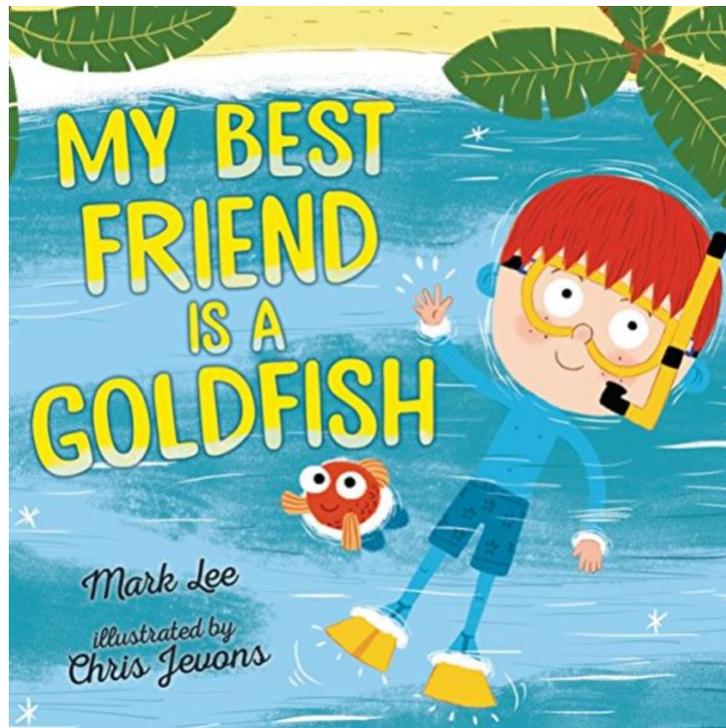


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## Review of *My Best Friend Is A Goldfish* Written by Mark Lee & Illustrated by Chris Jevons

**Adult/Educator Reviewer:** Maira Serikkyzy  
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
**Student Reviewer:** Safiya Anadil, 1<sup>st</sup> grade



Lee, M. & Jevons, C. (Illustrator). (2018). *My best friend is a goldfish*. Carolrhoda Books.

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**Adult Review: Maira Serikkyzy**

In this book, a young boy believes that best friends are the best thing in the world. He also thinks that best friends must enjoy the same things and never argue. When the boy and his best friend have a fight, he heads off to look for a new friend. In his journey, he tries to be friend with his dog Murphy, his cat Gus, the hamster Hercules, his goldfish Robert, and many more. However, none of them fits as a best friend. When he almost gives up searching for a new friend, his old best friend comes along to play with him. At that point, he realizes that friends do not always have to like the same thing or play together and sometimes even disagree, but they can still be friends.

As a mother of six year old girl who just moved to a new state, a new school, I experienced the challenges my daughter faced in a new place. At first it was really hard for her to find friends and she felt very lonely. Just like adults, sometimes it is difficult for children to get along and find a friend they like and with whom they can spend time together. It was a perfect book for my daughter to read and reflect on her own experience moving to a new place.

The story is about friendship and it teaches children to understand and appreciate that it's okay for best friends to have different interests and disagreements; sometimes they might want to play next to each other but not necessarily play together or do the same thing. The illustration of the book is very bright and colorful.

However, the text is a bit choppy and needs a parent or a teacher to help the child to connect the reading text and draw the conclusion from the story.

**Student Review: Safiya Anadil**

This book is about finding a friend, well, it is not that important, but kind of important for kids since they are always bored. This book was interesting for me to read. The boy in the book tries to find a new friend because his best friend likes doing something else. So, he tries to make friends with his dog Murphy, but he cannot become friends with his dog because the dog likes doing different things. So, he tries to make friends with other animals such as a hamster, but the hamster eats lots of food, and the boy cannot do it, he might choke from the food. He tries to be a friend with his cat and the goldfish. All the animals he tries to make friends with are good pets but are not good friends.

I think this book is good for the kids like me but if they are younger like my brother, a mom or a dad could read the book for them. Something I like in the book is that his friend comes back and plays with him again, I did not like it when the boy argues with his friend. I think that little girl said something mean because the boy looks very sad.

*Note: See next page to see Safiya's drawing based on the book she read.*



*"My Best Friends" by Safiya Anadil*