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Quit Calling Me a Monster!

Rachel Wadham

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Book Review

Title: Quit Calling Me a Monster!
Author: Jory John
Illustrator: Bob Shea
Reviewer: Rachel Wadham
Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers
Publication Year: 2016
ISBN: 9780385389907
Number of Pages: 40
Interest Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary
Rating: Outstanding



Review

Even though he's technically a monster (because he has horns and purple fur) does not mean that he likes to be called that. When he's shopping for groceries or just trying to get some sleep under your bed there is no need to call him a monster when you could call him by name. He is Floyd after all. Setting out a very good argument, Floyd let's readers know that even though he does everything you might expect from a monster does not mean that he should be treated like one. He just wants you to get to know him as a person, or monster.

Conversing directly with the reader, Floyd's conversational and direct style makes the text of this book very endearing. Through both the text and the pictures we get to know Floyd's monster nature but they also allow readers to realize that they just might be misinterpreting what Floyd's outsides make him on the inside. Depicted with gangly limbs and rough fur saturated with dark tones, Floyd is equal parts endearing and scary making the style of the illustrations a perfect complement the text and the theme. There is a good message here about not stereotyping or judging but it is so well woven into Floyd's banter that it is not didactic in any way. Subtle touches of humor also add to the book which will prove to be a great read aloud and discussion starter for conversations about empathy.