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Tractor Mac Builds a Barn

Ariel Woodbury

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Book Review

Title: Tractor Mac Builds a Barn
Author: Billy Steers
Reviewer: Ariel Woodbury
Publisher: Farrar Straus Giroux Books
for Young Readers
Publication Year: 2005
ISBN: 9780374301057
Number of Pages: 32
Interest Level: Preschool
Rating: Excellent



Review

Tractor Mac is always driving around the farm working with Farmer Bill. But one day, Farmer Bill hooks Tractor Mac up to a big machine and he has to sit still. And he does the same thing the next day too! Tractor Mac feels lousy not moving around all day. After being stuck in the same place for a long time, Farmer Bill shows him what the big machine Mac was running made: all the planks, boards, and beams for a barn! Mac and his friends help the town to raise the barn and Mac starts to feel pretty good about all the work he did, even though it wasn't the kind he was used to.

Tractor Mac Builds a Barn is a good book with detailed and colorful illustrations. The watercolor images are enjoyable and correspond very well with the text on the page, directly illustrating the characters and actions described. The couple sentences on each page keep the pace of the book moving without bogging down the book with added descriptions, allowing the illustrations to portray these instead. The onomatopoeia in the book is big, colorful, and expressive text. The message of the story seems a bit advanced for the young audience, namely that there are many ways to be productive even if they don't seem like they are at the time.