



Readers' Favorite[®] Book Reviews and Award Contest

Book Review Mini-Critique

Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

Title: Dancing with Butterflies

Author: Angelina Natale

Genre: Children - Picture Book

Review: Reviewed by Emily-Jane Hills Orford for Readers' Favorite



We all have those moments when we're super excited and nervous about some big event coming up. In Angelina Natale's *Dancing with Butterflies*, Maggie is both excited and nervous about her first horse show. Her horse, Expo, senses her nerves and reacts accordingly. No longer do they look like a great team when out riding. Expo balks and Maggie feels the butterflies in her stomach fluttering around even more. She needs help. With a few relaxing tips from her coach, Maggie soon has a way to ease the tension for both her and Expo. It doesn't matter if they win; it's how they work together, like a dance team.

Angelina Natale's picture book, *Dancing with Butterflies*, is an encouraging and inspirational tribute to dealing with nerves. Told in simple language so young readers can easily follow along, the plot follows Maggie as she works with Expo, is encouraged to enter her first horse show, suddenly develops nerves with lots of butterflies in her stomach, and learns that her horse can sense and react to her nervous condition. The author uses lots of dialogue to keep the story moving forward and to help develop the characters. The illustrations are bright, bold, and colorful and add an extra layer of interest to the story. Although in color, these illustrations remind me of one of my favorite childhood horse series, C.W. Anderson's *Billy and Blaze* series. There's nothing quite as special as a bond between a girl and her horse and this is clearly shared in the story. Loved it!