



[**And Tango Makes Three**](#) written by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

Illustrated by Henry Cole

ISBN: 9780689878459 (Hardcover)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2005

*Age Range: 4-8 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: PreS-3 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

And Tango Makes Three is the bestselling, heartwarming true story of two penguins who create a nontraditional family.

At the penguin house at the Central Park Zoo, two penguins named Roy and Silo were a little bit different from the others. But their desire for a family was the same. And with the help of a kindly zookeeper, Roy and Silo get the chance to welcome a baby penguin of their very own.

Selected as an ALA Notable Children's Book and a Lambda Literary Award Finalist, "this joyful story about the meaning of family is a must for any library" (*School Library Journal*, starred review).

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Cole's pictures complement the perfectly cadenced text...Those who share this with children will find themselves returning to it again and again...for the two irresistible birds at its center and for the celebration of patient, loving fathers who 'knew just what to do.'" —[Booklist](#), **starred review**

★ "[A] heartwarming tale. Older readers will most appreciate the...larger theme of tolerance at work in this touching tale." —[Publishers Weekly](#), **starred review**

★ "In this true, straightforwardly (so to speak) delivered tale, two male chinstrap penguins at New York City's Central Park Zoo bond, build a nest and--thanks to a helping hand from an observant zookeeper--hatch and raise a penguin chick...Readers may find its theme of acceptance even more convincing for being delivered in such a matter of fact, non-preachy way." —[Kirkus](#), **starred review**

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Updated 1.25.24

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing
Contact: Education.library@simonandschuster.com

- ALA Notable Children's Book
- ALA Rainbow Project Book List
- ASPCA Henry Bergh Book Award Winner
- Bank Street Best Books of the Year
- CBC/NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book
- CCBC Choices (Cooperative Children's Book Council)
- Lambda Literary Award Finalist
- Nick Jr. Family Magazine Best Books of the Year

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Teaching Guide](#)
- [SimonKids Read Aloud video](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net Resources](#)
- [It Takes Three to Tango/Pat Scales on Censorship](#)
- [HeiseReads.com interview](#)
- [School Library Journal Fuse8 blog interview](#)
- [USA Today article](#)
- [The View Launches Joy Behar's Banned Book Club](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[A PARENT'S DEFENSE OF AND TANGO MAKES THREE](#)
[NCAC LETTER OPPOSING CHALLENGES TO 'AND TANGO MAKES THREE'](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

"Thanks to the First Amendment, the love that dare not squeak its name is happily squawking away at libraries all across America!"—Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

"Let's not teach our children to be afraid of books. If we can't model open-mindedness, let's at least model courage. "—Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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