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Kindergarten Kids: Riddles, Rebuses, Wiggles, Giggles, and More

Donna Cardon

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Calmenson, Stephanie. *Kindergarten Kids: Riddles, Rebuses, Wiggles, Giggles, and More*.
Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN 0060007133. \$15.99. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Donna Cardon

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Contemporary realistic poetry;

Subject: Kindergarten--Juvenile poetry; Children's poetry, American; Books--Reviews;

The writer of this collection of 14 rhymes and puzzles clearly has experience with kindergarten classes. Each rhyme is ideally suited for kindergarten carpet time. Some like "Show and Tell" encourage dialogic reading while others like "Pizza Party" introduce simple math concepts. Calmenson has included poems for major holidays, such as Halloween, Valentine's Day and the 100th Day of School. There are also rhymes for saying "hello" and "good-bye," and for getting the wiggles out. All the rhymes are well-constructed and short enough for the attention spans of young children. Sweet's bright, bold illustrations depict multi-racial children having fun in kindergarten and perfectly compliment the energy of the rhymes. This book is a must for any kindergarten teacher and could also be used to help pre-kindergarten children feel excited to start school.