
Reviewer: Tessa McMillan
Reading Level: Primary
Rating: Dependable
Genre: Picture Books; Contemporary realistic fiction;
Subject: Pets--Juvenile fiction; Pet sitting--Juvenile fiction; Humorous Stories; Books--Reviews;

Henry has just started his new job of babysitting critters. Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney are his first customers. They have a dog, cat, boa constrictor, goldfish, tree-frog, and cockatiel. His job is to make sure that all the Mahoney’s animals are taken care of until their return. Along the way, Henry encounters several mishaps with the animals. In the end, Henry works hard at being responsible for the animals and is rewarded by the Mahoney’s with another chance to watch their pets--if he wants to go through the challenges again.

Richards creates beautiful and vibrant images with colored pencil and watercolor that compliment the storyline. The story is fairly well written and could be useful in showing children the importance of becoming dependable and taking responsibility for their actions. If readers enjoy the illustrations of Chris Van Allsburg, readers will also enjoy this work of Richards.

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