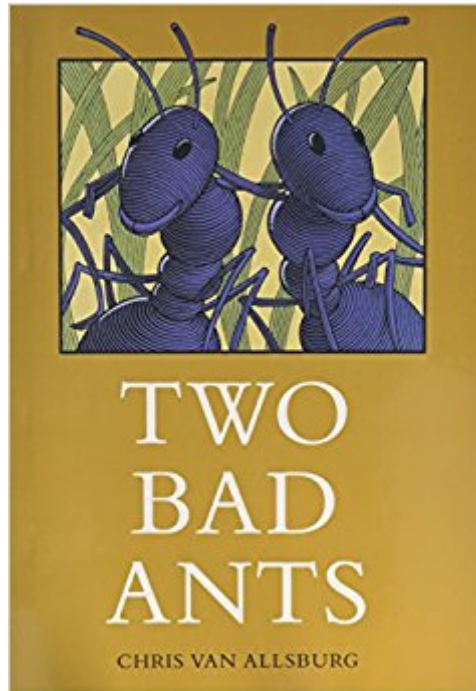




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# Two Bad Ants



## Synopsis

Note: Page 1 is the full title page, Page 2 is the copyright, Page 3 is the half title page. Page 4 is the first page of the story. The three-time Caldecott medalist tells the tale of two ants who decide to leave the safety of the others to venture into a danger-laden kitchen.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 780L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (October 24, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395486688

ISBN-13: 978-0395486689

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.4 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 84 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #23,947 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in [Books > Children's Books](#)  
[> Animals > Bugs & Spiders](#) #1754 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

In this new book by Van Allsburg, twice a winner of the Caldecott Medal, the theme of an outsider's point-of-view (touched upon most recently in his *The Stranger*) is expanded. Accustomed to the orderly and uneventful life in the ant hole, all the ants enter the bizarre world of a kitchen in the search for sugar crystals for the queen. Two greedy ants stay behind in the sugar bowl, eating their fill and then falling asleep. Their slumbers end when a giant scoop drops them into a sea of boiling brown coffee. Further mishaps include a heated stay in the toaster, a hazardous swirl in the garbage disposal and a zap in an electrical outlet. When the ant troops return, the two bad ants gladly rejoin their friends and head for the safety of home. In this work, the hazards of nonconformity are clear. The narration has the feel of early newsreels where the broadcaster described unknown phenomena in clipped, clinical language: "A strange force passed through the wet ants. They were stunned senseless and blown out of the holes like bullets from a gun." The resilient ants and the eerie landscapes are portrayed in strong black-and-white images, enriched by deep brown, purple, slate, gold and steely blue colors; Van Allsburg, playing with perspective, creates marvelous

contrasts and images. But although *Two Bad Ants* is visually different from its predecessors, it shares the same strong style, dazzling artwork and whimsy that characterizes all of the artist's work. Ages 3-8. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 1-5 In this brief tale of the adventures of two runaway ants, Van Allsburg once again gives children a visual puzzle to solve in this case identifying common household appliances from an ant's point of view. When a troop of ants are sent to retrieve sugar crystals from a kitchen, two ants stay behind to feast and go to sleep in the sugar bowl. When morning comes they are successively stirred into a cup of coffee, almost swallowed, toasted with an English muffin, whirled through a garbage disposal, and stunned senseless in an electrical outlet. While some children will enjoy identifying the highly magnified objects, others will wonder how the ants have managed to survive any one of these disasters. The truants return home in one piece, and the last few lines supply a pallid and oddly moralistic conclusion to the story. The book is a visual tour-de-force. The highly linear, hard-edged drawings look like fine etchings which have been magnified a technique which enhances the sense of being reduced to ant size. The colors applied in flat fields are primarily limited to earth tones and gray, combined with touches of pure white and black in lines and fields of almost luminous intensity. The intensity of the visual experience overpowers the story, which is a flat, rather cold vehicle, an excuse for a visual game which will appeal to the intellect of children older than typical picture book readers. Eleanor K. MacDonald, Beverly Hills Public Lib .Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

My favorite of van Allsburg's books, it's probably the least pretentious, and is guaranteed to keep your toddler of any age on the edge of his little seat. He (or she) will be rooting for the two ants who, against all evolutionary determination, rebel against the dictates of their race and stay behind to gorge on sugar, rather than deliver it to their queen. The best part is the world of humans seen through the eyes of the uncomprehending ants, whose adventures take them from the proverbial frying pan into the fire. They barely escape with their lives, quite relieved to rejoin the group and return to serving their beloved queen. A true modern classic.

I will be reading *Two Bad Ants* to a second grade class on Tuesday. Last year I read *The Widow's Broom*. Our local library has a once a year program for volunteers to Read In the Classroom. It's a great experience for both the volunteers and the children. My choice of authors is always Chris Van Allsburg.

My great nephew is 7 years old and his class at school has a secret reader which is a students relative. I knew a few months ahead of time I would be the secret reader for April 11, 2013. I search on line for a great book and the title of the book caught my eye. I read the other reviews and it sounded perfect for his 1st grade class. It was a hit the children in his class were very tentative with every word I read they loved the book from cover to cover. It was just perfect. It made my day that they were so pleased and my great nephew just loved it. He was squaring in his seat with excitement waiting to see what was going to happen to the Two Bad Ants.

This is a great book!

Fun Book

First, the organization that shipped is top-notch--timely, everything in great condition. Second, I pull this book out whenever ants appear in our classroom, once or twice a year. It's a good reminder to clean up after ourselves carefully (not just because an adult requested!). This book also offers a lovely way to consider perspective. Children spontaneously suggested what they thought the moral of the story might be, even though a moral is not emphasized in the book. It's a favorite... children love to hear it more than once.

Quite a bit of tearing on dust jacket and a couple of pages. Nothing that interferes with the reading though! The plot and illustrations are thought-provoking and what you might expect from Chris Van Allsburg (Polar Express). It is great for teaching perspective, point of view, use of details and theme. My four-year-old granddaughter disagrees with the title though... she says they aren't bad ants, they're just curious and have a grand adventure!

This is a hilarious book about size and the BIG WORLD, and also about the reason for following rules. Two ants start out on a journey to retrieve a blissfully, wonderful substance to feed the queen, and end up "playing hookie." Their funny antics, discovering the world of humans, lands them into one catastrophe after another. As a read-aloud, you will have instant attention, and good for guessing what item is causing the ants to flounder. As a reading level book, it's a sure thing for grade 2, or higher grade 1. Kids will love and identify with the characters, in size and antics.

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