What to Do? What to Do?

Janice Card

Reviewer: Janice Card
Reading Level: All
Rating: Excellent
Genre: Picture Book;
Subject: Loneliness--Juvenile Fiction; Birds--Juvenile Fiction; Baking--Juvenile Fiction; Books--Reviews;

Old Sophie bakes the most delicious bread, but she is lonely and longs for someone to talk to. She tries talking to her cabbages, flowers, and furniture, but they don't respond. When she wanders outdoors in her orange hat and flowered shawl she notices the birds and talks to them, and they seem to talk back to her. She is delighted and shares her bread with them. The birds bring all their friends and family, and Sophie begins making bread non-stop. Soon though, the birds' squawks and screeches get on her nerves. She asks the birds to be quiet, but they continue to pester her all day long.

What is she to do? The villagers want to buy her bread because it smells so wonderful while she bakes all day, but she can't keep up with the demands of the birds. In fact, the birds follow her wherever she goes. She needs to be rid of them. When Velma, a seer and sage, drives up in her wagon, Sophie thinks she will get help from her.

However, Sophie sees Velma for the fake she is, so in payment for her phony wisdom Sophie gives her the hat and shawl she always wears. Velma is quick to don her new accessories, and as she drives out of town, the birds follow her. So Velma does solve Sophie's problem despite herself.