



2017

Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures

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Hinckley, Kristie (2017) "Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 38 : Iss. 1 , Article 39.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol38/iss1/39>

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Book Review

Title: Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures

Author: Kate DiCamillo

Reviewer: Kristie Hinckley

Illustrator: K.G. Campbell

Publisher: Candlewick Press

Publication Year: 2013

ISBN: 9780763660406

Number of Pages: 231

Interest Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent



Review

What would you do if you came across a squirrel with super powers? And your mom was as upset about having a possibly rabid animal in the house like Flora's mom was, what would you do? This squirrel could save the world! After a tragic run-in with Flora's household vacuum, a normal squirrel transforms into a high-flying, ridiculously strong, and beautifully poetic super squirrel! This hybrid of a traditional chapter book and a graphic novel will keep you at the edge of your seat! Come along as Flora, her neighbors, and her parents interact with Flora's new best friend and squirrel, Ulysses!

The plot in *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* is fun and appropriate for children. There is a very clear Major Dramatic Question from the first chapter of the book: Will Ulysses live to find his possible superhero-like traits? The main characters offer a complementing contrast to each other as readers follow a poetic super squirrel and a lovely, cynical heroine. There are several conflicts in *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures*, and there are several opposing forces to keep readers engaged. With super words such as malfeasance, capacious, obfuscation readers can enjoy the story and build their own vocabulary. The plot also includes many moments of suspense, which makes it entertaining for adults and children alike.