



I am so pleased to share with you another review of the book, *Red Socks Go With Absolutely Anything*, from the 24th Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards.

Entry Title Red Socks Go With Absolutely Anything

Author: Darla Woodley

Judge, 24th Annual Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards.

Entry Category: Inspirational

Note: Books are evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning "needs improvement" and 5 meaning "outstanding".

Structure, Organization, and Pacing: 5

Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar: 5

Production Quality and Cover Design: 5

Plot and Story Appeal: 5

Character Appeal and Development: 5

Voice and Writing Style: 5

Judge's Commentary:

Author does a wonderful job of introducing us to the red socks ritual, presenting a clear and emotion-tugging example at the start so that we understand the socks to possess power beyond what can often be dismissed as 'magical thinking.' Author chooses excellent situations in which encouragement is needed, providing the perfect number of situations as well in her terrific instinct for pacing. I loved that all of the success and overcoming of challenges were results of the child's bravery and actions, spurred on by the red socks emotional support, a great lesson that a belief system underlies the essential act of Doing Something to overcome a fear, achieve a goal, and grow. Very well done. Illustrations are terrific, with a lot of thought going into the tiniest of details in each drawing, such as the algebra book on the table and the individualized faces of all of the graduation audience members. A lot of work went into the drawings, which is very much appreciated by the reader and a fine elevation of the story. I loved, loved, loved the repetition of "I feel strong. I am ready. I can do anything" that provides such a terrific lesson on positive and empowering self-talk for readers, with the natural repetition reinforcing the words of strength. Dialogue is natural and reassuring, a positive family dynamic, and what a powerful ending, filled with hope. Well done.