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Review: Sylvia Jean: Scout Supreme

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Ernst, Lisa Campbell (author and illustrator), *Sylvia Jean: Scout Supreme*. Dutton Children's Books, 2010. ISBN: 9780525478737.

Description:

When Sylvia Jean learns that the next badge her Pig Scout Troop will be working on is the Good Deed Badge, she has the perfect plan. Her neighbor Mrs. VanHoooven is laid up with a twisted ankle and Sylvia Jean knows just the way to cheer her up. When her over-enthusiasm turns things upside down, the doctor bans the little pig from her neighbor's house. Not to be denied, Sylvia Jean cleverly creates a whole new strategy to accomplish her goal. To execute the plan, however, the little pig must fool her neighbor and Sylvia wonders if by using trickery, she has forfeited the right to claim the coveted badge.

Critique:

The author has infused this picture book with energy and humor. Sylvia Jean is a delightful character, full of spunk and good intentions. When one plan fails, she cleverly substitutes another. This book would be an excellent read aloud providing much to initiate discussion as well as being a fun story. The expressive illustrations are done in warm pastels with cameos on each page expanding the story line. Young children will relate to having big ideas but not always having the experience and wisdom to know how to execute them well. Those who are scouts should appreciate the scouting references.

Related Subjects: Animals, Neighbors, Pigs, Scouting,

Character Themes: Ambition, Audacity, **Caring**, Cleverness, Creativity, Determination, Humor, Initiative, Neighborliness, Spunk