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What's the magic word?

Sandra L. Tidwell

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DiPucchio, Kelly S. *What's the Magic Word?*. Illustrated by Marsha Winborn. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN 0060005785. \$15.99. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction;

Subject: Birds--Juvenile fiction; Domestic animals--Juvenile fiction; Animals--Juvenile fiction; Winds--Juvenile fiction; Stories in rhyme--Juvenile fiction; Book--Reviews;

In a nest on the branch of a pink-blossomed farmyard tree, a newly hatched bird is "whooshed" into the sky in a brisk wind. He lands "kerplunk" by a farm animal and asks, "Hello? Hello? Can I come in?" The cow, the bees, the dog, the owl, and the pig all query in return, "What's the magic word, Little Bird?" Little bird learns each animal's sound and then is "whoosed" away again. Finally, the blustery wind whisks little bird back to the safety of his mother's nest and learns from his mother that "please" is the magic word.

This cute spring story by DiPucchio has a simple text based in repetitious rhyming and is accompanied by Winborn's soft, but bright and detailed watercolor illustrations. Winborn is able to capture the little bird's expressions as he flies through the air, lands unexpectedly, and asks the animals his question with hopeful expectation. The end of each phrase's rhyming text is after the page turn, and kids are anxious to guess the rhyming word before the page is turned. *What's the Magic Word?* is a very nice read-aloud experience.