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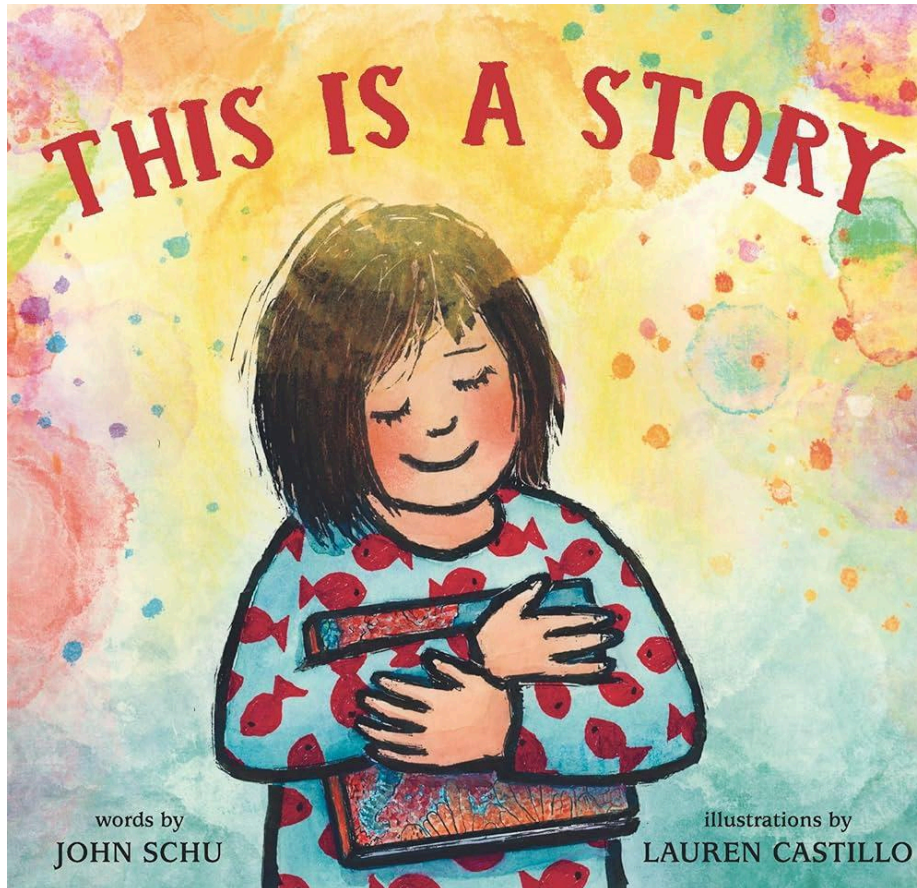
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Review of *This is a Story*

Written by John Schu

Adult/ Educator Reviewer: Ashlan Bishop, The Ohio State University

Child/ Student Reviewer: Baker Bishop, 4 Years Old



Schu, J. & Castillo, L. (2023). *This is a story*. Candlewick Press.
ISBN: 9781536204520

Adult's Review:

This is a Story follows an unnamed focal character, a little girl, over the course of a trip to the library. The story opens as the girl, with her dad and little brother, head to a busy park to fly her seahorse kite. The library glows on a nearby street, and they soon head there. Rather than follow this storyline, the text instead narrates poetically about books and reading, moving from showing one word on a page to the whole library of readers. Once at the library, a librarian gives the girl a book about seahorses, like the kite she still carries. As she reads it, other children are also spread throughout the library reading. The accompanying text highlights the power of reading to support readers' "hearts that can grow...endlessly". The image storyline concludes with the little girl checking out and reading her brother a book about cats, as he has held a cat stuffed toy with him throughout. The accompanying final text states, "This is a story. It helps us understand... everything!"

This is a Story is a celebration of reading. While the words speak abstractly of the powerful role books and literacy can have in our lives, the images display relatable examples of this. The variety of readers shown throughout the book will provide connection points for many children, and teachers of many ages will delight in the ode to reading theme the text highlights. With young students specifically, the text provides many opportunities for teaching points related to concepts of print. The books the children read within the illustrations may also be familiar to many readers, as they are largely modeled on real texts. Specific details carried through the pictures can serve as great points of conversation for teachers, adults, and students to explore how and why we read. As described in his response, my nephew, Baker, was particularly impacted by our discussion about how the girl's little brother had a toy cat with him throughout the book. We both loved the way the sister built on his interest as she read to him at the book's conclusion.

Student's Review:

The cat was fun. They had a book about cats and a stuffed toy cat. I liked that the brother had a cat.