



2019

Sealed with a Kiss

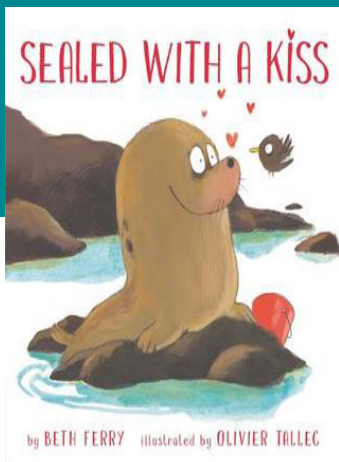
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Book Review

Sealed with a Kiss

Author

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Illustrator

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Reviewer

Karen Abbott

Rating

Excellent

Level

Preschool, Primary

Pages

32

Year

2019

Publisher

HarperCollins

ISBN

9780062475770

A charming new seal with a French accent has arrived at the National Zoo. Unsure of how to make friends, she gets an idea from a small sparrow who welcomes her with a kiss. From cage to cage, the French seal greets each animal with an unwelcome kiss, not realizing that her breath has a strong fishy flavor! An overly honest snow leopard opens the eyes of the friendly flipper, and she swims away, embarrassed to have offended. The sparrow swoops back in and sets the other zoo animals straight. They write a letter of apology and make friends with their new neighbor, who switches to peppermint shrimp.

Both the illustrations and rhymes in this book are intended to evoke a smile and some fun. The animals have a cartoon-ish flair that is likely to appeal to primary readers, as will the silly situation and humorous text. The theme of the book is perfect for this age group as well. On the playground, children can be rough with anyone who is new or who smells or acts differently, and the recalcitrant animals set a good example by realizing that they have been less than empathetic. Most readers will sympathize with the seal when her feelings are hurt, and most will probably laugh along with the other animals as they make fun of her fishy breath. This will allow for an open conversation on what less obvious bullying is and what it feels like if you are not the one making the joke. Sealed with a Kiss is good solid book with an important message.