Penny & Jelly: Slumber Under the Stars

Kaley Durney

Keywords
Excellent, Primary, Friendship, Dog, Party, Sleepover

Document Type
Book Review

Abstract
Penny and Jelly are so excited for the sleepover under the stars at the recreation center! The only problem is that pets are not allowed, so that means Jelly can’t go. Penny tries to make different kinds of Jelly, like a Jelly made of yarn, one of clay, and one of paper, but none of them are right. Penny is about to leave for the sleepover under the stars but finds it hard to leave Jelly. But then she comes up with a great idea. She invites her friends, both human and animal, to come have a slumber party under the stars at her house! Everyone comes over with their animal friends and they have a great time.

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol40/iss4/79

Penny & Jelly: Slumber Under the Stars. by Maria Gianferrari, illustrated by Thyra Heder. Add to Cart. Penny gets invited to a slumber party, but her dog Jelly can't come, so she tries to find a substitute to take instead. After several trials and a little creativity, Penny comes up with the perfect solution. (Available: June 14, 2016). Add to Cart. In this picture-book companion to Penny & Jelly: The School Show, Penny is invited to a slumber-under-the-stars sleepover! But there's one small detail that derails the dynamic kid-dog duo: no pets allowed. Penny and Jelly have to think quick—if the real Jelly can't go, then maybe a pretend Jelly can! A paper Jelly? Too rough. A yarn Jelly? Too soft. Jelly after Jelly just doesn’t work. But with a little creativity and a lot of heart, Penny figures out how to go to the sleepover—and bring Jelly along with her. Learn more about these best friends at www.pennyandjelly.com. Like its predecessor, Penny & Jelly: Slumber Under the Stars pairs an entertaining tale of the love between girl and dog with adorable artwork by Thyra Heder. Unfortunately, although I do think the story is engaging, I found myself getting annoyed at the underlying premise, that there is something wrong with asking children to leave their pets at home for one day or night, in order to participate in a community event. In this book, Penny is super excited about the “Sleepover Under the Stars”, and gets to work making a list of everything she’ll need to bring with her (Penny’s lists make me smile, and I love this unique feature that the Penny & Jelly books have in common). Penny has so much to do when she receives an invitation to a slumber party at the recreation center. She begins to make a list of the items to bring with her—a sleeping bag, pajamas, a pillow, and her dog, Jelly. All is well until she finds out that pets are not allowed. Luckily, Penny is a resourceful little girl. If she can’t take the real Jelly with her, then perhaps she can make a pretend one. Unfortunately, it’s not as easy as she thinks, and it takes more than one try. She’s accompanied by her faithful sidekick, Jelly the dog. In this book, the local Rec Center is hosting a sleepover under the stars and Penny and her friends are ecstatic! Unfortunately there are NO PETS ALLOWED on this sleepover Penny makes several attempts to construct a replacement Jelly to take with her.