

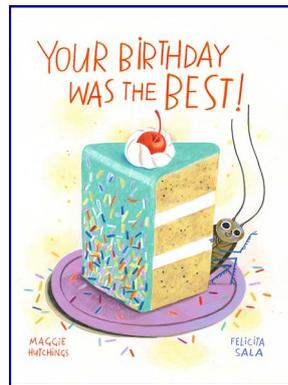
Your Birthday Was The Best

By Maggie Hutchings & Illustrated by Felicita Sala

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From the author of the best-selling MERMAID! and UNICORN! and one of the world's hottest new picture-book illustrators comes the story of a plucky young cockroach who gate-crashes a birthday party - with hilarious results. Funny, silly and surprisingly cute, YOUR BIRTHDAY WAS THE BEST! is the perfect blend of downright gross and delightfully entertaining.



Themes:

- Birthdays
- Celebrating
- Perspective
- Resilience
- Optimism

Discussion Questions:

- What clues are there on the front cover of who or what this story might be about?
- Can you tell early in the story who the narrator of the story is? If so, how?
- How did the birthday boy react when he saw the cockroach on his cake? How did the cockroach view his reaction? Why do you think that they had different perspectives on this?
- How would you describe the reactions of the cockroach to all the supposedly bad things that happened to him? How did he view them?
- Do you think that he was resilient and optimistic in his view of the things that were happening to him? Are these important characteristics to have?
- How do you think you can be more resilient and more optimistic in your everyday life?
- How can our perception influence our reactions?
- Think of a situation that you have been in where you have perceived something in a negative way. Do you think that that by thinking about the situation differently your attitude might have changed? Discuss this as a class.

Activities:

- Can you recall what games the children all played at the party? Make a list of them and then add to the list other games that you like to play at parties.
- Have a 'party game' session in your classroom. Include the games played at the party in the book, and those that the children thought of themselves.
- Draw a picture of your ultimate birthday cake.
- Uncle Larry, Auntie Sharon and Grandma cockroach have all been illustrated with certain characteristics. Design and paint your own unique cockroach, highlighting the special features that you have given it.