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Shivers! #1: The Pirate Who's Afraid of Everything

Aylea Stephens

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Book Review

Title: Shivers! #1: The Pirate Who's Afraid of Everything

Author: Annabeth Bondor-Stone and Connor White

Illustrator: Anthony Holden

Reviewer: Aylea Stephens

Publisher: HarperCollins

Publication Year: 2015

ISBN: 9780062313881

Number of Pages: 192

Interest Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Review



Shivers is a pirate, but he's terrified of being one. He lives on a ship that's on land and avoids eating things that start with the letter C because he gets C-sick. Clouds, strawberries, and bubble baths terrify him. When he gets a letter from his pirate parents, however, he has to work through his fear to go rescue them. With the help of his friend Margo and his first mate Albee the fish, he sets off in search of his missing family and the Treasure Torch. Their adventures bring them to a giant squid, NYC, and the Statue of Liberty, and best of all to the knowledge that you can be scared and learn to overlook it anyway.

This book will make both children and adults giggle. The illustrations are plentiful and fun, and the adventure is silly enough to capture the interest of reluctant readers. It ties into some historical fact, but overall the characters and story are meant to be silly and fun. Sometimes it is a strange mixture of real life and fantasy, making it seem a little disconcerting like it wouldn't be if it were based solidly in one world. The humor will entertain readers, and the message about facing your fears also adds a good lesson to the silliness. Young readers will love this story about a pirate who is too scared to be a pirate until it matters most.