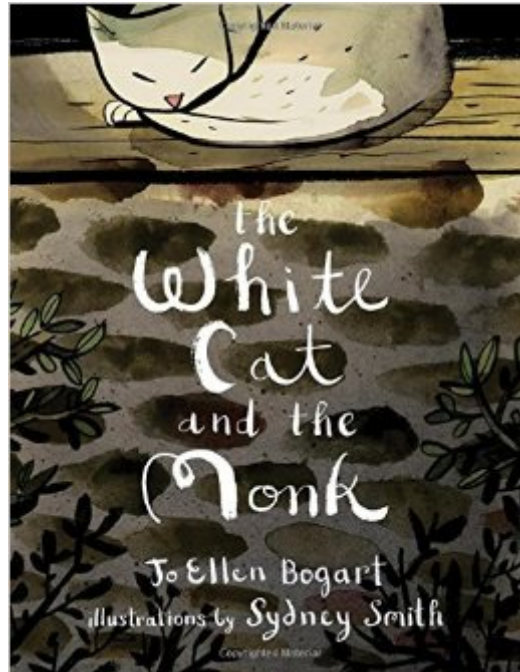


The book was found

# The White Cat And The Monk: A Retelling Of The Poem "Pangur BÃain"



## Synopsis

A monk leads a simple life. He studies his books late into the evening and searches for truth in their pages. His cat, Pangur, leads a simple life, too, chasing prey in the darkness. As night turns to dawn, Pangur leads his companion to the truth he has been seeking. *The White Cat and the Monk* is a retelling of the classic Old Irish poem "Pangur Bán." • With Jo Ellen Bogart's simple and elegant narration and Sydney's Smith's classically inspired images, this contemplative story pays tribute to the wisdom of animals and the wonders of the natural world.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 660 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books (March 30, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1554987806

ISBN-13: 978-1554987801

Product Dimensions: 10.6 x 8.3 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #30,869 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe](#) #90 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse](#) #203 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Cats](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Summary: While a monk seeks knowledge among his manuscripts, his white cat, Pangur, seeks something a little more substantial; namely, a tasty mouse. The first several pages are wordless, following Pangur as he explores the monastery, finally arriving at his master's door and sticking a paw under to alert the monk to his presence. The monk then narrates their activities, concluding with a happy ending in which the cat snares his prey and the monk finds an answer to his puzzle. The author's note at the end explains more about the poem "Pangur Bán", written by a ninth-century Irish monk, upon which this book is based. 32 pages; grades K-3. Pros: A poem by a ninth-century Benedictine monk seems like an unlikely source for a children's book, but somehow this works, due in large part to the beautiful illustrations that perfectly enlarge upon the

simple text. Cat lovers will be captivated by Pangur and his antics. Cons: Probably better for one-on-one sharing than reading to a larger group.

I ordered it for my mother who likes to celebrate her Irish ancestry and loves poetry. I knew she would like the idea of an old poem brought to life through drawings. She called right away to say she loved it. When I visited her, I discovered that the book looks much more like a child's book found in the E section of the library and I was, at first, dismayed. After I found myself reading and rereading it several times during my weekend visit--I can agree with the person who said it was a story for young and old alike. I loved it and so did my six-year-old.

What a lovely book. I love cats and the peacefulness of monks - that's what appealed to me. I saw this mentioned on the brainpickings twitter feed. It's the story of 2 creatures ( the cat and the monk) co- existing while relying on each other. The cat is a mouser ( he does his job) while the monk reads and theorizes ( his job). Nicely illustrated too.

A re-telling of a 9th century Irish poem which, by its very simplicity, captures the essence of Zen spiritual enlightenment through the relationship between a monk and his white cat. Throughout these few elementary words and the delightful accompanying illustrations, neither cat nor monk dreams of glorious rewards for work done. They exist, finding joy in the execution of their everyday tasks: for the white cat, the pursuit of mice; for the monk, the pursuit of knowledge. Therein they find that mystical inner peace which no amount of aggressive action can ever catch. A beautiful book that I'll return to often to lift my spirits with a quick and inspiring read.

A wonderful retelling of a beautiful old Irish poem. I have heard this poem "Pangur BÃ¡n" before and was so excited to see this retelling. I believe the meaning of this book is very important for children. The simple and elegant narration will make this children's book an instant classic. It is classic, done in a new and fun contemporary and modern way. The White Cat and the Monk is a cute little poem about a cat and monk, that live together in harmony. This book is great for all the cat lovers out there. It is a very simple story telling about how a cat, hunts, and catches his mouse. While the owner, and human worry about the meanings behind old text. This book is also about finding knowledge in books, and that there is light in the darkness. It sends a great message. This book is perfect for kids as well as adults. The illustrations will remind you of a far away time period. They are neutral, with very little color, to make an old world charm. Monastery walls, and minimalist

decorations fill this book. I received this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest and unbiased review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Although this is a children's book, I got it for myself. My cat, Opie, died last year. He was all white. So, I felt that I had something in common with this monk from the ninth century. The author loosely interprets the monk's poem in a way that children can understand, and the illustrations are sweetly done. I think

This is a quiet book, a book for settling down. For an adult, it's a koan. For a child, it's soft relationship with the one who is reading.

Lovely book, came right away so I can give it to my mom for Mother's day.

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