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Magnus Maximus, A Marvelous Measurer by Kathleen T. Pelley Illustrated by S. D. Schindler

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Author: Pelley, Kathleen T.

Title: *Magnus Maximus, A Marvelous Measurer*

Illustrator: Schindler, S.D.

Year of Publication: 2010

Publisher: Farrar Straus and Giroux

ISBN: 9780374347253

Pages: 32

Rating: Outstanding

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Keywords: Measuring; Counting; Elderly; Dedication; Picture Book; Realistic Fiction; Fantasy

Review:

This story features a balding, quirky, mustached character with the unusual hobby of measuring and counting. Everyone marvels at his measuring abilities and he earns acclaim when his measuring saves the town from an escaped circus lion and he is declared the towns' official measurer. But soon, Magnus becomes so preoccupied with his incessant measuring that he loses sight of more important things. When a fortunate accident in the form of broken glasses forces him to take a break, he spends a carefree day by the sea with a little boy and comes to realize what really matters most.

The detailed ink and watercolor illustrations are so visually interesting that the reader will want to move through the story slowly, pausing to look at the extraordinarily complex measuring machines that Magnus uses. These amazing and humorous machines assist him in measuring everything from the itchiness of an itch to the stinkiness of a sock. Rulers and numbers frame the illustrations, contributing to the characterization of Magnus as being logically and mathematically minded. Delightful alliterations are used throughout starting with the title and going straight until the last page, which makes this story a fun out-loud read. Children will leave with the sweet moral that we should never get so caught up in our work that we forget to take the time to stop and enjoy life's simple pleasures.

Reviewer: Dana Staples

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