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Circle

Karen Abbott

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Book Review

Circle

Author

Mac Barnett

Illustrator

Jon Klassen

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary

Pages

48

Year

2019

Publisher

Candlewick

ISBN

9780763696085

Circle and his friends have decided to play hide-and-seek. Circle specifies that no one should go behind the waterfall because it is too dark and scary. After he counts to ten, Square is still standing next to Circle. Square tells Circle that Triangle has gone behind the waterfall. Circle musters his courage and ventures after his friend. He goes deep into the cave until he sees another pair of eyes and tells Triangle off. Circle has a one-sided conversation, until Triangle speaks from behind him. What are they with in the cave? They hurry back outside to imagine what it was, and neither they, nor we, will ever know.

This is a fun picture book. The illustrations are great, especially those in the back of the cave where only the eyes break up a wide field of deep black. Not many picture books give the reader a shiver, but this one might! The story has a few issues, however. When Circle is angry with Triangle for going into the cave, he says a few things that would be appropriate to discuss with young children—calling names and saying that he is not a good friend. He apologizes, but parents and teachers will want to remind children that things that are said can be hurtful and that there are better ways to handle anger. Despite this, it is a very fun read.