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Did You Eat the Parakeet

Nan Rao

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Book Review

Did You Eat the Parakeet

Author

Mark Iacolina

Illustrator

Reviewer

Nan Rao

Rating

Excellent

Level

Toddler, Preschool

Pages

40

Year

2018

Publisher

Farrar Straus Giroux

ISBN

9780374305888

The little girl's pet parakeet has gone missing and who else to blame but the family cat! The storybook starts out with a picture showing that the pet parakeet has happily flown out of its cage without the owner knowing. When the girl notices, she immediately wonders if her cat has simply enjoyed a budgie cuisine. As the book goes on, the little girl poses various questions to the family cat showing her disappointment and disapproval for what she thinks may have taken place. Finally, the cat shows its little owner that the parakeet is perched on her head all along! Much to her relief, the little girl realizes she had wrongfully blamed the cat but then quickly discovers that her pet mouse is now "missing."

This is a wonderful story depicting a little girl being quick to make an assumption about what her own pet had done to another. The writing is amusing and rhythmic with incorporation of French cuisine terms being especially adorable. The illustrations perfectly complement the story line, showing the reader that the little girl's accusation had been false all along. This book can be appealing to a young reader on several levels: the drawings with special attention to the characters' facial expressions can teach about what different feelings look like, the vocabulary can be easily understood with a catchy "tune" that flows throughout the whole story, and lastly, the lesson that can be taught is straightforward yet quite important. It is an enjoyable and funny read that could be appreciated by various aged readers.