



## Hair in Funny Places

*By Babette Cole*

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### **Hair in Funny Places** By Babette Cole

Girls and boys are always curious and sometimes even alarmed by the behaviour of their bodies as they grow up. Puberty being a particularly unsettling time, Babette Cole has made this the subject of the fifth title in her bestselling series of 'family dilemmas'. Who else but Babette would have the temerity to tackle this subject in a picture book and the genius to carry it off! In "Hair in Funny Places" her artwork is without exaggeration some of the best she has ever done: it is brilliant. The text takes the form of a conversation between a small girl and her teddy bear, and is ingenious and funny. It is the behaviour of Mr and Mrs Hormone (wonderfully depicted) which is responsible for and plays havoc with the physical and emotional states of girls and boys throughout puberty. This book is bound to be controversial but Babette has never taken the conventional path and her readers love her for her outrageous approach to little mentioned topics.

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## **Hair in Funny Places** By Babette Cole Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1099837 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2001
- Format: Import
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.04" h x .16" w x 9.88" l, .37 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 32 pages

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Brandishing her outrageously sly sense of humor, Cole (*Mommy Laid an Egg*) tweaks the topic of puberty in all of its glory, with predictably boisterous results. Here, in response to a girl's query to her teddy bear about the process of growing up, she whips up "Mr. and Mrs. Hormone" and their dog, a vile little trio who "live inside you" and "mix the potions that turn children into adults." Typical of Cole's no-holds-barred approach, the girl's parents are used as examples ("your mom sprouted small bosoms and hair in funny places"). She touches briefly on everything from menstruation ("She found a tiny drop of blood in her underpants") to acne and body odor ("He wanted to kiss the girls but Mr. and Mrs. Hormone had made him pimply and smelly"), erections ("Inside his penis, Mr. Hormone was lurking with another dollop of the mixture. This made it grow big and small whenever it wanted") and nocturnal emissions ("some sticky stuff actually came out"). The watercolors are equally candid, and the gleeful depictions of naked bodies may raise adults' eyebrows but children will laugh out loud. Cole's madcap style leaves no room for embarrassment; it could pave the way for more informative discussions between kids and adults. Ages 7-up. (June)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 2-4-While there is a plethora of sex-education books for young readers, this picture book concentrates on how hormones affect young people during puberty. Ted, an animated stuffed bear, explains to his young owner about her parents' entry into adolescence. "Mr. and Mrs. Hormone-are in charge of growing up-[they] mix the potions that turn children into adults." The physical and emotional effects of their concoctions are discussed, including hair growth, pimples, menstruation ("Then she found a tiny drop of blood in her underpants!"), and wet dreams ("Then some sticky stuff actually came out"). No biological terms are used--only surface descriptions. As in so many of her books, Cole tackles this subject with lighthearted humor. The illustrations are a partner in the storytelling. Mr. and Mrs. Hormone are depicted as grotesque, pimple-covered, horned, hairy, and rotund mad scientists. The sweet-faced pubescent teens react honestly to their body changes with exuberance, worry, and anger. The naked cartoon characters have no modesty. While this title does not explain reproduction, it does serve as a loose introduction to hormonal change. Unfortunately, the breezy, irreverent style that's evident in both the text and illustrations limits the book's appeal to its target audience. Thus, its value is supplemental, not essential.

*Martha Topol, Traverse Area District Library, Traverse City, MI*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 3<sup>+</sup>-5, younger with an adult. Cole, who looked at reproduction in her humorous picture book *Mommy Laid an Egg* (1992), uses a similar approach to explain puberty. When a little girl asks her teddy bear about growing up, she learns all about Mr. and Mrs. Hormone, the nasty stuff they pump through adolescents' bodies, and the disturbing effect the stuff can have--even on people like her own parents. The picture-book format, with large print and bright, lively, cartoon watercolor illustrations (several of which show anatomically correct nudes), vies somewhat with the subject matter. Also, the text mentions menstruation and ejaculation. Some young children may even find the monstrous Hormone family more frightening and confusing than amusing, and the book is sure to spark some laughs from the older kids. Even so, parents comfortable with candor may want to use this as an introduction to a "birds and bees" talk, a chat about what's happening to an older sibling, or as a comical springboard to books for older children, such as Robie Harris' well-detailed *It's Perfectly Normal* (1997). Certainly the ultimate message here is positive: without hormones and adult sexuality, the little girl in the story would never have been born. *Catherine Andronik*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Babara Lopez:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Hair in Funny Places. Try to the actual book Hair in Funny Places as your good friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , let me make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

#### **Celia Redmond:**

This Hair in Funny Places tend to be reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The explanation of this Hair in Funny Places can be one of many great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed anyone with information that perhaps will shock your prior knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed types. Beside that this Hair in Funny Places forcing you to have an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day task. So , let's have it appreciate reading.

#### **Bill Boyd:**

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? May be reading a book could be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the publication untitled Hair in Funny Places can be good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

#### **Evelyn Roberts:**

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specifically book entitled Hair in Funny Places your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a publication then become one type conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get prior to. The Hair in Funny Places giving you yet another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful information for your better life within this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning an activity. Do

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