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Melissa's Octopus and Other Unsuitable Pets

Aylea Stephens

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Book Review

Title: Melissa's Octopus and Other Unsuitable Pets

Author: Charlotte Voake

Reviewer: Aylea Stephens

Publisher: Candlewick Press

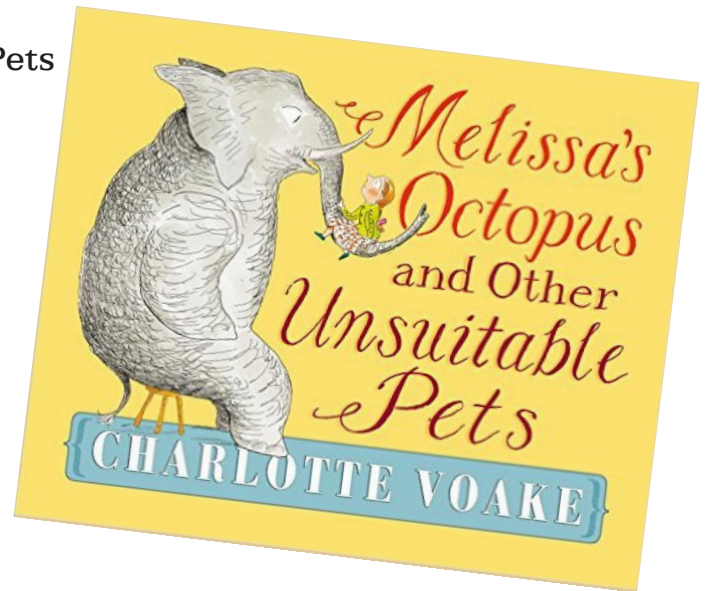
Publication Year: 2015

ISBN: 9780763674816

Number of Pages: 32

Interest Level: Preschool

Rating: Dependable



Review

People can have all kinds of different pets. Melissa has an octopus, but it's not very suitable because he makes such a mess in the bathroom. Thomas has a mole, but the mole is always making tunnels and so is difficult to find. Betty can't ever find her chameleon. Arthur's warthog does exactly what it wants. Caroline has to use a ladder to hug her pet giraffe, and Simon's doesn't know which end of his worm he is supposed to talk to. Peter's elephant is sometimes way too heavy. With all of these unsuitable pets, though, a crocodile that could eat its owners could be the most unsuitable pet of all!

This book doesn't have lessons to learn from. Instead, it uses a lot of visual humor and charming illustrations to talk about pets. There isn't a particular plot. Instead, there are examples of all the different kinds of unsuitable pets that the children in the book have. The last pet takes away some of the cuteness of the book and makes it somewhat alarming instead. The lack of a plot and the simple descriptions of why certain animals are unsuitable pets make it something of an odd book, but many children will enjoy the pictures and perhaps decide that they don't want an unsuitable pet of their own.