2016

Heidi Heckelbeck #1: Heidi Heckelbeck has a Secret

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Durrant, Amanda (2016) "Heidi Heckelbeck #1: Heidi Heckelbeck has a Secret," Children's Book and Media Review: Vol. 37 : Iss. 9 , Article 16.
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol37/iss9/16

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Book Review

Title: Heidi Heckelbeck #1: Heidi Heckelbeck has a Secret  
Author: Wanda Coven  
Illustrator: Priscilla Burris  
Reviewer: Amanda Durrant  
Publisher: Little Simon  
Publication Year: 2012  
ISBN: 9781442440876  
Number of Pages: 118  
Interest Level: Primary  
Rating: Dependable

Review

Heidi Hecklebeck is about to start her first day of school EVER, but she has some bumps along the way. As she transitions from being home-schooled to attending second grade at Brewster Elementary, Heidi deals with being the new girl in an unfamiliar setting. To make things worse, Heidi is bullied by another girl in her class and absolutely hates school. With encouragement from a new found friend and her family, this seemingly normal eight-year-old comes up with a plan using her secret powers as a witch to get back at the class bully.

Although this beginner chapter book has some great illustrations and is a perfect combination of text and pictures to keep a young reader's attention, there seems to be some substance missing. Heidi's feelings are not explored, and instead she is seeking retribution and revenge on the bully instead of working through the problem. This book did not even begin to scratch the surface of Heidi’s secret, and only mentioned in the last 2 pages of the 11 chapter book that she is a witch with a book of spells, with no additional supporting information provided. This book is less about Heidi’s secret and more about her miserable first day of school.