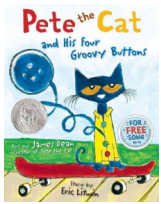


Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons



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Pete the Cat has been a cool cat fixture in children's literature for a couple of years now. He first appeared on the picturebook scene in 2010 with *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*, followed by *Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes* in 2011. Each story features Pete singing a little ditty, which you can listen to and download for free through the [publisher's website](#) .. (You can also watch a short video of each Pete the Cat through the website, too.)

In 2012, Pete managed to save Christmas -- and sing about his four groovy buttons. And 2013 has already proved to be an impressive year for Pete as he launches a [beginner reader series](#) .. and earns a Geisel Honor Award. Pete was charming as Santa's substitute, but it was *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons* that earned kudos from the Association for Library Services to Children, which cited it as one of three Honor Books for the [2013 Geisel Award](#) .. Named for the great Dr. Seuss (Theodore Geisel), the Geisel Award is presented annually to the author(s) and illustrator(s) of the most distinguished American book for beginning readers published in English in the United States.

Up, Tall and High! a cleverly designed lift-the-flap book was the 2013 Geisel Award winner. This humorous story, with limited text and an interactive format will certainly appeal to beginning readers. And the other Geisel Honor books are both delightful. But while *Pete The Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons* is notable for its accessible vocabulary, repetition of phrase, and rhymes which serve beginner readers so well -- it also did an outstanding job of incorporating simple math into the story. As (spoiler alert!) Pete's buttons pop off his favorite shirt one by one, large numbers appear at the bottom of the page, showing that $4-1=3$. And later, $3-1=2$, and so on... My newly 5-year old daughter and I had great fun with this story talking about numbers and math, as well as the definition of groovy. And giggles abounded as we discovered that in the end, Pete is left with one button after all. Can you guess what type of button he still had?

Posted by Lisa C. on March 12, 2013

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