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Harrison Dwight Ballerina and Knight

Amanda Morgan

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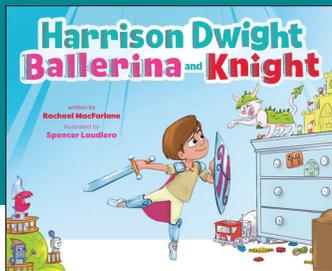
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Book Review

Harrison Dwight Ballerina and Knight



Author

Rachael MacFarlane

Illustrator

Spencer Laudiero

Reviewer

Amanda Morgan

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Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary

.....

Pages

52

Year

2019

ISBN

9781250138583

Publisher

Macmillan Publishing
Group

Harrison Dwight loves to both dance and pretend he is a knight. He goes to football games with his mom and picks flowers with his dad. His parents teach him to be who he is. Sometimes in all his playing, Harrison may hurt himself or experience something bad, but he knows it's okay to feel sad and that tears can help people heal. So even when others may find it odd, Harrison learns that it's important to feel what you feel and be who you are.

This book breaks down gender stereotypes. Harrison does many things that are stereotypically feminine, like painting his nails and wearing his favorite color pink. Harrison cries a lot, which encourages readers to see this as healthy coping mechanism, not a sign of weakness. The book follows a simple rhyming pattern. Together the text and the illustrations appear to tell a cute story, but the episodic way the events are portrayed lack cohesion. While each event portrays the good points the author wants to make, they don't always flow together well. There are not any parts of the text that develop Harrison as a character, so for the most part the story seems forced. Children may not notice this, however, and may find more to like in the great messages and beautiful illustrations that make this a fine book.