2013

The Fourth Grade Wizards by Barthe DeClements

Lorianne Ouderkirk

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol33/iss2/7

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
Marianne has two wishes: to have her mom back and to become a Master Wizard. Ever since her mother passed away in a plane crash Marianne has struggled to pay attention in school. She is always in trouble along with her friend, Jack, the class clown. To make matters worse, Marianne has a nosy, bossy neighbor friend whose mother has an eye on Marianne's father. Things begin to make a turn for the better when Marianne and her father move into a new house and she gets a wolf-hybrid (half wolf, half dog) for a pet, and they meet their neighbor, Lacy. Marianne and Jack work together at school to stay out of trouble and become Master Wizards.

The Fourth Grade Wizards is targeted for children ages eight to twelve. The story is told from the point of view of Marianne, a fourth grader, and contains some heavy topics such as, the death of a parent, moving to a new location, and dealing with difficult personalities. Though the plot line only skims the surface of the most painful event--the death of a parent--Marianne's relationship with her father is a beautiful illustration of the strength and guidance a parent can provide to a child. The ending is a little predictable with the father meeting an attractive neighbor and Marianne becoming a Master Wizard. However, the growth and hope Marianne experiences from morning her mother, moving to a new home, and helping her friends succeed, leaves the reader feeling satisfied.

Reviewers Name: Lorianne Ouderkirk

TEXT ©The Children’s Book and Play Review 2013