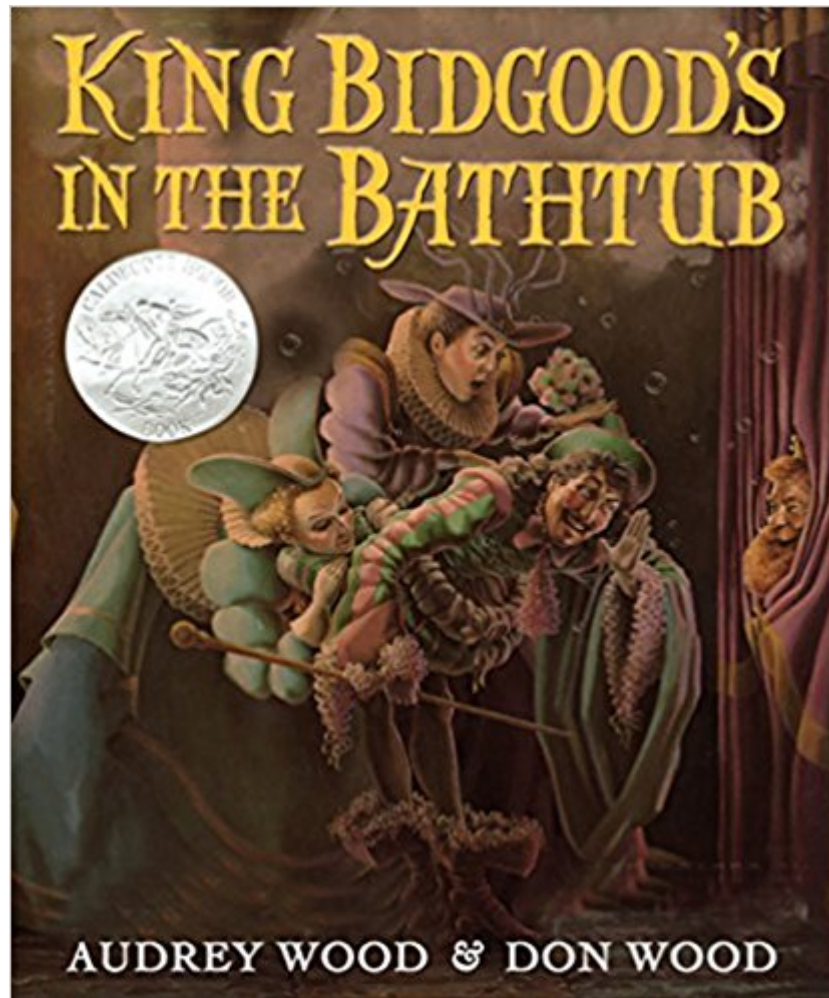




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# King Bidgood's In The Bathtub



## Synopsis

In this delightful story, the king refuses to leave his bathtub and rule the kingdom. “Beauty aside, this also has a panache and sly wit that will please children and their parents, who will be called on to peruse the book again and again.”--Booklist

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD310L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (September 13, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152054359

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Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.2 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 238 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #32,032 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Renaissance](#) #61 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Royalty](#) #1477 in [Books > Children's Books > Humor](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1-4 In this humorously original tale, various members of the Court, all clothed in elaborate Elizabethan dress, try to dislodge the King from his bubbly tub. Instead they are drawn into it with him, to "do battle" with toy ships and warriors; to eat a lavish feast; to fish and to dance. It is the young page who finds a solution, finally, by pulling the plug. Much of the delight is in Don Wood's meticulous oil paintings, which juxtapose the starched, overdressed, "shocked" demeanor of the Court with the King's twinkling, sensual, even lascivious manner. Minute details in the paintings emphasize this contrast; the red-haired naked King frolics while the fully-clothed courtiers emerge dripping from the bath with literally all their starch taken out. A voluptuous book whose rich range of colors and tones reflect the passing hours of the day. As in the Woods' *Napping House* (HBJ, 1984), the few simple words of text per large, well-designed page invite storytelling but keep the group very small, so the children can be close enough to pore over the brilliant, robust illustrations. Susan Patron, Los Angeles Public Library Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers

to the Hardcover edition.

A Caldecott Honor Book  
An ALA Notable Children's Book  
A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year  
"Beauty aside, this also has a panache and sly wit that will please children and their parents, who will be called on to peruse the book again and again."  
--Booklist  
"[A] humorously original tale. . . . A voluptuous book."  
•School Library Journal

An absolute classic, sustained through the ages and still loved by children today. I loved this book as a little child, about age 3 or 4 when I first read it, in the early 80s. I am Deaf, and my Deaf professor and his daughter, who is hard of hearing, also love this book. He read it to her when she was growing up, and by read, I assume he signed it to her in sign language. No one knew I was Deaf when I was 3, and I could not always tell what was going on, but this book is so beautifully illustrated, the faces on the characters are so expressive, and there is so much color and things to look at in the pictures that I imagine it is a reason that the book resonates with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. I purchased this book on for my friend who recently had twin girls. I bought it for their first birthday. She has older children, 10 and 12, and they also love the book. I am not entirely sure why, but it seems to be a good book for children with different disabilities, and can be appreciated by many for its story as well as the illustrations.

I thought that 20 months might be too young for this book, but it's one of my favorites, so I got it for my son. He is old enough to find the book hilarious, and he will occasionally get out of the bathtub without crying if I preface it by reciting the last part of the book. I'm not saying that this is a baby book; the pictures are amazing, and the story is funny. I read it to my 3rd-5th graders, and they love it. Honestly, you could spend 20 minutes looking at each page, and still miss some cool detail. Don and Audrey Wood are among my favorite children's author/illustrators, and their books deserve a place alongside your Maurice Sendak and Mo Willems books.

I typically read a few of the low reviews and a few of the high reviews. We had this book 25 years ago when our kids were growing up. I was invited to a book baby shower and I immediately thought of this. One of the reviews here was particularly critical of the juvenile plot! So note...this is a kids book...not a Pulitzer Prize adult book. But it does have an adult sized underlying message....don't let common sense and doing the right thing stand in your way of questioning authority. I won't ruin the

plot....gotta buy this one.

Wonderful story, fun for kids. However, the illustrations (which are magnificent) are extremely hard to see. The colors are faded and odd, making the story hard to understand for a group of kids straining to look as you read (I'm a teacher).

I loved this book as a child and wanted a copy for my kids. It is thier favorite bed time story.  
Beautiful artwork.

My favorite book from childhood.

Love this story and the pics are amazing. I love the details in their costumes and facial expressions.  
My kids love this as a bedtime story.

Children enjoy the ridiculous, and an authority figure who won't get out of a bathtub is certainly that. Like many picture books, Don and Audrey Wood's whimsically illustrated "King Bidgood's in the Bathtub" is geared toward 4-8-year-olds but would appeal to the love for the absurd that resides in readers of all ages. A major theme of King Bidgood is that the solution to what seems like an impossible problem is often quite simple and can be solved by a mere child. The young page in this story enlists the help of all his "betters"--a knight, a queen, a duke, and the entire court--to get the king out of the bathtub, but in the end, he (a simple servant boy) outwits them all. While the others invent elaborate needs that the king must attend to--battles, feasts, fishing, and dancing--the page simply pulls the plug. Much of the book's humor lies in the characterization of the king and his court. Rather than get out of the tub or reject the court's expressed needs, the king tries to satisfy the needs while remaining where he's at. He gladly welcomes the knight to battle in his tub, the queen to feast in his tub, the duke to fish in his tub, and--to every child's delight--the entire court to dance in his tub. These are feats that can only be accomplished through pure, fun-loving imagination on the part of the illustrator and the readers. As the book progresses, the court's facial responses are grossly exaggerated, their expressions of amazement and dismay heightening. And when the court fail in their attempts, they try to preserve their dignity, however wet and bedraggled they may be. The king, on the other hand, is completely at ease until the very end of the book, when suddenly the page adopts a look of immense satisfaction and pulls the bathtub plug, and the king is left astonished and fumbling for a towel. In addition to providing humor and developing characters, the

illustrations provide a rhythmic framework of light for the plot, alternating between the well-lit bathroom and the ever-changing quality of light in the castle hall, where the moon rises and falls. Within the general rhythmic framework of the illustrations lie fascinating details. The more one looks, the more one sees. The cake in the feast scene has a miniature king-in-bathtub figure on top; the knight in the battle scene accidentally leaves the bathroom with a tiny ship on the end of his scabbard . . . An observant reader will also notice that the chain to the bathtub plug is visible in every picture, as a foreshadowing of the solution. The text, also rhythmic, is unrhymed, but each time the king invites folks into his tub, his plea ends in a delightful three-word repetition: boom, boom, boom; yum, yum, yum; trout, trout, trout; and jig, jig, jig. In the end, though, the king is stunned into silence, and the last repetition--or last laugh, you might say--is not his own, but the tub's: glub, glub, glub. The book will leave children clamoring for more, and Don and Audrey Wood have plenty of others that will satisfy, including the award-winning "The Napping House," which has in common with King Bidgood a delightful brand of visual slapstick distinctive to the Woods. Both books would make an excellent addition to any child's or classroom's library.

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