Arthur's Birthday (An Arthur Adventure)
Arthur can’t wait to hand out his birthday party invitations. But it turns out Muffy is having her party on the exact same day! All of his friends are split between the two parties so Arthur and Francine hatch a clever scheme to make sure Arthur and Muffy have the best birthdays yet!

Synopsis

Arthur and Muffy are such good friends that Muffy doesn’t invite Arthur to her birthday party, so Arthur inadvertently plans his for the same afternoon. Also, being eight years old and living in the same town their entire lives, in the same classes with the same friends and appearing in several books together, this birthday party scheduling conflict has apparently never come up before. Totes obvs, the boys all want to go to Arthur’s party and the girls all want to go to Muffy’s. (This is when I stopped reading for a second to reinforce to my daughter that there was absolutely nothing wrong with her having mostly boys at her recent birthday party. They were friends having fun at a party and that’s what’s important.) Francine, who normally grates on my nerves, becomes the voice of reason, wanting the two parties to come together—although that reason is so they can all play spin the bottle. (I stopped again to explain this is a silly game that big kids play so they can try to kiss each other. “Kissing is gross!” “Well, sometimes, yes it is.”) Muffy insists she...
can’t change her party because the rock band and the clown have been booked for ages. Arthur can’t change his because family is coming in from Ohio for it. Maybe Muffy and Arthur should have handed out the invitations earlier than three or four days before their parties, especially if so many plans had been in place for so long already? In one charming bright spot in this story, Arthur and Francine hatch a plan to bring the two parties together. But instead of having it at Muffy’s mansion on, I kid you not, Nou Veau Riche Drive, with the rock band and the clown, they have it at Arthur’s small house, where his mom grumbles about it. It’s totally the best idea ever to have the party together but there’s no mention about how Muffy’s parents feel after losing their deposit on the unused rock band and clown.

I’ve started reading Arthur’s books to my sons and they love the colorful pictures in the book. The storyline is cute ~ nothing spectacular or exciting. Arthur invites everyone to his birthday party only to find out one of his friends, Muffy, has her birthday party the same day. Arthur decided to surprise Muffy by hosting the party at his house and all ends well. It’s a cute story though I am not quite sure about “Spin the Bottle” gift at the end. That may be a little too old for 8 year olds. But it’s not offensive or anything ~ it’s just a cute story about birthday parties. 1-12-04

This is the best Arthur book I’ve ever read. I also remember playing the Living Books computer game version of it, and it was really fun, too. This is one of these books I recommend to everyone.

Wait...isn’t Arthur a popular character in a pre-school show? Imagine my surprise when Arthur had fun at his birthday playing spin the bottle. Spin the bottle? Isn’t that a kissing game? Not age appropriate for this age group!

I was disappointed because I expected a hardback book, but it was a very slim paperback. I also wasn’t vigilant at seeing that it was shipped from the States, so really I thought it was expensive for what it was!

The description reads it to be a paperback but the actual book was small, hard-cover, old version that looked more suitable for a toddler than an 8 year old boy. Old, worn, and not even worth the $2+S&H.

In my opinion, I think that this book is funny because nobody wanted to come to Arthur’s party and
then they all came. - 1st Grade Age 6

We have this book, as well as a CD-ROM version, and have also seen this episode on TV. My boys like all versions, but I am bothered with every reading or playing by the fact that nothing really explains what happens to Muffy's party---supposedly the rock band and the clown have been booked for weeks, but somehow this all seems forgotten once Muffy is tricked into coming to Arthur's house to join his party. Is the plan that Arthur and Francine come up with simply to trick Muffy into not going to her own party? My husband says I read too much into a simple story, but I think kid's books should make sense. I do have to admit this troubling plot confusion has never bothered my boys a single bit!

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