



People - Blexbolex

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Children are naturally curious about the people who fill their world. French artist Blexbolex introduces youngsters to humanity in a variety of guises. He starts with illustrations of a man, woman, child, and family groups. Then he branches out with pictures such as 'a friend' and 'a bully'.

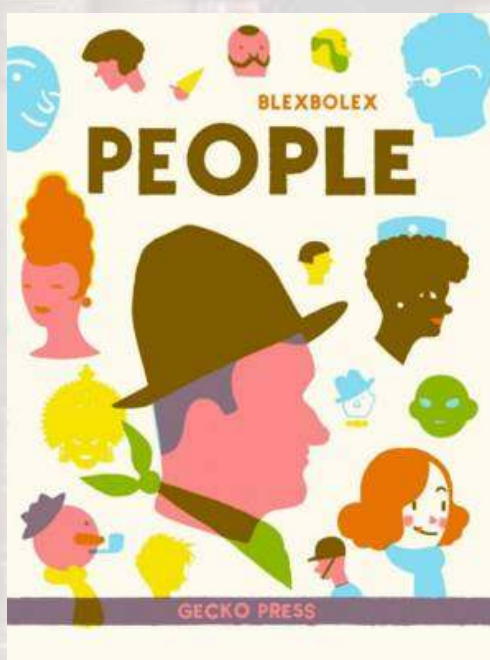
At first glance, each page appears to feature a separate individual. Yet, the characters on opposite pages, such as 'a painter' and 'a tagger', invite discussion on how we label people. Or 'guests' on the left-hand page facing 'a hermit' on the right-hand, pose questions about social behaviour. 'An amputee' and 'a cyclops' give opportunities to talk about differences and disabilities.

Some occupations will challenge readers to spot the links between 'a conductor' and 'a dictator', 'a firefighter' and 'a sorceress', or 'a lumberjack' and 'an executioner'. There's an abundance of quirky characters. Tongue-in-cheek humour is at play in many illustrations like 'a diva' and 'a teenager'.

The retro-style artwork uses block colours, bold text, defined outlines and 1950s fashions. Close study of the detail will spark many conversations.

A hardback publication with stitched binding, slipcover, and sturdy paper. Translated by Wellington publisher, Gecko Press.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



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