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My Pen Pal, Santa

Aylea Stephens

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Book Review

Title: My Pen Pal, Santa
Author: Melissa Stanton
Illustrator: Jennifer A. Bell
Reviewer: Aylea Stephens
Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers
Publication Year: 2013
ISBN: 9780375869921
Number of Pages: 32
Interest Level: Preschool
Rating: Excellent



Review

In January, Ava writes a thank-you note to Santa Claus that starts a whole year of being pen pals with Santa. Santa replies to her questions, so Ava writes to Santa about Valentine's Day in February, the tooth fairy in March, Easter in April, gardens in May, the naughty list in June, the Fourth of July, vacations in August, birthdays in September, Halloween in October, Thanksgiving in November, and her questions about Christmas in December. Ava keeps being told that Santa isn't real, but thanks to her letters, she knows that he is!

This is a cute, beautifully illustrated book perfect for young children at Christmas. The story even answers the hard questions, like how Santa feels about dressing up and pretending to be him and what happens when a house doesn't have a chimney. Parents should be aware that there is some doubt expressed about if Santa is real that may cause some children to start to wonder if Santa does exist. Still, this book teaches about letter writing, the months of the year, and about the magic of Christmas.