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Clarion Review ★★★☆☆ PICTURE BOOKS

Do You like Snow?

Joanie Leopold
Jim Steck, Illustrator
Slow Tag Press (Jul 1, 2019)
Softcover $12.99 (24pp)
978-0-9981425-1-7

The expressive picture book Do You Like Snow? *encourages trying new things before writing them off.*

In Joanie Leopold's picture book *Do You Like Snow?*, a little girl must change her mind so she can play with her friends.

A little girl watches from indoors as her friends play in the snow. At first, she refuses to join in on the fun: she hates the cold and wind and glare of the sun. Though preferring to wait for the spring, she zips into her bulky snowsuit; it makes her fall down. Once she realizes that she hasn't been hurt, she decides to join her friends after all.

In a reversal, the girl stays outside all day long, making snow angels, building a snowman, and participating in a snowball fight. When the day is done, her friends come in for cocoa before heading home. The girl promises that the next day will be just as fun: now, she loves snow!

The little girl doesn't share a strong reason for finally going outside, but once she's in the snow, she begins to gather reasons to love the winter. The familiar setting and relatable concerns ground her lesson well, and the snow time activities she indulges in are entertaining to follow.

Jim Steck's illustrations are big, bold, and bright. His renderings of settings and characters are consistent and charming: the children wear huge sunglasses and are expressive, and colorful patterns are employed. However, the book also makes use of a rhyming pattern with some awkwardness and inconsistencies, and a few sentences are broken into multiple, distracting lines. That the text is often printed over patterns makes it harder to read.

Do You Like Snow? is a picture book that encourages trying new things before writing them off, as well as having fun with friends.

REBECCA MONTERUSSO (May 12, 2020)

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