

Madeline Finn and the Library Dog

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Madeline Finn is a young girl who as she states "Hate's to read anything!" and particularly aloud. Her reasons? She feels insecure when she reads aloud because she can't always figure out the words, but worst of all her classmates laugh at her when she makes a mistake. Adding to her insecurity is that she has been unable to get the gold star as a reward, but keeps getting the pink heart with a message that says "keep trying" One Saturday, Madeline visits the library and discovers a group of kids reading aloud to dogs! Madeline is assigned to read to a big white dog named Bonnie. Regardless of any mistakes Madeline makes while reading to Bonnie, the sweet dog does not seem to mind, does not laugh or make her feel self-conscious.

What I liked about this book was the message it sends to young readers, who might be struggling like Madeline did. The message from the book is never give up, don't be afraid to make a mistake or care what other's think. I also liked that Madeline makes another attempt to read aloud to her class, stumbles but does not give up. Her reward? Finally her treasured gold star. When Madeline returns to the library, after a long absence of Bonnie, she is surprised to discover Bonnie has a whole litter of puppies she can now practice her reading with.

This book is recommended for ages 5-10, but I think any child struggling with reading and their parents would enjoy the book and the message it sends about never giving up, persevere and overcome your fears.

I would suggest the following books to readers if they enjoyed this book:

A Child of Books by Oliver Jeffers

The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles by Michelle Cuevas

Little Bot and Sparrow by Jake Parker