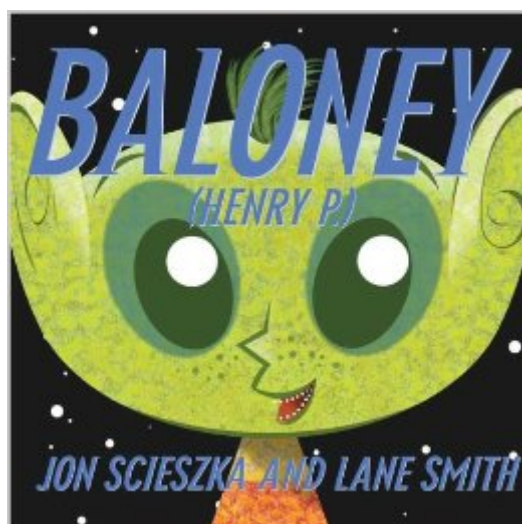


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## Baloney (Henry P.)



## Synopsis

The twisted team that gave the world *Squids Will Be Squids* and *The Stinky Cheese Man* now delivers a whole lot of Baloney. *Henry P. Baloney*. Henry is an alien schoolkid who needs to come up with one very good excuse to explain why he is late for szkola, again. Otherwise, his teacher Miss Bugscuffle promises, it's Permanent Lifelong Detention. Henry's tall tale of his lost zimulis—received from deep space by Jon Scieszka—is told in at least twenty different Earth languages and graphically recreated in Lane Smith's out-of-this-world illustrations. The unbelievable trip into Henry's wild universe may be the most original excuse ever for being late for szkola. Or it might just be Baloney. *Henry P. Baloney*.

## Book Information

Age Range: 2 - 5 years

Lexile Measure: AD400L (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (September 8, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142404306

ISBN-13: 978-0142404300

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #11,235 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#27 in Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Words](#) [#195 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School](#) [#554 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

## Customer Reviews

The best children's books entrance you with their images, the story and the images build on one another, and the story adds dimensions that are unanticipated and interesting. This book almost meets those tests, and adds to your language skills in the process. "Last Tuesday morning, at 8:37 a.m., Henry P. Baloney was late once too often." "That's it," said Miss Bugscuffle. "Permanent Lifelong Detention . . . unless you have one very good and very believable excuse." Then begins the wildest tale you've ever heard. It all starts when a zimulis is misplaced. It is on a desk in a torakku on the way to szkola, and suddenly the torakku goes past! Henry grabbed his zimulis and

jumped out, right onto a razzo launch pad. He opened the pordo and landed on the next razzo while it was blasting off. Then things got really strange! If you could see the illustrations, you would be able to make more of this story. You would probably guess that a zimulis is a pencil and that a torakku is a truck. Decoding these strange words will definitely keep your mind occupied. Just when you think you have them figured out, they switch again. It turns out that the strange words are in Finnish, Latin, Ugbaric, Maltese, Swahili, French, Melanesian Pidgen, Esperanto, Italian, Spoonerisms, Dutch, Japanese, Welsh, German, Inuktitut, Latvian, and transpositions. There is an afterword that tips you off, and a decoder to help you decipher the words. But you will have much more fun trying it on your own, learning from the context of the surrounding words and the illustrations. So obviously, the text and the illustrations build on one another. Because you aren't always sure what the words mean, the story is unexpected. Unfortunately, the tall tale itself follows a path similar enough to all tall tales that it fails to intrigue of its own merit (without the clever word plays). I graded the book down one star for this weakness. I am also unsure how much fun it will be read this book over and over again. After all, at some point your child and you will know what each word means and how Henry's predicament ends up. Without the suspense that you will genuinely feel on the first time, this book will probably become much less special. If you are interested in intriguing your child with the potential of words to fascinate and draw attention, this is a definite book to have. The illustrations are outstanding, and nicely amplify the very unusual text. After you and your child have read the book, you can have some fun discussions about how to use context to determine which meanings of English words are intended. As you know, many words (like "green") can have many different meanings. Are you supposed to see the color or a person who is inexperienced? Explore the full potential of any story, using all the tools at your disposal!

Jon S. and Lane S. are the best children (adult?) authors/illustrators out there. As with their other books, this one has great pictures, and a great premise, BUT the story is not tight, and seems to be more about the pictures this time and less about the story. Again, great illustrations, but I actually left this book at the bookstore as the story didn't capture me.

I read this book before I presented it to my grade three class. I found myself howling with laughter at the excuses offered by Henry P. As I predicted, my students all enjoyed and giggled when I read it to them. After I read it, I placed in the "sharing" center for them to borrow and read. They all clamored to get it. Then they began negotiating to see who would get it next. I saw them reading and going over those very special words AND making sense of them. What better recommendation is

that??!!

If you haven't read Scieszka (gesundheit) and Smith's other books, that's fine. You're just missing out on a whole lot of good humor. More on that later..."Dilectare ut Docere" - the Latin phrase is a perfect description of this book. It means, roughly, "Delight them in order to teach them." If you want to unclog your child's television-clogged synapses, get this book. An alien lost his WHAT? If you have a sense of humor and don't have "Squids will be Squids" and "The Stinky Cheese Man" then you're missing out. And so are your kids. "Math Curse" is good too...(my wife the math teacher makes me say that).

I love to use this book with my students to teach them about context clues! Children of all ages can relate to the story because it is about a little boy who tries to come up with excuses for his teacher as to why he does not have his assignments done.

I was saddened when I did not like Baloney, Henry P. I have come to expect so much from John Scieszka and Lane Smith. I hoped that a book about an alien student trying to explain what happened to his homework (especially when the story begins with the alien child being abducted by other aliens) would be a great platform to showcase the talents of this team. It sadly has not proved so. Baloney, Henry P. suffers from both poor illustrations and a lack of humor. The plot line is forced rather than well laid out. These are aberrations in the work of Scieszka/Smith. In the interests of not judging others too harshly (lest I, as a result, am left without excuse) I must point out that the sheer invention and novelty of this book makes it worth reading at least once. The basis for my extremely low rating is that this book is not even close to being up to par with the other work of Scieszka and Smith. It isn't even in the same league as works like The Stinky Cheese Man and The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs. Unless you are a big fan of Scieszka and Smith, I recommend that you look somewhere else (the aforementioned books or Math Curse). Baloney, Henry P. is not their best.

My son is not quite five. He is not in elementary school. He is not even in Kindergarten. He loves this book about "the green alien with big ears". Go figure. Actually, that may not be too surprising since I bought this book in 2001, long before my not-quite-five-year-old son was born. He must have inherited my sense of humor. This book is a challenge to read out loud because some words are in a different language, some are transpositions, and some are Spoonerism. That challenge actually adds to the appeal of the book for me. My son is learning to read and struggles with words in

English. The story is funny, silly and absolute nonsense, as you would expect from the "Baloney" in the title. Lane Smith does a marvelous job with the illustrations, from "the green alien with big ears", to the zimulis, to the razzo, to the Planet Astrosus, to the sighing flosser... The book is cover to cover wonderful.

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