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Helga Makes a Name for Herself

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Book Review

Helga Makes a Name for Herself

Author

Megan Maynor

Illustrator

Eda Kaban

Reviewer

Amanda Morgan

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Preschool, Primary

Pages

32

Year

2020

ISBN

9781328957832

Publisher

Clarion Books

Helga the Viking has always wanted to be a warrior. Every chance she gets, she asks for stories about her favorite warrior, Ingrid the Axe. She wants to be just like her, but Helga's parents say that Vikings from small farming towns like theirs don't become warriors. Then one day, a fleet of ships arrives with Ingrid and her crew, and they're looking for warriors to join them. Helga's time to shine has finally come, but as she competes for her spot, not everyone thinks she is worthy of joining the crew. So, Helga works her hardest to prove that even a farm girl can become something great.

The illustrations in this book are extremely expressive. Helga has a big personality, and the reader can practically hear the voices and see the movements of the unique characters. Various body types are represented, and both men and women are also depicted fulfilling various roles, so none of the opposition Helga faces is due to her gender. Included in some illustrations are speech bubbles with funny dialogue that complement the story line. The writing in the book is at an early reading level, but read aloud, it's sure to be enjoyed by much younger children. The story also shares a hopeful message of following one's dreams despite any opposition or failures one might face.