2017

Shivers! #1: The Pirate Who's Afraid of Everything

Aylea Stephens

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Title: Shivers! #1: The Pirate Who’s Afraid of Everything
Author: Annabeth Bondor-Stone and Connor White
Illustrator: Anthony Holden
Reviewer: Aylea Stephens
Publisher: HarperCollins
Publication Year: 2015
ISBN: 9780062313881
Number of Pages: 192
Interest Level: Primary
Rating: Excellent

Review

Shivers is a pirate, but he’s terrified of being one. He lives on a ship that’s on land and avoids eating things that start with the letter C because he gets C-sick. Clouds, strawberries, and bubble baths terrify him. When he gets a letter from his pirate parents, however, he has to work through his fear to go rescue them. With the help of his friend Margo and his first mate Albee the fish, he sets off in search of his missing family and the Treasure Torch. Their adventures bring them to a giant squid, NYC, and the Statue of Liberty, and best of all to the knowledge that you can be scared and learn to overlook it anyway.

This book will make both children and adults giggle. The illustrations are plentiful and fun, and the adventure is silly enough to capture the interest of reluctant readers. It ties into some historical fact, but overall the characters are story are meant to be silly and fun. Sometimes it is a strange mixture of real life and fantasy, making it seem a little disconcerting like it wouldn’t be if it were based solidly in one world. The humor will entertain readers, and the message about facing your fears also adds a good lesson to the silliness. Young readers will love this story about a pirate who is too scared to be a pirate until it matters most.