Gently absurd and delightfully entertaining, this rhyming tale of a curious king on a singular search evokes the playful tradition of Edward Lear.

THE KING OF QUIZZICAL ISLAND

HAD A MOST INQUISITIVE MIND.

HE SAID, IF I SAIL TO THE EDGE OF THE WORLD,

I WONDER WHAT ILL FIND?

When his wily old Wizard and Whispering Witches can’t answer the king’s question, he makes up his quizzical mind to find out for himself. And so, in a ship made of wood from the Tea-Bag Tree — and despite the fears of his faithful that he’ll fall off the edge — the king sets off on a wondrous adventure across a topsy-turvy world. Fresh, funny, and imaginative black-and-white drawings by David McKee illustrate Gordon Snell’s rhythmic text in a tale that begs to be read aloud.

My Personal Review:
The King of Quizzical Island, who has "a most inquisitive mind," wants to know what he will find at the edge of the world. When no one can answer his question, the King sets out on a voyage over his subjects’ fears and laments. The King travels to Jigsaw Land, where he puts the world together, Vertical Land, where everything stands on end, and the Sea of Dreadful Dreams, which he vanquishes by waking. Finally, the King finds that he has arrived at his own back door and concludes the world is a sphere. In the end, however, the King is still not satisfied that the world is not flat because he may have sailed in a circle on a plane. We leave the King as he begins to test a new hypothesis. This book is written in a lyrical form that is absolutely delicious to read aloud. Furthermore, Snell suggests
without preaching that children question, follow their curiosity rather than their fears, and then question more. This is a wonderful story that I will enjoy reading to my sons again and again.

Reviewed by Annie Peters

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