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Groundhog's Day Off

Carlie Smith

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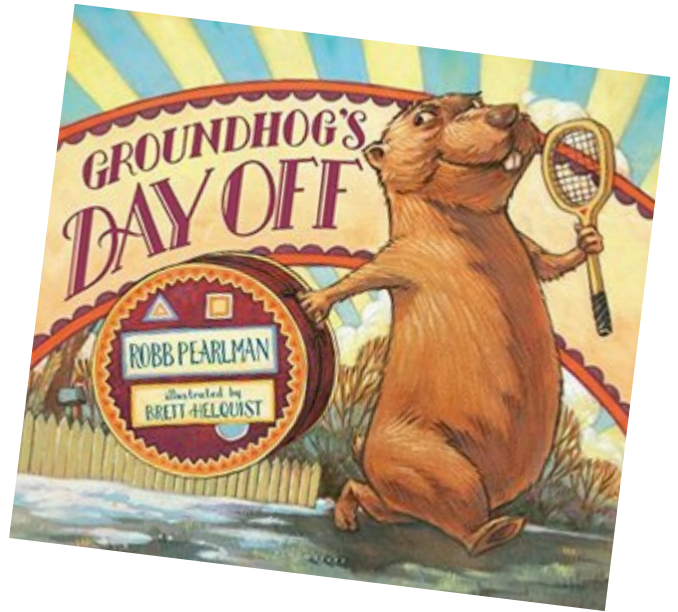
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Book Review

Title: Groundhog's Day Off
Author: Robb Pearlman
Illustrator: Brett Helquist
Reviewer: Carlie Smith
Publisher: Bloomsbury Children's Books
Publication Year: 2015
ISBN: 9781619632899
Number of Pages: 32
Interest Level: Preschool
Rating: Excellent



Review

Disgruntled by his community's lack of interest in anything in his life other than weather predictions, Groundhog decides to take a day off right. He heads to the spa and contemplates a time when reporters will ask questions like, "Have you seen any good movies lately?" or "Do you like mushrooms on your pizza?" The town is forced to hold tryouts for a replacement animal. But no applicants have the right combination of schedule, size, and showiness that is necessary for the job. But when Groundhog hears a report about how special he truly is, he rushes back just in time for the February holiday. He is greeted with the attention and appreciation he deserves...at least, until the next holiday animal takes a day off too!

This charming book is a fun addition to the holiday-themed literature, especially when it addresses such a quirky holiday as Groundhog Day. The story is cute and sends an important message about being interested in other people's lives. The real highlight is the illustrations by Brett Helquist. The pictures are warm and whimsical. They, more than the text, help the readers to feel that Groundhog is deserving and sensitive rather than whiny. With such playful illustrations, you may find yourself reading this book year-round and not just in February.