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If You Want to See a Whale

Liz Kazandzhy

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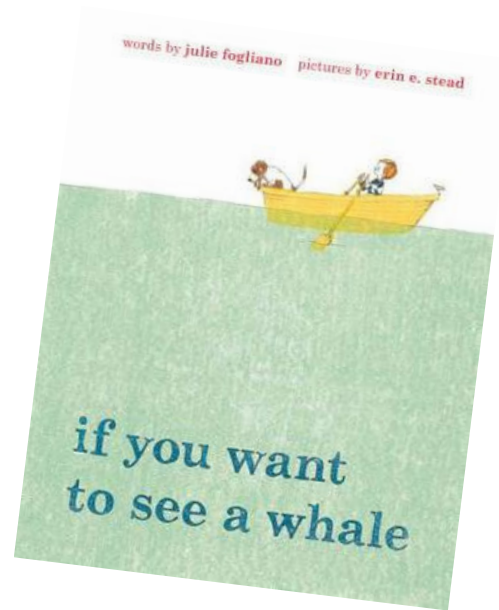
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Book Review

Title: If You Want to See a Whale
Author: Julie Fogliano
Illustrator: Erin E. Stead
Reviewer: Liz Kazandzhy
Publisher: Roaring Brook Press
Publication Year: 2013
ISBN: 9781596437319
Number of Pages: 32
Interest Level: Preschool, Primary
Rating: Outstanding



Review

A boy and his dog go on an adventure to see a whale. Using his imagination, he and his canine friend go to the seaside, only to be distracted by a curious bird, sweet pink roses, possible pirates, a sitting pelican, a scooting caterpillar, and floating clouds. But they try to pay little attention to these fascinating things, and soon they row into the sea to wait, wait, and wait... until they finally see a whale!

If you want to see a great book... read this one! The prose is lyrical and flowing, filled with alliteration and spaced in unpredictable ways, and it is truly a delight to read out loud. The illustrations are simple and elegant and presented with soft and gentle colors, adding to the smooth and tranquil feel of the book. Lastly, the story itself is wonderful and clever, teaching subtle lessons about imagination, perseverance, and patience. Some children may not be as engaged with this book as others that are more fast-paced or humorous, but it's nonetheless a charming, smart, and beautiful book that the majority of children and adults will love.