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When Someone is Afraid

Sarah Wanlass

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Reviewer: Sarah Wanlass
Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary
Rating: Dependable
Genre: Picture books;
Subject: Fear--Juvenile fiction; Fear of the dark--Juvenile fiction; Dreams--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

What does an ostrich do when it is afraid? What about a frog? In When Someone Is Afraid, Gorbachev explores various ways that creatures react to fear. A frog will dive underwater; a turtle will pull its head into its shell; an ostrich will bury its head in the sand. What might a little boy or girl do?

Kostya Gorbachev, Valeri's son, creates colorful and detailed illustrations to accompany the text. The characters are depicted in an expressive manner and each animal's fear is treated distinctly.

Children will enjoy reading this book. They might try to guess how each animal will react to fear and will probably relate to the little boy at the end of the story.