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Oh! If Only... by Michael Foreman

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Author: Foreman, Michael

Title: Oh! If Only . . .

Illustrator: Foreman, Michael

Year of Publication: 2013

Publisher: Andersen Press USA

ISBN: 9781467712132

Number of pages: 32

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Preschool; Primary

Keywords: Dog; Ball; Parade; Cats; Soccer; Old lady; Birds; Horses; Birthday; Palace; Birthday cake

Review:
This funny tale about a boy, a stray dog, and a ball will entertain preschoolers and early primary school children. The book uses the idea “If only I hadn’t . . .” and tells of a series of mishaps and accidents that include an old lady and her cats, a flock of birds, and a very important parade. This is a laugh-out-loud book.

Michael Foreman has written and illustrated an amusing picture book perfect for reading to small children. As the plot rolls quickly forward, the pictures, done in bright watercolors and pastels, become more detailed and involved. The characters come alive through the action in the story and the facial expressions and body language of the people in the drawings. Foreman is very good at portraying emotion and movement through his cartoon-like illustrations. Even though the boy is embarrassed by his misadventures, optimism prevails as the boy exclaims, “If I hadn’t… then I would never have…”

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