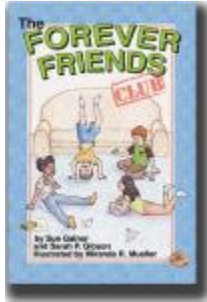


The Forever Friends Club -- a book review



Cover of "The Forever Friends Club" by Sue Gainor, Sarah P. Gibson and illustrated by Miranda R. Mueller is available for pre-order online at <http://www.drtpress.com>. The 48-page hardcover book will be available in March.

What a wonderful way to help adopted children like mine -- and anyone who loves them -- understand how their Forever Family came to be.

"The Forever Friends Club" is a sweet story about fitting in, feeling left out and how kids can work together to overcome both.

In the story, Sam meets three new neighbors: Madison, Nikolai and Isabel, and the four become good friends. When Sam discovers the others are all adopted (Madison from the United States, Nick from Russia and Isabel from Guatemala), and they eventually set out to form a club. Because he was not adopted, Sam decides he doesn't fit into the Forever Friends club. That is, until his friends "adopt" him and make him his own life book, and the trio take part in a game of pretend that includes completing adoption paperwork, paying for the process, "visiting" with Sam and going to see the judge.

"The Forever Friends Club" (by Sue Gainor and Sarah Gibson and illustrated by Miranda R. Mueller) uses simple concepts to step readers through the basics that are true of just about every adoption -- whether international or domestic. It's a great way to teach your children the process we all go through to make our Forever Families through adoptions, and could easily serve as the entry to begin talking about the specifics about each family's individual story together.

The illustrations are fun, with wonderful details peppered throughout the pages: a piggy bank here, a pile of toys there. And children can find themselves in the faces of the four kids who form the club.

Aimed at independent readers who are reading simple chapter books (7- to 10-years-old), "The Forever Friends Club" is a breezy enough of a story to read to much younger children.

I am the mother of twins adopted from Russia, a bio surprise and soon will add four step children to our family. "The Forever Friends Club" is a story in which they all can relate. I can't wait to read it to them and see where it takes us!

By Lisa Huber, founder of Ark Angels