The Critter Club: Liz Learns a Lesson

Kristie Hinckley

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Title: The Critter Club: Liz Learns a Lesson  
Author: Callie Barkley  
Illustrator: Marsha Riti  
Reviewer: Kristie Hinckley  
Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing Division  
Publication Year: 2013  
ISBN: 9781614794325  
Number of Pages: 113  
Interest Level: Primary  
Rating: Excellent

Review

Liz is one of four girls that make up the Critter Club. After school, the girls help run a small animal shelter in Ms. Sullivan’s barn. As summer approaches, Liz can’t wait to take care of the animals and take an art class at the local library. But her plans change when her mom and principal decide she needs a little help with math over the summer. She has to go to the school library every week and take a class for kids who struggle with math instead of going to art class. Even though she’s day-dreamed about art class for weeks, she makes friends with the kids in her math class, rescues a turtle that becomes their summer math class pet, and she finds out that the art class would be offered again that summer after all!

Liz Learns a Lesson is the third book in Callie Barkley’s Critter Club series. There are black and white illustrations on every page spread. The large font size makes it a perfect beginning chapter book for developing readers in second grade. This book includes topics such as friendship, math, making the best of bad situations, sibling relationships, and doing hard things. Liz and other students in her summer math class struggle with common misconceptions in elementary math concepts, which lots of children could probably relate to.