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Owly & Wormy: Bright Lights and Starry Nights

Liz Kazandzhy

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Title: Owly & Wormy: Bright Lights and Starry Nights  
Author: Andy Runton  
Reviewer: Liz Kazandzhy  
Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers  
Publication Year: 2012  
ISBN: 9781416957751  
Number of Pages: 40  
Interest Level: Preschool, Primary  
Rating: Outstanding

All that Owly and Wormy want is to see the stars. They begin looking through a telescope near their treehouse, but when they realize the trees get in the way of the stars, they pack up their gear and head to an open area the next day to try again. Unfortunately, it starts to rain, so they seek shelter in a nearby cave, only to become frightened at the strange noises coming from within. They run back to their previous spot until the rain lets up, but then they realize they lost their telescope in all the commotion. Wormy guards the tent while Owly goes to look for it. Soon Owly gets lost but thankfully finds some friends that help him find his way, the bats that had frightened them earlier in the cave. They all come back to the tent and attempt to see the stars again, but they don’t see anything until the bats helpfully blow out the candles so they could see better. Finally, Owly and Wormy discover the beautiful star-filled night sky!

The first thing readers should be aware of is that this is a book with no words. However, the detailed and emotional illustrations, plus the speech bubbles with exclamation points, question marks, and other signs, make the plot understandable, interesting, engaging, and enjoyable. Because there is no text, children of any age can “read” this book by explaining it in their own words, readers can figure out the storyline together, and the way you tell the story can change every time you read it! The art in this book is vivid, beautiful, and humorous, and the characters are adorable and immediately lovable. All in all, this is a fantastic book with outstanding illustrations and a very engaging plot that young readers are sure to love.