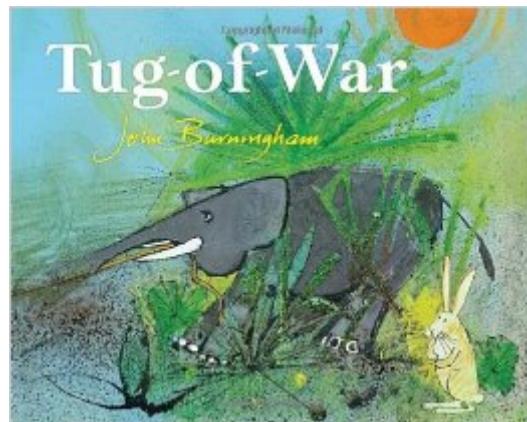


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# Tug Of War



## 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 — See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #547,356 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African #565 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies #586 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Rabbits

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

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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