



2019

# Maddy McGuire, CEO: Crafting for a Cause

Jana Carter

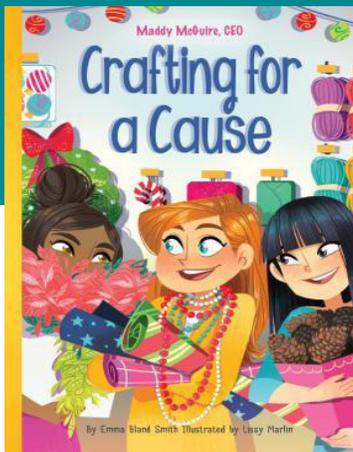
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## Book Review

# Maddy McGuire, CEO: Crafting for a Cause

### Author

Emma Bland Smith

### Illustrator

Lissy Marlin

### Reviewer

Jana Carter

### Rating

Excellent

### Level

Primary

### Pages

110

### Year

2019

### Publisher

Magic Wagon

### ISBN

9781532131844

Maddy and her friend Darcy want to buy Christmas gifts for their school teachers. Amina, a refugee from Syria, and her family are new to the neighborhood. Maddy, Darcy, and Amina discover that despite their differences, they have much in common and become fast friends. They hatch a plan to start a gift-wrapping business and work together to create their supplies. When Amina leaves, Maddy and Darcy decide to change their plan. They know that Amina's grandparents are still in war-torn Syria and that Amina desperately wishes her family could be reunited. Wouldn't it be better to give Amina the money for her grandparents? Sure that Amina will be happy with the generous gift, the girls run to tell her. Unfortunately, their action sets Amina apart as an outsider, and she is hurt. The girls work with Amina to fix the problem. Through their challenges, they learn that their similarities are more important than their differences, and that making a friend is no harder than just being one.

The author teaches the reader the importance of social sensitivity in this book. In the beginning, Smith describes Maddy as an introvert, showing not only how difficult it is for her to meet new people, but also how taxing it is for her to be in social situations. When Maddy meets Amina, both girls are uncomfortable, but they are soon able to find similarities. They learn to respect their differences instead of letting them divide. This book offers a great way to begin a conversation about social and cultural differences, showing that being different does not have to be a scary thing. The author presents other learning opportunities as well. The girls learn about entrepreneurship and how to responsibly use social media. As an additional help, at the end of the book, the author includes a guide on how to market for children. Smith introduces several important lessons to young readers through this thoroughly entertaining and engaging story.