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Review: I Can Be Anything

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Spinelli, Jerry, *I Can Be Anything*. Illustrated by Jimmy Liao. Little, Brown and Company, 2010.
ISBN: 9780316162265
Description:
With rhyming text and endearing illustrations, Spinelli and Liao offer the world of vocational possibilities to the pre-school audience. A young dreamer plans his future with his pet rabbit as he acts out each job that he thinks will be best for him. From the giant "pumpkin grower" and "dandelion blower" right on to the "best-part saver" and "good-bye waver," the little hero imagines with great enthusiasm what he will be when he becomes an adult. The audience is left with the full persuasion that whatever he chooses, it will be fun. The final fold-out page is a fitting conclusion to the vocational romp indulged in throughout the tale.
Critique:
Readers cannot imagine Spinelli and Liao *not* indulging in peals of laughter as they worked in tandem on this wacky book. Liao's charming little boy is having too much fun trying to decide what he will be, while Spinelli creates rollicking dialogue with phrases like "cheek-to cheek grinner" and "dizzy-dance spinner" or "deep-hole digger" paired with "lemonade swigger." Prediction, rhyming, and dreaming of the future flow naturally off the page. This title will likely be one that the preschool child will "read" long before words really identify themselves to him.
Related Subjects: Easy Reading, Pre-reading, Vocations
Character Themes: Ambition, Creativity, Enthusiasm, Imagination, Individuality, **Inspiration**, Joyfulness,