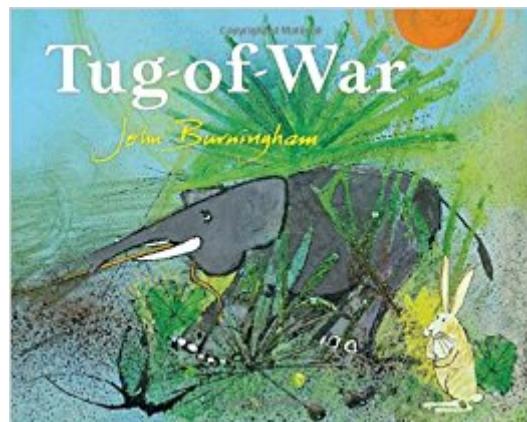


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# Tug Of War



## Synopsis

A Nigerian folktale • one of the first picture books John Burningham ever illustrated • comes to life again with a new text by the venerable illustrator. Hare, Hippopotamus, and Elephant all live together in the forest. But often, when Hippopotamus and Elephant have nothing better to do, they tease Hare and say horrid things to him. When Hare finally gets fed up with them, he conceives a plan: he will challenge each of the massive creatures to a tug-of-war competition. On either side of the trees, Elephant and Hippopotamus pull and tug all through the night, incredulous that Hare could be so strong! With cheeky wit and his signature illustrative style, John Burningham makes the case that even brute strength can be outweighed by brains • and a quick getaway.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (August 6, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763665754

ISBN-13: 978-0763665753

Product Dimensions: 11.8 x 0.4 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 1.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #647,620 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African #642 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Animals > Rabbits #669 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

A Nigerian folktale about a hippo, an elephant, and a hare is retold by Burningham, 45 years after it was first published as *The Extraordinary Tug-of-War*, with text by Letta Schatz. Now, with the original illustrations and a brand-new text, Burningham spins his own version of three animals who live together in the forest. Hippopotamus and Elephant tease Hare mercilessly • "Hare, you are a feeble idiot, with your twitching nose and whiskers" • until Hare gets fed up and concocts a plan. He challenges both to a game

of tug-of-war; but instead of being on the other end of the rope, he sets it up so that Hippopotamus and Elephant are struggling against each other. It's a classic brains-over-brawn tale, made memorable by Burningham's signature illustrations and witty text (poor Hare is called everything from a "little runt" to a "little weed"). It's oh-so-satisfying when quick-moving Hare gets the last laugh, and Burningham's many fans will be happy (hoppy?) to introduce this spiffed-up story to a new generation. Grades K-3. --Ann Kelley

Burningham's new text is typically unsentimental; school-age boys will probably find it outrageously funny. •The New York Times Book Review

This book was originally published in 1969 as "The Extraordinary Tug of War" written by Letta Schatz and illustrated by John Burningham. It is based on a folktale and was retold as such by Letta Schatz. The new edition is a dumbed down version with 16 pages less, not only is there a lot less text, there are also several pictures missing. The retelling is also bumpy in places due to cutting out whole junks of the story and illustration. My largest surprise was that the old edition has actually better color reproductions! They have much more depth and wider range of colors, for example what in the new edition looks like a page in shades of olive green is in the old edition a mixture of emerald greens to olives. Don't understand me wrong, I like the illustrations and the story but would not have bought the new version because it is so inferior to the original.

We bought this book for our 3 year old based on the pictures. To our surprise the first time we read it aloud, the book is filled with unsuitable language for children. The animals call each other names constantly such as "idiot", "twerp", "wimp" and so on. In addition, the story is based on deception, revenge and bullying so all in all there's nothing positive in it for a child. I'm not sure who is the intended audience for the book? The author dedicated it to his mother, so maybe he never intended it to be read by kids, just adults who like cartoon books?

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