Groundhog's Day Off

Carlie Smith

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Smith, Carlie (2017) "Groundhog's Day Off," Children's Book and Media Review: Vol. 38 : Iss. 2 , Article 4. Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol38/iss2/4
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.