



2014

A Dog Called Homeless by Sarah Lean

Cyndee Frazier
cynthia_frazier@byu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Frazier, Cyndee (2014) "A Dog Called Homeless by Sarah Lean," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 34 : Iss. 1 , Article 4.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol34/iss1/4>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Author: Lean, Sarah

Title: *A Dog Called Homeless*

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: Katherine Tegen Books an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

ISBN: 978-0-06-212220-9

Number of pages: 208

Rating: Outstanding

Reading/Interest Level: Primary; Intermediate

Keywords: Grief; Dogs; Blind; Single-parent families; Deaf; Communication; Homeless; Friendship; Communication; Realistic Fiction; Novel

Review:

Things haven't gone well for Cally at school or at home since her mother died. When Cally insists that she sees her mother, a year after she died, wearing a red raincoat, no one believes her. After a 'silent day' fund raiser at school, Cally decides that she will continue to not speak because no one listens to her when she talks anyway. Staying silent helps Cally learn to listen and understand things better, especially in communicating with the disabled boy downstairs. With the help of a large friendly dog and some caring people, Cally sees that sometimes communication is best done through love, not words.

Not only is this book beautifully written, it tells a superb story. The chapters are short and easily read, and though it involves challenging issues, this is an appropriate read for children eight years old and up. The story includes a number of people, which might be confusing for struggling readers, but Sarah Lean develops her main characters well through what they say and what they do and don't do. Her plot progresses evenly through the eyes of 5th grader Cally. A family experiencing grief, each member coping with it in his own way, is realistically portrayed. Especially tender is the interaction and growing friendship between the deaf and blind Sam and the silent Cally. *A Dog Called Homeless* depicts serious subjects in a thoughtful, sensitive way. Its conclusion leaves the reader with a feeling of hope and optimism for the future. The book is the ALA 2013 Schneider Family Book Award Middle School Winner.

Reviewer: Cynthia Frazier

TEXT © The Children's Book and Play Review 2014

