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Sammy: the classroom guinea pig

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Berenzy, Alix. *Sammy: the Classroom Guinea Pig*. Illustrated by Berenzy, Alix. Illustrated by Berenzy, Alix. Henry Holt and Co., 2005. ISBN 0805040242. \$16.95. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Emily Hreha

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Picture book

Subject: Guinea pigs--Juvenile fiction; Schools--Juvenile fiction; Book--Reviews;

"WHEEP!" Sammy the guinea pig greets Ms. B and her classroom of students each school day. Sammy is happy in his little house with his soft blue sock, his food bowl filled with guinea pig pellets, and water to drink. On one busy Monday morning, a persistent, bothering feeling makes Sammy shriek "WHEEEP!" at the top of his lungs. As Ms. B and her students try to determine what is wrong with Sammy, they rule out Sammy being sick, frightened, and hurt until Maria realizes that what Sammy needs is the attention of Ms. B and her students.

Berenzy, author and illustrator of this title, teaches the reader a variety of facts about guinea pigs through her narrative. The last page ends with a list of five facts about guinea pigs, making this book a good read for a new owner of a guinea pig. Berenzy does not, however, list any documentation of where she found her information on guinea pigs. A bibliography or a "For more information" list would be helpful since it seems that one of Berenzy's goals is to educate the reader on guinea pigs. Berenzy's soft colored pencil illustrations of Sammy's face are full of expression.