Shoe-la-la!

Samantha Bullock

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Book Review
Shoe-la-la!

Shoe-la-la! details the adventures of young friends Emily, Ashley, Kaitlyn, and Claire as they search for the perfect pair of party shoes for each of them to wear. They have the perfect dresses and hairstyles, but they are in desperate need of great pairs of shoes to go with them. The foursome venture to a fancy shoe store where they try on every shoe in the whole place—shoes for every occasion imaginable! In fact, they try and like so many that they simply can’t choose what to buy. In the end, they decide to make their own party-perfect pairs of shoes and have a great time doing it.

The book’s strengths lie in the eye catching, whimsical illustrations portraying fanciful shoes of every hue and design, as well as the cheerfully rhyming accompanying text. The book also features a reoccurring dog illustration appearing outside the context of the story that poses discussion questions in speech bubbles. There is little character development or distinction, since the four friends function as a unit. However, the book’s strengths as a visually stimulating conversation starter make up for this lack of character substance. Shoe-la-la! would be ideal for a story time scenario, specifically if many little girls are in attendance. The book’s engaging questions are great for getting young children talking about their preferences and practicing basic counting and observation skills.