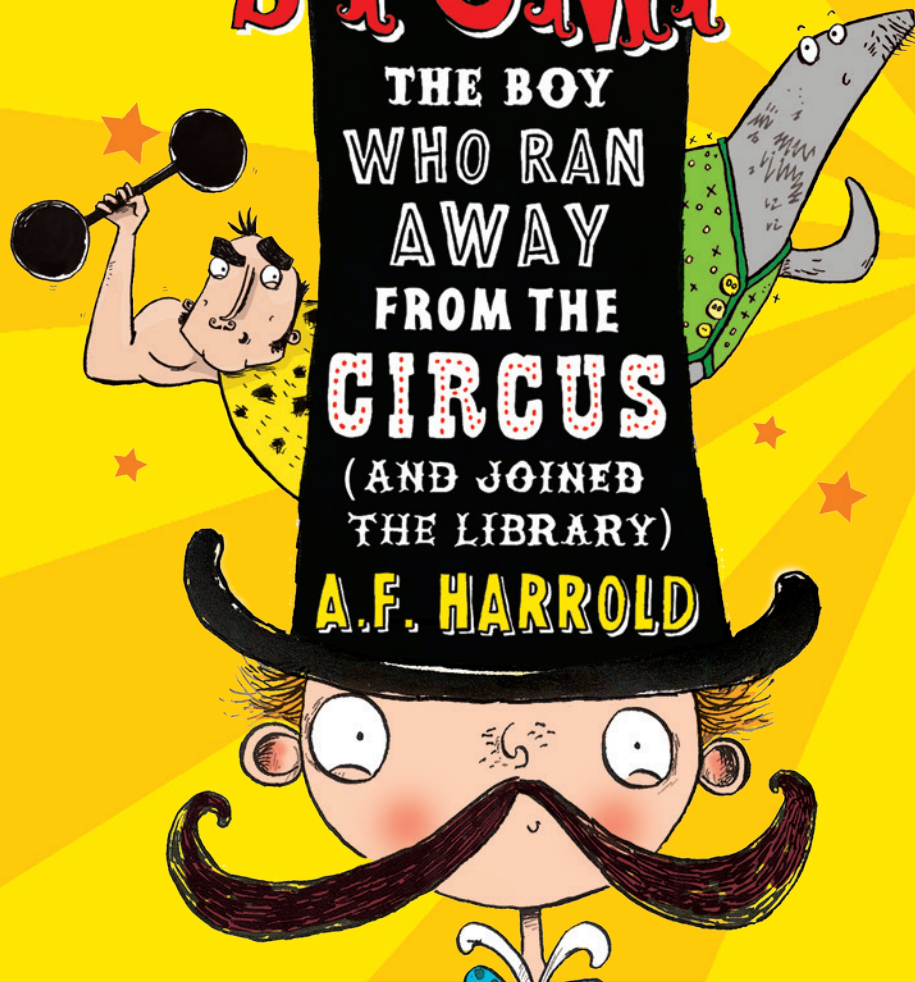
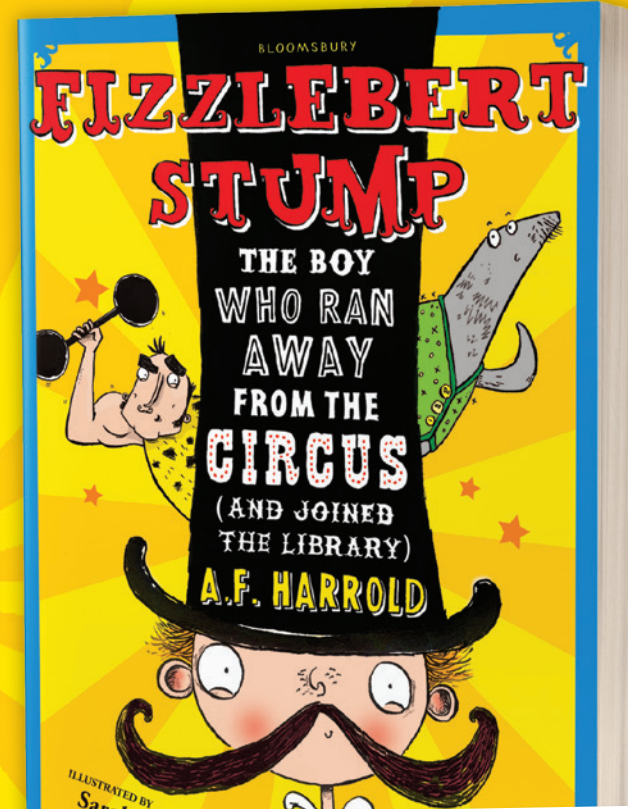


FIZZLEBERT STUMP



READING GUIDE



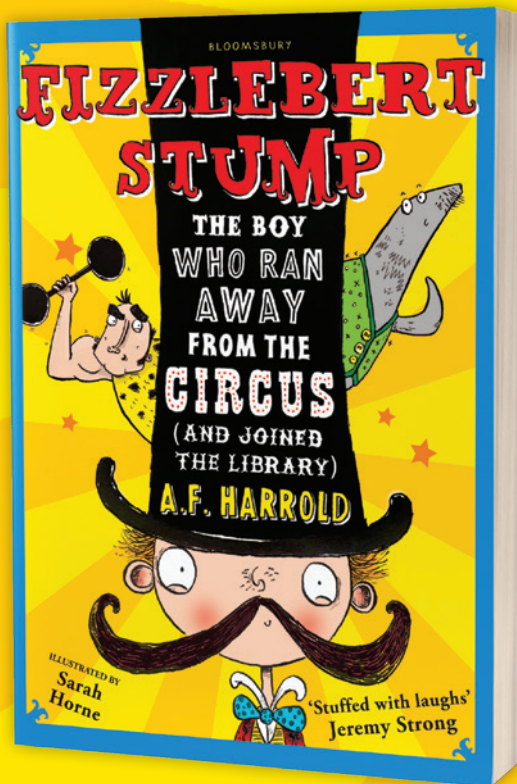
'STUFFED WITH LAUGHS'
- JEREMY STRONG

A story of a boy, a book, some very bad people, some very brave deeds, and the importance of rubber teeth for lions ...

WHAT IS YOUNG CITY READS?

Imagine sharing a book with your best friend, your teacher, your family or your bus driver. Reading a book together is a fun experience. Everyone should try it!

Author **A.F. Harrold**, Brighton Festival and Young City Reads invite you to join us in a citywide read of *Fizzlebert Stump The Boy Who Ran Away From The Circus (And Joined The Library)* from 2 March to 23 May 2017.



WHO IS IT FOR?

Young City Reads is for everyone: whether you're an avid adventurer, budding bookworm or a simply terrific teacher... even Mums and Dads can join in. It doesn't matter who you are, Young City Reads is about opening up the world of words and ideas to everyone.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

It couldn't be simpler. The idea is to get young readers (and grown-ups) everywhere reading *Fizzlebert Stump* between now and the end of May. All you need to do to get involved is pick up a copy from your local library or bookshop and start reading! If you're a teacher you can sign up your whole class to receive class emails and free *Fizz* themed resources, then read the book together in school.

THE GUIDE

This guide provides you with everything you need to know about Young City Reads. Taking you on a whistle-stop tour of *Fizzlebert Stump*, providing background information, reading hints, biographical facts and ideas for further reading.

Young City Reads is a Collected Works CIC project.

COLLECTED WORKS CIC

Collected Works is a Brighton & Hove based social enterprise, devoted to reader development through the shared act of reading fiction in the community. The organisation is led by Artistic Director Sarah Hutchings.

For more up-to-the-minute information visit cityreads.co.uk

SPECIAL OFFER:

The Book Nook in Hove are offering participating schools 20% off the selected title and **FREE DELIVERY** straight to your school. To order please contact them on **01273 911988 / info@booknookuk.com**

ABOUT THE BOOK

A story of a boy, a book, some very bad people, some very brave deeds, and the importance of rubber teeth for lions ...

Fizzlebert Stump lives in a traveling circus. But although he gets to hang around with acrobats, play the fool with clowns, and put his head in a lion's mouth every night, he's the only kid there - and he's bored. But then Fizz decides to join a library, and life suddenly gets a lot more exciting, when a simple library card application leads to him being kidnapped by a pair of crazed pensioners! Will he ever see the circus again?

**'ONE OF THE FUNNIEST
BOOKS I'VE EVER READ'
- SAM HARPER, AGED 9
(LOVEREADING4KIDS.COM)**

SPOTLIGHT ON A.F. HARROLD

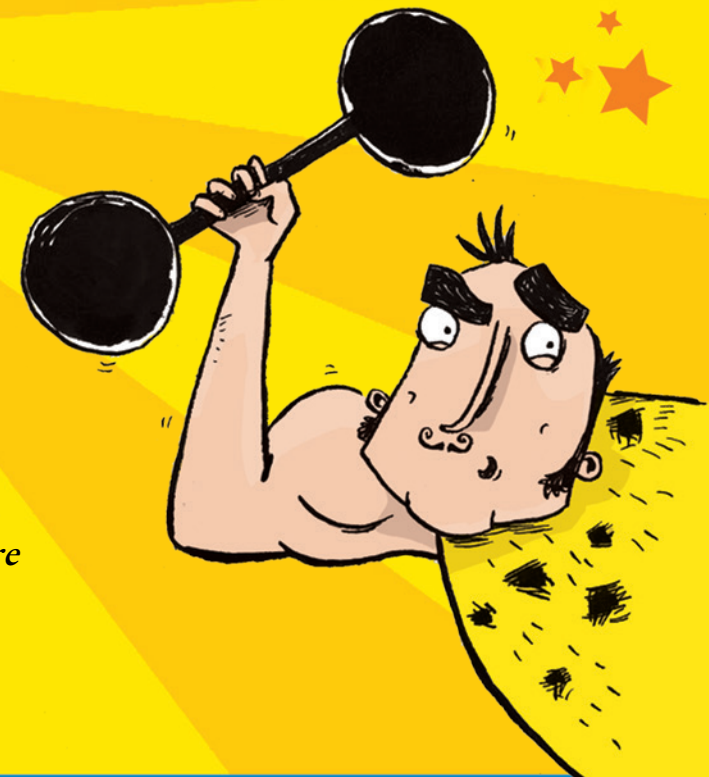
A.F. Harrold is a poet and children's novelist. He has been Poet-In-Residence at Cheltenham Literature Festival (2010) and has had his work on BBC Radio 4, Radio 3 and BBC7. He is the owner of many books, a handful of hats, a few good ideas and one beard. *Fizzlebert Stump The Boy Who Ran Away from the Circus (and Joined the Library)* is book one of five in the Fizzlebert Series. *Fizzlebert Stump and the Bearded Boy* won the Rotherham Children's Book award (2014).

'Young City Reads is a fantastic initiative and it's great to hear Fizzlebert's been picked this year. Hopefully it'll put a smile on some faces and an embarrassing snort of laughter in the back of the room every now and then when you're supposed to be getting on with more serious things.'

**- A.F. Harrold, Young City Reads
author, 2017**

SPOTLIGHT ON SARAH HORNE (ILLUSTRATOR)

Award-winning illustrator Sarah Horne studied Illustration at Falmouth College of Arts, gaining her Master's degree at Kingston University. Sarah is the illustrator of the *Fizzlebert Stump* series. She lives in Forest Hill, south London.



EVENTS

A.F. HARROLD LIVE AT BRIGHTON FESTIVAL WITH LIVE DRAWING FROM SARAH HORNE

Tues 23 May, 1.30 – 2.30pm
Brighton Dome Concert Hall
Tickets £3 (early bird offer £1.50)

FAMILY FILM SCREENINGS

Sundays in April (visit website for more
info)
11.15am
Jubilee Library, Brighton
FREE drop in
www.citylibraries.info

YOUNG CITY READS 2017 LAUNCH

Selected schools celebrate World Book Day
Jubilee Library, Brighton
Thurs 02 March

LIBRARY VISITS FOR YOUR CLASS

Participating schools can book a FREE
class visit with Brighton & Hove City
Libraries. To book please contact
Jo Rosenberg on 01273 296977 /
libraryclassvisits@brighton-hove.gov.uk

FURTHER READING

IF YOU LOVED FIZZLEBERT, YOU'LL LOVE THESE FIENDISHLY FUNNY TALES, AVAILABLE FROM BRIGHTON & HOVE LIBRARIES:

- ☐ *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Flies Again* by Frank Cottrell Boyce
- ☐ *Circus of Thieves and the Raffle of Doom* by William Sutcliffe
- ☐ *Dark Lord: The Teenage Years* by Jamie Thomson
- ☐ *Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder* by Jo Nesbo
- ☐ *Fizzlebert Stump and The Bearded Boy* by A.F. Harrold
- ☐ *Goblins* by Philip Reeve
- ☐ *Grubtown Tales: Stinking Rich and Just Plain Stinky* by Philip Ardagh
- ☐ *Hamish and the Worldstoppers* by Danny Wallace
- ☐ *My Brother is a Superhero* by David Solomons
- ☐ *My Embarrassing Dad's Gone Viral* by Ben Davis
- ☐ *Radio Boy* by Christian O'Connell
- ☐ *Scenes from the Epic Life of a Total Genius* by Stacey Matson
- ☐ *Spangles McNasty and the Fish of Gold* by Steve Webb
- ☐ *Spies in Disguise: Boy in Heels* by Kate Scott
- ☐ *The Accidental Prime Minister* by Tom McLaughlin
- ☐ *The Bolds* by Julian Clary
- ☐ *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* by Liz Pichon
- ☐ *The Person Controller* by David Baddiel
- ☐ *Timmy Failure: The Book You're Not Supposed To Have* by Stephan Pastis
- ☐ *Wilf the Mighty Worrier Saves the World* by Georgia Pritchett

You can search for more books, eBooks and eAudio titles on the Brighton & Hove
Libraries website: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/libraries

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

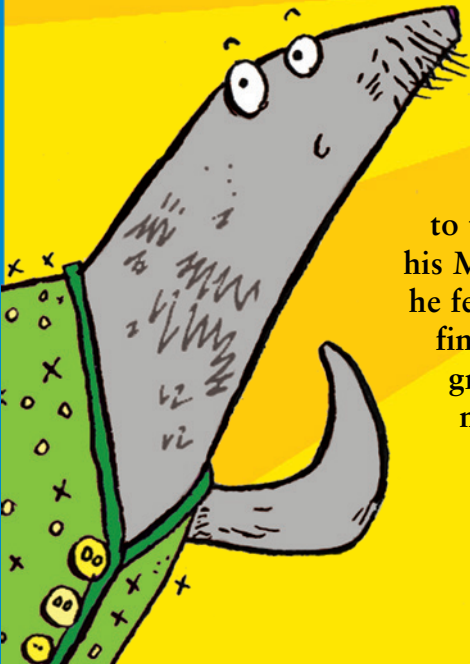
BEWARE! THERE ARE SPOILERS HERE THAT EVEN DR SURPRISE WOULDN'T HAVE FORESEEN.

CHAPTER 1 – in which the hero is introduced and in which he is described

Here we meet Fizz, his clown Mum and his strongman Dad, plus we get lots of lovely circus descriptions. The chapter closes, rather mysteriously, with Fizz sat round the back of the big top, staring glumly at a rather burpy sea lion.

CHAPTER 2 – in which a lion eats a child's head and in which an audience applaud tremendously

We discover that Fizz's circus act involves him putting his head inside a lion's mouth (but thankfully for Fizz, Charles the lion has rubber teeth). Fizz meets some other children after the show who loved his act, and the conversation goes rather swimmingly until they find out his name. After much taunting and teasing they wander off into the darkness wetting themselves with laughter. Fizz tries to talk to Fish the sea lion and then his Mum, but neither understand how he feels. At the close of the chapter Fizz finds a book belonging to that rotten group of children. What will he do next?



CHAPTER 3 – in which a mind reader is met and in which rabbits are discussed

Here we're introduced to Fizz's teachers; Madame Plume de Matant (fortune teller come French teacher), The Twitchery Sisters (acrobats who know their Geography), Captain Fox Dingle (takes Fizz for Art when he's not taming lions), and Bongo Bongoton mime artist moonlighting as an English teacher.) Then there's Dr Surprise, the mind reader who teaches Fizz history and is notoriously absent minded. Fizz asks Dr Surprise what he should do with the book as he's worried he'll be accused of stealing it. Dr Surprise explains that it's a library book and suggests he return it once he's told his parents where he's going, but Fizz, thinking he won't be very long, decides to pop straight to the library.

Yes. 'Uh oh' indeed.

CHAPTER 4 – in which a librarian is encountered and in which death robots from Mars make a brief appearance

Fizz visits a library for the very first time and meets Miss Toad, the librarian. He returns the book, then after some confusion about how a library works, he decides he'd like to join, but he needs his parents' permission, so he leaves feeling a little deflated. As he leaves the library he spots an old man and woman waving at him across the way. The old woman says she thinks they can help him.

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

CHAPTER 5 – in which two old people are met and in which a kindly favour is done

The old man and woman offer to help Fizz out of this tight spot by pretending to be his grandparents and signing the library permission form for him. Fizz gets his card and borrows his book but as he goes to leave, the old people demand that he walk them home and poor Fizz is frightened into it, believing their hideous lies about public libraries.

CHAPTER 6 – in which horrible things happen and in which a remote control is waved in the air

Fizz ends up in the house of Hilda and Arthur Stinkthrottle, and how appropriate their surname turns out to be. What meets Fizz's nose and eyes is awful, their house is 'like the set of a disaster movie'. By this time it has become quite clear to Fizz that the nice old people routine was an act, and they've taken him hostage to clean their house for them! We part ways with our hero just as he is sent off to the kitchen to make them some dinner. How will he get out of this one, friends?

CHAPTER 7 – in which another boy is met and in which baked beans are cooked

Fizz finds Kevin, a boy about his age in a grubby school uniform, doing the washing up. Another hostage! Kevin explains that he was unable to escape, and that he found a letter to the Strinkthrottle's from the council that says they need to clean up the place which must have something to do with their kidnapping. Kevin is worried he'll be put in prison if he leaves because he is a 'runaway' but Fizz isn't sure that's true and starts hatching a daring escape plan.

CHAPTER 8 – in which a search is organised and in which a search runs into difficulties

Meanwhile, back at the circus, the gang realise that Fizz is missing (eventually.) They reach the library but it's shut, and although Fish is desperately making sea lion noises and trying to alert them to something, they don't notice. It turns out that this circus aren't very skilled in the art of search and rescue. Sigh.

CHAPTER 9 – in which a bathroom is described and in which an escape plan is formulated

We left Fizz cleaning the Stinkthrottle's bathroom and that's where we return in chapter nine. He creeps to their bedroom and goes rummaging through the dressing table where he finds, amongst other things, a whole drawer full of money. As he hears a creak on the stairs he is startled and grabs an engraved pocket watch at the last second, then dashes back to the bathroom before Hilda arrives. He tries to hypnotise Arthur Stinkthrottle with the watch but it doesn't work, although it becomes clear the watch is very important to him because he calls Fizz a thief. Fizz has a new genius idea and throws the watch through a hole in the window at the back door. Arthur rushes to unlock the door and run after his watch which is when the boys seize their chance and make a run for it. Hilda cries in her sweet little old lady voice after them and some nearby builders intercept their escape attempt, dragging them back to the house.



CHAPTER SUMMARIES

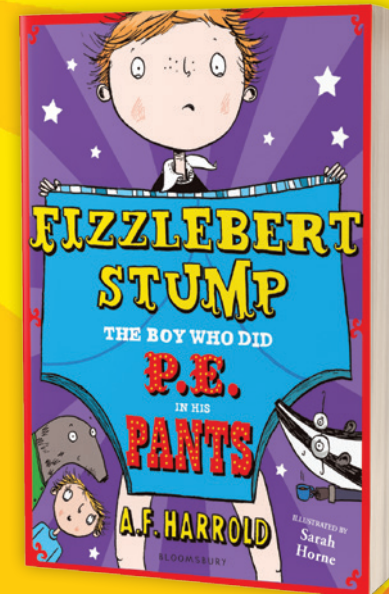
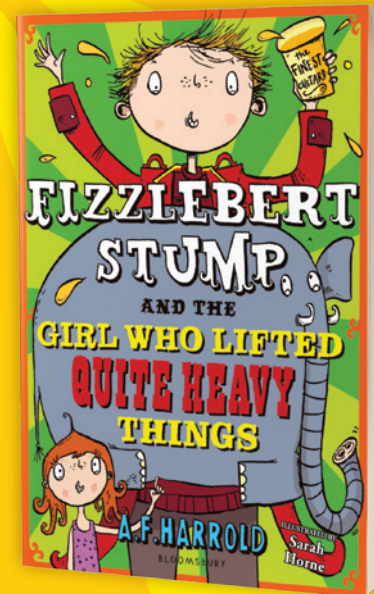
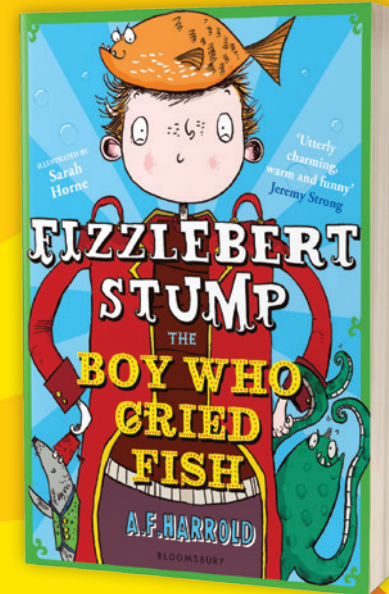
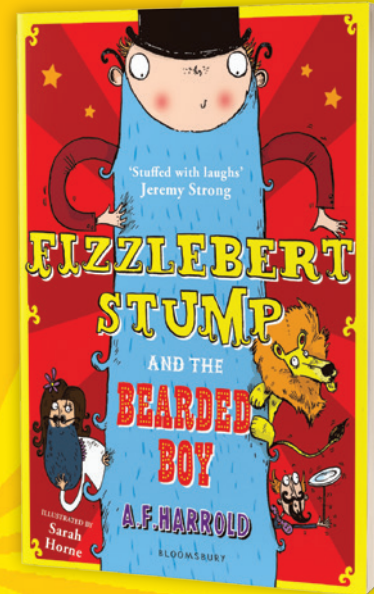
CHAPTER 10 – in which an escape is scuppered and in which some home truths come to light

Frank and Tommy the builders drag the boys back to the house, thinking they're doing their good deed for the day, returning Hilda's naughty grandsons. But before she can shut the door a thundering noise rumbles down the street and along comes Charles the lion. The next thing they know he has Hilda's head in his mouth and is gnashing her about with a gummy (but probably still quite unpleasant) bite. The circus clan arrive and we discover that fish had picked up Fizz's scent and led them to him. What a great friend!

CHAPTER 11 – in which another boy puts his head in a lion's mouth and in which loose ends are tied up

Fizz makes the Stinkthrottles pay Frank and Tommy (with that big drawer full of money) to clean up their house. Kevin is returned to his parents and him and Fizz meet up every time the circus comes back to town. He even gets to have a go at putting his head in a lion's mouth! Fizz's parents now sign him up to every library in every town they visit, so he's never short of new books to read.

THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS
THAT GOOD OLD A.F. HAS
WRITTEN SOME **SUPER**
SEQUELS! CHECK OUT THE
REST OF THE SERIES:



THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Fizz runs into a group of other children who laugh at him because his name is unusual. How do you think Fizz felt when this happened? What do you think 'normal' means? Is anyone really normal? Can you think of anyone who doesn't have something that's different about them?

HAPPY FAMILIES

Think about Fizz's conversation with his Mum after the other children laugh at his name. How do you think he feels after this conversation? If you were Fizz's friend, what advice would you give him about being teased?

CIRCUS CHUMS

The animals in Fizz's circus are happy and healthy but this isn't always the case in real life. Circuses used to use animals a lot for tricks but they weren't always treated very well at all. Nowadays you rarely see animals at the circus. What is your opinion? What are the arguments for and against using animals in a circus?

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

Do you use a library? Why are libraries important? Who are they important to and why?

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER

People aren't always what they seem, but it's easy to assume things about a person because of the way they look or sound. Would Fizz ever have guessed that the Strinkthrottles would turn out to be so... stinky? Have you ever met someone who has surprised you when they've not been the type of person you expected?

YOU CHOOSE

Do you agree with all of the decisions that Fizz made in this story? What would you have done differently?

RECOMMEND FIZZ TO A FRIEND

If you were going to encourage a friend to read this book how would you describe it to them? What does the author do best? How do the illustrations add to the story?

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