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# **Just So Stories: Samuel West Reads A Selection Of Just So Stories**



## Synopsis

Samuel West reads ten of Rudyard Kipling's famous tales, as broadcast on BBC Radio. How the Whale Got His Throat, How the Leopard Got His Spots, The Beginning of the Armadillos, How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin, The Cat That Walked By Himself, How the Camel Got His Hump, The Crab That Played With The Sea, The Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo, The Butterfly That Stamped, and The Elephant's Child. First broadcast on BBC Radio as part of Just So Science, these charming tales are sure to delight listeners of all ages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

HarperChildren's Audio continues its re-release rollout of classic backlist titles with Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories and Other Tales performed by the late British actor Boris Karloff. Just So stories include "How the Leopard Got His Spots" and "The Elephant's Child"

Grade 1-6-This collection includes Kipling's 12 original Just So Stories narrated by Geoffrey Palmer, whose deep and resonant voice is perfectly suited to the tales. It is satisfying to hear the stories as they were meant to be told-aloud. Kipling originally told the stories to his own children over a century ago. The language is reflective of Kipling's time and place, and children who may have trouble with the language and phrasing will benefit from hearing the stories read. Among the stories included here are "How the Whale Got His Throat," "The Butterfly That Stamped," and "The Elephant's Child." Many of them include a moral or lesson, such as "How the Camel Got His Hump," in which the camel learns a lesson about being lazy and procrastinating. The tales are nicely complemented

by bits of classical music including pieces from Saint-Saen's "Carnival of the Animals." The accompanying booklet provides information about Kipling's life and some additional material about the stories. An excellent addition to classic audiobook collections in school and public libraries. Maren Ostergard, Bellevue Regional Library, King County Library System, WA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

“Just So Stories” is a collection of 12 children's stories. The theme that runs through the dozen stories is that they are mostly tall-tale answers for questions that children might have. All but two of them focus on animals and nature, and the two divergent stories deal with the origin of written language. Since it's such a small collection and the titles tend to synopsise the stories, I'll include the table of contents below, which may give one greater insight into the nature of the stories.

- 1.) How the Whale Got his Throat
- 2.) How the Camel Got his Hump
- 3.) How the Rhinoceros Got his Skin
- 4.) How the Leopard Got his Spots
- 5.) The Elephant's Child
- 6.) The Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo
- 7.) The Beginning of the Armadillos
- 8.) How the First Letter Was Made
- 9.) How the Alphabet Was Made
- 10.) The Crab that Played with the Sea
- 11.) The Cat that Walked by Himself
- 12.) The Butterfly that Stamped

The edition that I have has a number of black-and-white graphics (block print and line drawn style) — one or two per story. Given the genre, I imagine most editions have some kind of pictures, but your edition's graphics may vary. A number of the stories include short poetry — usually at the end. The poetry is part of the original Kipling product and so are likely included in all unabridged editions. I'd recommend this book for those looking for short stories that are relatable to young children.

This is a beautiful copy of Just So Stories. As others have mentioned, it is a small volume but the cover is embossed and the pages are gilded. The paper is thin—not due to cheapness but rather it is fine paper. It contains the original illustrations and their captions, and it is just lovely. I ordered this copy because I was unable to find the copy my grandfather had given me as a child, which was a rather sizeable volume complete with colored illustrations on glossy paper. This copy is nothing like that volume, which held up well to the repeated use of a young child. This volume is meant for the caring, gentle hands of an older child or adult. If your child cannot use tissue paper without tearing it, this is not the volume for him or her. That said, if your child loves the stories, this would be a wonderful book to give him or her when she or he grows up.

Illustrations are black and white, very small and very few. Please click on the "look inside" before purchasing!

The Just So Stories are best when read aloud to a child. My son and I have fond memories of these stories which I read aloud to him over and over 50 years ago. There's a sing-song rhythm to many of the passages that ring delightfully in memory. How can one not love the round tones of lines enunciated slowly: "Son, son, said his mother, graciously waving her tail" or "Down by the great gray green Limpopo river all set about with fever trees" or .."the precession had proceeded according to precedent." Kipling called them the Just So Stories because when telling bedtime stories to his daughter, he had to repeat them "Just So," as children are wont to do. Delightful.

This is the correct , and original book , laid out in a modern cover. It is the only one worth buying, the rest are modernized with various rubbishy and non original nonsense. This is the only work of The Just So Stories that also has Kipling,s own watercolors on the jacket...which i have never seen before, and i had an early 1930,s example as a child. So , go for this book , it is special.

Kipling wrote for a more leisurely age. The stories make use of a wide vocabulary and literary devices such as repetition and alliteration. It is hard for a modern child to fully understand. But there is something going on at a deeper level. They love the rhythm of Kipling. The story lines are exquisitely crafted. They like to ask questions about the vocabulary. They are fascinated with the subjects of the stories. You can read the story as written, then retell it often in your own words. For instance, I told my son the story of the insatiably curious elephant child this week when he was pestering me with questions. Then pretended to pull his nose.Also at a deep level, Kipling teaches traditional values and shares deep wisdom. The females in his stories (First Woman in The cat who walked alone, the Tailor Bird's wife in Rikki Tiki Tavi) are fully drawn and quite intelligent.It is a classic.

The papercopy of this book has a beautiful front cover but the illustrations inside the book are terrible. It looks like they were printed on a very old printer as they are extremely pixelated. I can hardly make out what is going on in the pictures. This book is available in the public domain with illustrations so I really expected more when paying for it.

When I was a child, the highlight of my Sunday was listening to my aunt read the Just So Stories to

my siblings and me. My personal favorites are "the Cat Who Walks By Himself" and "Elephant's Child". As an adult I have read these wonderful stories aloud to others using the same dramatization that I heard my aunt used. In my book collection, I have the complete works of Rudyard Kipling that I inherited from my grandmother So I have the actual volume that my aunt used to read to us. Now I also have the stories on my iPad and always have access to: "excuse me" said the Elephant's Child, "but have you seen a Crocodile in these promiscuous parts?" and "I am the Cat who walks by himself and all places are alike to me." As part of my courtship, my future husband listened to me read those and other stories so I knew he was a keeper. For any parent who reads aloud to his/her child, I highly recommend these stories as a source material. They will entertain you as well as your child.

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