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Penny & Jelly: The School Show

Aylea Stephens

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Title: Penny & Jelly: The School Show  
Author: Maria Gianferrari  
Illustrator: Thyra Heder  
Reviewer: Aylea Stephens  
Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers  
Publication Year: 2015  
ISBN: 9780544230149  
Number of Pages: 32  
Interest Level: Preschool  
Rating: Excellent

Review

All of Penny’s classmates are participating in the Peabody Elementary School Talent Show, but Penny isn’t sure what she can do to participate. She can’t sing. She can’t dance. She makes a list of possible other talents, but they get crossed off her list one by one. She doesn’t give up, though. She decides that she is going to be a doggy fashion designer with the help of her dog, Jelly. When that doesn’t succeed either, she tries ballroom dancing, magic tricks, and many other things that don’t work. When she is about to give up and skip school so no one will know that she is untalentless, she and Jelly find a talent that will be exactly right for them.

This is a cute story about a girl’s friendship with her dog. Penny’s determination to find a talent is inspiring, and parents can talk to their children about how everyone has a talent even if it is harder to find what one person’s might be sometimes. Her attempts to find a talent are amusing and will make children laugh at the illustrations, and the end will assure readers that they can have their own talents too. This is a great story for children who want to learn more about talents or to read about the friendship that people and dogs can have.