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Back into Mommy's Tummy

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Robberecht, Thierry. *Back into Mommy's Tummy*. Illustrated by Philippe Goossens. Clarion, 2005. ISBN 0618581065. \$15.00. [32 p.]

Reviewer: Rita Christensen

Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Picture books;

Subject: Babies--Juvenile fiction; Pregnancy--Juvenile fiction; Jealousy--Juvenile fiction;

Mothers and daughters--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

A little girl has only one request for her fifth birthday--to go back into her mother's tummy. How appealing it would be to stay up late with mommy, to never have to get up for school, and to watch television through a belly button! Coincidentally, her mother is expecting a baby boy soon; perhaps going back into mommy's tummy would make her the center of her family's attention again. As the little girl's friends arrive for her birthday party, she realizes that being older has its advantages--such as opening presents and playing with friends. And maybe her baby brother will even recognize her voice after he is born.

Young children will relate to Robberecht's story, which is written in a childlike yet believable manner. Goossens's oil pastel illustrations are colorful and animated: they skillfully depict a child's imagination, fears, and joys. Though there are many children's books already written on the subjects of sibling rivalry and new babies, this is a fun addition to any collection.