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Full Issue

Various Reviewers

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The Magical Unicorn Society has members across the globe dedicated to discovering more about how unicorns spread their magic. Each explorer has a unique story to tell, and they document the unicorns from the tops of the Himalayas to the waters of the Mediterranean. The Golden Unicorn was discovered frozen in ice by Hana and Jakob in Norway. A Water Moon unicorn helped Selena escape from a dangerous encounter with pirates. Amber Li was even helped by a Storm Chaser unicorn when she wanted to play soccer on a rainy day.

The illustrations are the crowning feature of this book. The cover art is colorful and stunning, enticing readers to pick up the story. The interior illustrations are also phenomenal, portraying each unicorn in a variety of colors and artistically describing each scene. Told in eight sections, each narrated by a member of the Magical Unicorn Society, the text utilizes a lot of advanced vocabulary. The narrative style changes in each section; some stories are told through journal entries, others through first-person narration, and others through third-person narration. However, these shifts are jarring, interrupting the flow of the book. Overall, this is a visually stunning book that lacks the textual strength needed to make it truly exceptional.
For Izzy Mancini, the beginning of 6th grade is not going as planned. Her lifelong friends, the Sea Stars, are drifting apart, her parents separated over the summer, and she has moved. To top it off, a new girl, Sitara, moved in next door. She’s an immigrant from Afghanistan, and she eats different food and wears a hijab. As Izzy struggles to accept this new friendship, she finds comfort and direction in the nearby harbor and from her role model, Marie Tharp, a scientist who made groundbreaking oceanic discoveries. Eventually, Izzy learns to navigate the changes in her life and make her own deep discoveries, opening her heart to see that there is a galaxy of Sea Stars to befriend.

This coming-of-age story negotiates big themes and topics, including friendship, divorce, bullying, tolerance, immigration, and courage. Izzy deals with the emotions that come with each of these, including frustration, denial, sadness, and eventually excitement, peace, and understanding. Izzy’s journey to open her eyes and heart to new family situations, as well as new friends, will resonate with many middle-grade readers. Izzy’s perspective changes as she peeks into how her parents and friends feel. Sitara’s experience in particular changes Izzy as Izzy considers what it’s like to be a refugee in a completely new culture. The author writes from her experiences with refugees as a volunteer at Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services. This timely novel will inspire readers to see new perspectives, consider emotions in difficult circumstances, and encourage understanding in changing relationships.
Cassidy, Jake, and Lara are in New Orleans, ready for another mystery. Cassidy is being hunted by a servant of Death who wants to reclaim her soul. Cassidy and her friends seek help from The Black Cat Society’s members on both sides of the Veil, and they formulate a plan to save Cassidy, but soon everything runs amuck. A failed ceremony affects Jacob, and then the second attempt results in the capture of Lara. Soon Jacob, Cassidy, and the members of The Black Cat Society race to the rescue. Staying true to her friends, Cassidy saves the day while realizing that the future is what you make it.

In this episode of the City of Ghosts series, consequences and sacrifices are necessary. Cassidy refuses to believe that she will have to forfeit one of her friends to save the other, and while everything doesn’t end without a cost, everyone survives. This gives the story a gravitas without plunging it into sentimentality or artificially, reaching a satisfactory, if not happy, ending. The family dynamics in this series feel like an eighties television show where everyone cares about everyone. Cassidy’s parents are vigilant and inclusive of their brave and daring daughter, and she is respectful of them. This book and the rest of the series are the perfect for Halloween since they are thrillers; however, know the content will not be to everyone’s taste.
Adin and Dina are the best of friends, and they love to climb the lush fruit trees surrounding them. They pick cherries, savoring their sweet taste and using their juices to draw on each others faces. Then Adin tells Dina his mom wants a job in the city, and before he heads to his new home, she hands him a bag of cherry pits. On lonely days, Adin throws some off his balcony, hoping they’ll travel far. When reunited for a visit, he places more of them inside paper airplanes and flies them through the sky. When Dina rides her bicycle towards Adin’s on a cold, wintry day, she stops and pushes pits into the frozen ground. As the sunshiny days of spring arrive, Adin and Dina look across the landscape and see they’ve created a magical path of cherry blossoms outlining the way to each other.

This is a beautiful story about a friendship that marks two young lives with memories to last a lifetime. Readers will be deeply touched by the bond that Adin and Dina share and the ingenious way they fashion a trail from one residence to the other. Their relationship is endearing because they refuse to let time or distance tear them apart. But the author also eloquently shows how both try to threaten their companionship. For example, Adin begins wearing clothes to look more like a city boy than the cherry juice-cheeked country boy Dina grew up knowing him to be. Their friendship ultimately wins out, leaving readers with warm, joyful feelings. The illustrations throughout are gorgeous, providing the perfect backdrops to this unforgettable text.
Amidst the beautiful autumn leaves, a girl and her grandmother sip tea together and send greetings to the trees. They sing sweet melodies and twirl aimlessly, dancing like the leaves. As months pass by, Grandma starts forgetting things. Grandma is fading as if parts of her are simply disappearing in the wind, so the girl watches over her, mentioning the beauty that surrounds them and ensuring they do the things they love. Soon, Grandma no longer gets up, watching from her bed as the girl paints a picture of the two of them playing in the gentle breeze. As winter rolls around, Grandma’s bed lies empty. But when autumn arrives again, the girl welcomes the chance to celebrate what was always Grandma’s favorite time of year with hot tea, her scarf, and dances in the wind.

This is a heartwarming story about love and loss, healing and remembrance, and the influence of the relationship between a grandmother and her grandchild. Children who have experienced similar connections will treasure this book, and those who haven’t will be touched by it as well. The illustrations throughout are vibrant and expressive, appearing in an assortment of illuminating colors. They are welcoming, captivating, and complement the text. The words are relatively easy to read, and they are poignant and laced with a plentiful supply of figurative language. Though the book introduces the concept of death and the absence that prevails, it rejoices in the memories that remain, a message that will resonate with a broad audience.
Goose is missing, so the girl enlists the help of Duck, Duck, and Moose to find their feathered friend. They take Tractor and search across the farm, asking for help from all the other animals. In their panic, they run into a lot of trouble and make quite a mess, and at the end of the day, they go home sad having not found Goose. Then the next morning, they are happily surprised to find out just where Goose had gone.

The combination of text and pictures in this book makes for a very detailed narrative. Told entirely in succinct dialogue and effective onomatopoeias to express a range of sounds, the text is set off in the illustrations through speech bubbles. The text also changes sizes and fonts to express emotion, and the illustrations support this by showing the characters’ particularly comical and over-the-top expressions as they lose their cool and overreact. This book is entertaining and will be perfect to share with lots of laughter. Readers will know that even though they were worried, things will turn out way better than Duck, Duck, and Moose imagined.

**Book Review**

**Duck, Duck, Moose**

**Author**
Mary Sullivan

**Illustrator**
Mary Sullivan

**Reviewer**
Amanda Morgan

**Rating**
Excellent

**Level**
Toddler

**Pages**
40

**Year**
2021

**ISBN**
9780358313496

**Publisher**
Clarion Books
From the bear’s one belly to the cat’s ten whiskers, all the animals have a number to teach, progressing from one to ten.

Dutch artist Van Hout offers a direct counting book with bold, unique illustrations. Each animal takes up a two-page spread along with one word and one number. The bold and bright multimedia pieces of art give the book a creative spark. The use of chalk and paint gives the pictures interesting texture, and the bold primary colors, which change on each page, highlight each concept. This is a great book to build beginning numerical literacy skills, and caregivers will find some helpful tips at the end on teaching children to count with confidence.
Engineers do a lot of things. They fix things, they build things, and they learn from their mistakes. Baby may not be an engineer yet, but Baby can do these things. Baby can ask questions and help others and do all sorts of other things to see what it might be like to be an engineer.

This is a good board book to inspire toddlers with an interest in engineering. The illustrations are endearing and colorful enough to likely catch a baby’s attention. They are also very inclusive, with various races and genders depicted.
Whether it’s a beaver accidentally chopping down an owl’s tree, a giraffe borrowing a worm’s socks without permission, or a cat dropping their kite in a dog’s yard, everyone needs to know how to apologize. Apologizing can be hard. Sometimes what we did was an accident. Sometimes the person we hurt is scary or mean. Sometimes they owe us an apology too. Even so, any time we hurt someone, we need to say we’re sorry. Apologies can be simple or long, in person or on a note. Then you can try to fix the mistake or at least do your best to make sure it doesn’t happen again. So long as you don’t make excuses and you are sincere, your apology will make you feel better and, more importantly, make the person you hurt feel better.

Everyone needs to know how to apologize, so this clever book illustrates dozens of hilarious apology scenarios. The goofy images and examples of bad apologies are entertaining. The lessons learned are heartfelt and sincere, and readers can see how to apologize and why we do it even in tough situations. This is a great book to learn an important life lesson in a fun and lighthearted way.
It all began with two wooden rails and a horse-drawn mine cart—these would ignite a technology that utterly transformed mankind. On, above, and below the ground, trains connect to tracks in various ways and are powered by wood, diesel, and electricity. The purposes of trains are highly varied. Some take passengers between cities or across continents. One train in England even carries passengers only 128 feet from a clifftop to the beach. When trains are combined with other mediums of travel, like ferry boats, bridges, and undersea tunnels, train limits disappear. Also, the ever-changing train station is the stuff of architects’ dreams, where famed domed roofs combine with shopping malls and restaurants, music venues and theatres, apartment buildings and hotels. Train prospects remain bright, even as other travel technologies advance.

Readers of this unique book will unfold its sturdy pages and lift its flaps to kinesthetically and spatially experience the visual evolution of the train and its associated technologies. Its intuitive layout, with numerous captions and a wealth of technical and historical information contained in its hidden pages, is a treasure for amateur historians, architects, geographers, and engineers alike. Third graders to adults will revel in the breadth of information it offers. Presenting so much more than a technological snapshot, this book brings in city planning, land features, and tourism as major topics. Furthermore, the illustrations’ hand-drawn quality creates a friendliness that will draw readers unwittingly into information that is actually quite complex. Readers will be so engrossed that not even a steam-belching locomotive would be able to pry them away from their reading, though the French-invented hover train just might.
Joshua cherishes his grandpa. Together, they eat banana and peanut butter sandwiches and travel through the sea on imaginary adventures. Grandpa is full of interesting things to share, and Joshua feels invincible around him. Then one day, Joshua notices the prominence of Grandpa’s wrinkles and a tremble in Grandpa’s hands. His fear escalates when his grandfather goes to the hospital, and even though his dad says it will be fine, Joshua remembers all the times that simply wasn’t true. During Joshua and Grandpa’s last fishing trip together, they talk about life and death and what it all means, which gives Joshua the reassurance that Grandpa’s spirit and love will never die.

This heartwarming story captures a sacred relationship between a grandparent and a grandchild. Joshua, like many young children, looks up to his grandpa, and it seems unfathomable to think of losing him. This concern is certainly relatable, and this book is full of thoughtful sentiments that provide healthy ways to perceive such a loss. For example, Joshua’s grandfather shares that when his father died, he learned to look for him with his heart instead of his eyes. He expresses that his presence will surround his grandson forever. The final spread is a beautiful and captivating scene that shows Joshua as a parent passing on his grandfather’s wisdom. Readers will be touched by this text and will remember it long after reading the last page.
World-famous cupcake chef Gustavo Mustachio has gone missing, and it's up to investiGATORS Mango and Brash to find him. The alligator duo begins by going undercover at Gustavo’s bakery, Batter Down. Clues lead them to the science factory, where a scientific breakthrough about to be revealed has been stolen. Following their leads, the partners head to the city hospital and eventually back to the bakery. In the end, Gustavo reappears, and the case of the missing invention is also solved.

This graphic novel is perfect for fans of books like Dog Man. It is full of humor, puns, twists, and goofiness. The illustrations, drawn with pencil, inked with pen, and digitally colored are bright, vibrant, and eye-catching. Young artists will also enjoy the back matter, which contains how-to instructions for drawing a few of the story’s characters. With three more titles in the series already published and a fifth in the works, readers will have many more investiGATORS adventures to enjoy.
To survive in the wild, many creatures go to amazing lengths to conceal themselves. Discover how animals make themselves nearly invisible to avoid falling prey to predators or to prepare for an attack on an unsuspecting target. Some, like the trumpetfish, nuzzle in close to the coral reefs that shield them; others, like the tulip-tree beauty moth, transform to blend in with the tree bark on which they settle. Still others, like the orchid mantis, immerse themselves in the petals of flowers where they stand in wait for a tasty bite to eat.

This is a fascinating kaleidoscopic look at how animals disguise themselves in the battle to stay alive. It will spark readers’ curiosities and intrigue their senses with facts woven into a plethora of detailed and brilliantly hued illustrations. Written with brevity suitable for young learners, the contents are well organized and aesthetically pleasing. Bold font is used to identify each species, and some of the print appears in soft warm colors to match the photos. At the end, there is additional information that will prove useful for research projects and individual personal interests. This is an ideal resource for upper-elementary school science classrooms and libraries. It’s also perfect as a coffee table centerpiece due to its eye-catching qualities and overall allure.
Milo, Mimi, and Max are siblings who all like different foods. Milo only likes food that has a crunch to it. Mimi prefers to eat anything that is sweet. Max wants to eat bananas. Together they struggle to find a meal that they all can enjoy. Milo eats granola every morning, but Mimi goes for the stack of pancakes, and Max throws bananas on both. For lunch they try to make a sandwich, but when Mimi adds ice cream and Max adds a banana, everyone is upset. They finally find a solution by making pizza, each adding their own ingredients to a third and enjoying banana splits for dessert.

Representing the pickiness of some children who only like to eat based on texture, taste, or type of food, how the monkey siblings face the challenge adds an interesting twist to a common experience. As they work together to find a solution, readers will learn about cooperation and that, at times, the first try does not always work out and they have to try again. The illustrations in the book are clear, bright, and expressive.
No matter how many he tries to read, Henly just isn’t interested in books. Some are too big, others are too boring, and they are just not related to what he wants to be doing or who he is. Then one day, he gets the hardest assignment: to present his favorite book to the class. Henly tries asking for help, but there is still nothing interesting in the library or the bookstore. Finally, his mom’s advice gives him a wonderful idea, and with a little thinking outside the box, Henly creates his favorite book in the whole wide world.

This story inspires an exploration of literature through both reading and writing. Readers will be swept up in the relatable story, cheering Henly on as he works hard to fulfill his assignment and gets a gold star at the end for his solution. The text is filled with humor and delightful figurative language that brings the characters and plot to life. The illustrations are done with rich saturated colors and crisp lines that set off the text and enrich the story perfectly. This is a delightful book to share with anyone who loves reading or who has not yet found their own perfect book.
A red book dressed in cowboy attire is trying his hardest not to tell a story. He struggles to keep his pages in line, while they continue to pester him and offer suggestions. Even with their creative ideas and characters, he does not want to fill his pages with anything. But the book’s real problem is a lack of confidence in himself, and with a little help from the pages, characters, and reader, this book is finally able to gain the courage he needs to tell his own tale.

The creative illustrations do a good job of adding extra, fun details to the story with bold, bright colors that add to both the energetic and gloomy moods throughout the book. Interactive pages allow the reader to help the self-doubting book by giving him a hug, followed by a shake, further integrating the reader as a part of the solution. One major theme of this book is that everyone has a story to share. Elementary-aged children could read this book to encourage them to use their creativity to write their own stories.
Ruby was perfectly happy until she found a worry. At first, the worry wasn’t big, but it would follow her everywhere. Then the worry got bigger, stopping her from doing things she loved to do. Ruby begins to wonder if things would ever be normal again, and her worrying about the worry has made it huge. Then one day, she notices someone else with a worry. Learning that everyone has worries and talking with her new friend, Ruby realizes that making a worry go away isn’t as hard as she thought.

This beautifully illustrated book will likely capture readers’ attention and teach them a valuable lesson. Ruby’s story shows that talking about what’s bothering you helps in dealing with anxiety and depression. This story will also help readers understand that they need not worry about bad feelings they encounter never going away. Also included at the end is a letter by the author about how to deal with worries. The illustrations with large text and simply written sentences on each page make this book a great read-aloud and accessible to early readers.
When the word Taliban was spoken in the Swat Valley, ten-year-old Malala watched her dreams of becoming a doctor disappear. The long-bearded men in black turbans wandered out of the mountains, advocating for the strictest parts of Islamic law in a modernizing Pakistan and often enforcing their views at gunpoint. Because she was a top student in the all-girls school her father owned, Malala’s brilliant mind starved when the Taliban forced her school to close. So, at eleven, Malala began giving covert speeches about girls’ rights to education and collaborating secretly with journalists. Following her return to her war-torn city after a long evacuation, one of the Taliban members boarded her school bus and shot the fifteen-year-old point-blank in the head. Her recovery in England was long, but she continues speaking and advocating for educational rights all over the world.

This child-friendly biography has ample word spacing and a collection of colorful photos. Malala’s childhood story will suck readers in as they see the similarity of pre-Taliban Pakistan to their own surroundings. By nature, Malala’s story is challenging, with war scenes and medical trauma present in the book that reflect the disturbing reality of displaced peoples and civil unrest. Although not described graphically, the reader is given additional tools to deconstruct these unsettling truths through the supplemental readings and websites given in the back of the text. The journey may start with Malala’s story, but there is plenty to learn about similar situations around the globe. Interested students will find that this text is a fruitful beginning to an awareness of terrorism and its effects in many lands.

*Contains moderate violence.
Eleven-year-old Mary Lambert thrives as a young deaf girl on the island of Martha’s Vineyard in the early 19th century. Many people on the island are deaf and can communicate through sign. While the islanders navigate disputes about indigenous land rights, a scientist from the mainland arrives to investigate the causes of deafness on the island. When Mary is kidnapped by the scientist to further his study on the mainland, she is mistreated and realizes how isolating it is to not be able to communicate. Eventually, Mary befriends a maid who helps her escape. Making her way to the docks, Mary meets a sailor who rescues and reunites her with her own community.

As a deaf author, Ann Clare LeZotte insightfully writes about this historical deaf community on Martha’s Vineyard. As Mary’s eyes are opened to the perception of others, LeZotte reveals the reality, good and bad, of the deaf experience to the reader. The historic setting also shows society’s growth in their knowledge about and acceptance of deaf people. Through Mary, LeZotte also draws similarities between Mary’s misunderstood deafness and the misunderstanding of indigenous views about land. Mary becomes more compassionate and empathetic to others’ mistreatment as she experiences mistreatment herself. This beautiful coming-of-age story becomes relatable as it teaches us to try to understand each others perspectives and learn not to judge too quickly.
Space is a big place, housing stars, galaxies, planets, moons, and nebulae. Our solar system, which is made up of planets, dwarf planets, moons, asteroids, and comets, is part of the Milky Way galaxy. From Earth, certain celestial objects are visible, but there is much more beyond our own solar system. We explore all this through astronauts, artificial satellites, spacecraft, and space stations.

Space Maps will give readers a colorful and detail-filled tour of the universe. This oversized book of flat and circular maps is detailed and includes interesting facts. The glossary and index are useful, and the list of selected sources lends authority to the information presented. This book would be fantastic for space lovers and would be a great resource for classrooms as well.
Book Review
The 1619 Project: Born on the Water

Chronicling her life, a grandmother teaches her grandchildren about their past. She begins with their life in a village prior to being kidnapped and forced onto a ship to Virginia, where they worked as slaves for 250 years. During this horrific time, two people decided to create a family and have a child, named William Tucker, who was the first Black child born in the United States. Continuing to explain their family’s history, Grandmother speaks of the Civil War and how many of their ancestors rose from slavery to become inventors, athletes, singers, and artists. Concluding their history, she reiterates to her grandchildren that their ancestors hoped their descendants would be proud of their history and all that their ancestors went through.

Equally educational, heartbreaking, and uplifting, this book presents each part of the grandmother’s history as its own poem. The illustrations expertly capture the changing tone of the story. They are bright, colorful, and filled with smiling joyful people when describing the village in Africa, and they become darker and ominous when the ancestors are kidnapped. Throughout the story, readers feel the torment and anguish of the people taken from their homes against their wills. This book certainly fulfills its purpose to help Black American children feel connected to their roots. It empowers all readers with the knowledge of a resilient people who loved, resisted, and persevered. The book also includes a website for educators to find additional materials to assist with instruction.
Tubs Marshfield, a frog who loves to play music, has lived in the swamp for his whole life. Everyone is happy, but lately, animals have started getting sick and no one can figure out why. So, Tubs decides to visit Pythia, the fortune-telling alligator. Pythia is unsure of what is causing the sicknesses, but she tells Tubs that he must leave the swamp to avoid bringing misery to his friends and family and to realize his musical dreams. As he decides whether to leave the swamp, Tubs is able to figure out the source of everyone’s sickness and what he wants for his own future.

This fun novel is full of quirky characters and endearing story lines. The originality of the story itself will be sure to draw readers in, and occasional black-and-white illustrations add an engaging visual element to the story. The pacing, however, is not consistent. The story is set up to convince readers that Tubs should leave the swamp, but when he attempts to leave, he just ends up returning the same day. His return causes an unexpected change in trajectory, leaving readers unsure of how the plot could progress. Regardless, the recovery is quick and the ending satisfactory, making this an enjoyable book for young readers.
In a war-torn kingdom, a lost girl is found by the monks of the Chronicles of Sorrowing. Now Beatryce remembers only her name and is befriended by Answelica, the unruly goat. But, Brother Edik knows the king is looking for the lost girl because of a prophecy made many years earlier that a young girl would unseat him. Brother Edik hides her among the monks, but as she obtains the forbidden ability to read and write, memories eventually come to Beatryce. Realizing her identity, she sets out to face her future—and it is up to Beatryce and her friends to find the true long-lost king and reunite Beatryce with her mother.

DiCamillo magically weaves this story within a story, showcasing the power of friendship, love, and tales. Beatryce is a force to behold as she discovers her true place and embraces her power and courage to try to set things right. Each of Beatryce’s friends was an outcast for different reasons, including unlovable behavior, physical looks, choice, and evil circumstances. This makes the tale a commanding reminder about what real power is, showing readers that it comes from love. In the end, as all the friends find or remember those that love them, they are led to a home, becoming who they are meant to be. The beautiful and intricate illustrations by Sophie Blackall add movement, detail, and charm. The enduring themes and lovable characters make this story a relatable classic.
Trying to make your mark in Hollywood is murder—just ask Clara Berg, who discovers the body of a young woman in the studio vaults. The victim is Connie Miller, an unknown stand-in with big screen dreams. Clara is sympathetic to the dead girl, who is near her own age, and she resents how easily it seems that this girl will be forgotten in the shadow of a major movie star, Babe Bannon. As Clara digs into the murder, she discovers clues that link her beloved studio to the Nazi regime. The war is barely over, and such information could bring down the man she is falling for, bring down the head of the studio, and cost Clara her job. Even with so much at stake, Clara persists to reveal the truth that will shape her life, love, and career.

This is a wonderful mystery and drama that captivates from the word “action.” Fans of film noir will sink quickly into the pages of this novel because it reads like an old detective movie. The author shapes the environment and characters with the skill of a Hollywood director, and it is easy to visualize each scene in black-and-white on the silver screen, maybe even sliding some favorite actors into the roles of each character. Clara is likeable and has parents who are a stable influence in her life. The drive and desire of her supporting cast at the studio will be very relatable to teens near Clara’s age. This gets five stars for the film noir setting and the characters who have just stepped out of a silver screen. Add another five starts for the historical view of post-war America. Readers should note that there are some historically accurate depictions of smoking and underage drinking.
This is Baby. Baby has a lot of different parts, like arms and legs. Those parts do a lot of different things, like hug and kiss. Baby can laugh and sing and play and do lots of things, but the most important thing about Baby is that Baby is loved.

Bold graphic illustrations done in saturated pastels with just a few words on each page describe everything about Baby. Exaggerated perspective with only a few elements on each page makes the baby and animal characters really stand out. The text has a pleasing rhythm that makes this a delightful read-aloud for caregivers of babies and toddlers.
In Paris, Cassidy Blake discovers another paranormal mystery. Spending the summer recording her parents’ ghost-hunting show called The Inspecters, Cassidy enters the catacombs with her ghost-bestie Jacob, only to encounter a poltergeist who has a short temper and no memory of his death. Worse still, Cassidy’s British friend, Lara, informs her that poltergeists can cause serious damage and will continue to increase in power as more time is spent on the living side of the veil. Unraveling the poltergeist’s story, they are able to send the spirit on, but they soon find they must defeat a new, destructive power lurking at the train station.

While not for squeamish readers, this book is filled with delightful chills and quiver-worthy creeps that provide a great background for the fearless young ghost hunter and caring, responsible parents. The family dynamic of this series creates a comfortable atmosphere that balances the paranormal action to perfection. Cassidy is surrounded by safe people, which takes some edge off some of the scary and intense passages where Cassidy is in danger or literally crawling over dusty old bones. There is no violence here, just plenty of ghosts and graveyards to develop Cassidy’s skills. Cassidy models friendship and responsibility, and she is intelligent, kind, and loyal, making this book an excellently written tween paranormal thriller.
Pig is a great friend. Everyone thinks so, but sometimes Pig worries that nobody does. When Pig plans to throw a huge party, he starts worrying about everything. What if nobody comes? Or what if nobody has a good time? Fortunately, Pig has really good friends, and with their help, he learns that everyone has worries and that usually things don’t turn bad; they turn out much better.

This is an excellent story to promote mental health in young children because it shows that worrying is normal and that we don’t have to let worries consume our thoughts. The storyline is also charming and attention-grabbing. The expressive illustrations are adorable and eye-catching since they are designed to integrate the text. Overall, this is an outstanding picture book.
A baby elephant is somewhere near, but a lion family says she’s not with them. A shark and her young know she’s not under the sea. She is also not with a wolf and her cub. It is too cold for her to be with the penguin and her little chick. From one set of animals to another we go until we find the baby elephant with her mother.

This interactive book takes readers on a delightful adventure of discovery. Folding out each page multiple times morphs the illustrations into three different sets of animals in a perfectly ingenious way. Readers will delight in seeing how each illustration builds and changes to make something new, such as when the skin of the shark becomes the sky and the space in its mouth a toucan’s beak. The sparse text supports the illustrations as each animal offers simple answers to the question of just where the baby elephant is. This book is enchanting, and it will amaze readers and inspire their imaginations.