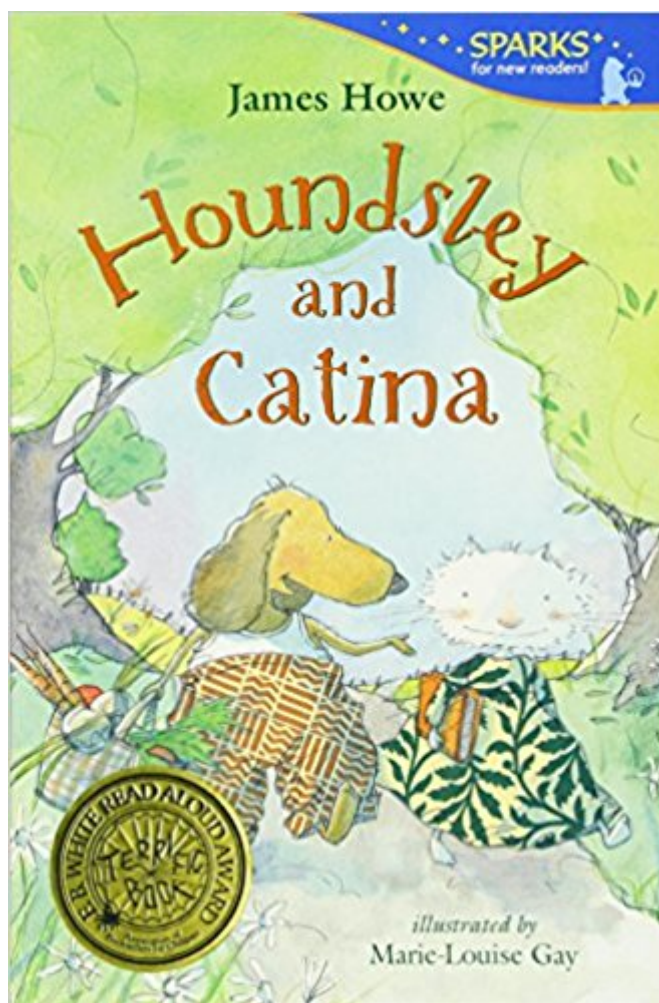


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# Houndsley And Catina: Candlewick Sparks



## Synopsis

The subtle dance of friendship - from holding your tongue to knowing what to say - is played out in three sweetly humorous tales about an unlikely, likable pair. Catina wants to be a famous writer. Houndsley is an excellent cook. Catina thinks Houndsley is a wonder. Houndsley thinks Catina is a very good friend. So what should Houndsley say about Catina's seventy-four-chapter memoir? And can Catina find the right words of comfort for Houndsley after the big cooking contest fiasco? James Howe's funny and endearing world of ginger tea, no-bean chili, and firefly watching is brought to life in cozy watercolors by Marie-Louise Gay in this tender chapter book about what it means to be friends.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580L (What's this?)

Series: Candlewick Sparks

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Reprint edition (April 9, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763666386

ISBN-13: 978-0763666385

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #35,972 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Lions, Tigers & Leopards](#) #102 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Intermediate Readers](#) #177 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 2  
Catina the cat wants to be famous writer and has written "Life Through the Eyes of a Cat." When her friend Houndsley the dog reads it and realizes she is a terrible writer, he doesn't want to hurt her feelings and says, "I am at a loss for words." Catina beams at the imagined compliment. the pooch, who is a very good cook, is persuaded by Catina and Bert to enter a cooking contest, but everything goes wrong  
he even forgets the three

beans for his three-bean chili. The judges laugh at him, and he thinks about giving up cooking. Later, the two friends sit outside and reflect on their experiences. Houndsley enjoys cooking but doesn't need to be the best, while Catina wants to be famous but does not enjoy writing. Houndsley encourages her to find something she enjoys doing and reminds her that she is very good at being his friend. James Howe's gentle story (Candlewick, 2006) of friendship won the E. B. White Read Aloud Award. Peter Pamela Rose perfectly captures Houndsley's "soft-as-a-rose-petal voice" and creates distinctive voices for Catina and Bert. The excellent narration is enhanced by the musical score and sound track which give depth to the events of the story. A fine addition to beginning chapter-book collections.

— Mary Jean Smith, Southside Elementary School, Lebanon, TN

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Gr. 2-4, younger for reading aloud. Catina (a cat) and Houndsley (you guessed it, a dog) are best friends, and they encourage each other as best friends do. Houndsley is mortified when he reads his friend's novel-in-progress, and realizes that Catina has little writing talent. "I'm at a loss for words," he finally musters, satisfying Catina, who seems focused on literary prizes and fame instead of the actual writing. Then Catina encourages Houndsley to enter a cooking competition, and he's so nervous that he fouls the recipe and endures the judges' mockery. Together the friends confess that, rather than simply enjoying their activities, they secretly wanted to become famous. This early chapter book, while emphasizing doing what you love, not what will bring acknowledgment, is heavy-handed. But it will still hit home with kids just learning about their own particular talents and passions, and the lively, brisk writing is wonderfully extended in Gay's airy watercolor-and-pencil illustrations, which keep the focus on the caring friends. Gillian Engberg

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Great book for a 1st-2nd grader!

I loved the story, however my nephew didn't :( I am trying find a series that he will fall in love with and in turn love reading

Kids loved the book. Good quality

We own all the books from this series and love them all! Our two year old will ask for them

constantly and later I think they will be great for learning to read chapter books.

Was one of many good readers ordered from . Was really sweet with cute pictures. Would recommend for learning readers.

A favorite series all around at our house. I love the lessons it teaches, my daughter loves the story and pictures...and the fact that she is reading a chapter book.

After I read this book with my three-year-old, I returned the next day to the bookstore to get the rest of the series, the artwork is beautiful and the stories are truly charming. In this first book, Catina writes her memoirs because she wishes to be famous but she is not a very good writer. Houndsley is tactful and supportive. In the second chapter, Houndsley is encouraged by his friends to enter a cooking competition but he gets so nervous he even forgets the beans in his three bean (vegetarian) chili. In the third chapter, the friends resolve their experiences in the first two chapters and watch fireflies together. My mother in law said she wished Catina didn't admit to disliking writing but I thought it was good that she could be honest with her friend. The other books are equally fantastic. I think they are wonderful read-aloud books but would be a good for beginning readers as the print is large and the chapters are short. One of my favorite aspects of these books is that the characterizations are sophisticated even in a few words. We get a feel for each character and who they are and I like seeing that in this level of book instead of the ubiquitous early reader books that just rehash tv shows or movies (not that those don't have their place but original work is deserving of our attention and praise). Love, love, love.

For a beginner this is the perfect beginner chapter book. It is written in 3 parts that are easy for the reader to follow. Chapter 1 is all about Catina and her passion. She wants to be a famous writer. She writes all day long and finally shares her work with Houndsley. Chapter 2 is about Houndsley. He loves to cook. Catina, wanting to see him famous encourages him to enter a cooking contest. The contest does not turn out to be what he was expecting. Chapter 3 is about the power of friendship. After getting to know both characters and their passions, the book ends off with that is really important in life. I love this book because it is not only easy to read, but the lesson is very clear and amazing. There is nothing more important than the power of friends and friendship.

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