Book Review

Title: My Friend Isabelle

Author: Eliza Woloson

Illustrator: Bryan Gough.


Cost: $14.95 USD

Reviewer: Rhonda S. Black

"My Friend Isabelle" is a delightful book for children ages two to six. The story is told from the perspective of Charlie, Isabelle's friend. Charlie talks about how he and Isabelle are different. Although they are the same age, Charlie is tall, Isabelle is short; Charlie runs fast, Isabelle takes her time; and Charlie knows lots of words, some of Isabelle's words are hard to understand. Charlie tells the reader that his mother says differences are what make the world great. Charlie then talks about how he and Isabelle play together every Friday. The focus shifts to their similarities, such as "we cry when one of us forgets to share," and they both like to slide by themselves without help when they go to the park.

Charlie concludes the story by stating life is more fun with friends like Isabelle. A one-page afterward explains that Isabelle is a child with Down syndrome. What is outstanding about this book is that the story line never mentions that Isabelle has a disability. This book is similar to Where's Chimpy (Rabe & Schmidt, 1991) which received much positive attention for creating a story about Misty looking for her lost stuffed chimpanzee. The story didn't mention that Misty had Down syndrome, although one could tell from the photographs. My Friend Isabelle makes a similarly strong statement by portraying Isabelle as a child, not a child with a disability. The message in My Friend Isabelle is that everyone is different. Isabelle is a valuable child who is desirable as a friend.

A portion of the royalties of this book are donated to the National Down Syndrome Society. In addition, this book is currently a nominee for the 2004 Dolly Gray Children's Literature Award. See the following web site for further details. http://www.geocities.com/marissajohnstun/dollygrayaward.html

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Reference
So, I was hanging out with my friend, and I just decided to draw her as a character for my cartoon, and I just drew a digital version I love it X3 I love her too, cause she is really fun and awesome XD YOU ARE A COOL FRIEND ISABELLE XD THANKS. it says "isab-" crossed out and then pam cause of an inside joke where her name is Pam now XD its funny Last spring my best friend Isabelle and I booked a holiday in Venice. We rented a small apartment for a week with a _ view of the town. At the last moment another friend, Linda, asked if she could come with us. 10. WONDER. She was a _, cheerful girl and we were glad to have her join us. 11. FRIEND. Venice was a _ place and we enjoyed our trip greatly. 12. FANTASY.