

# LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

## Author

Marko, Cyndi

## Illustrator

Illustrated by the author

## Reviewer

Baker, Laura

## Pages

Unpaged

## Price

\$18.99

## ISBN

978-1-6659-0755-2

## Publisher & Date

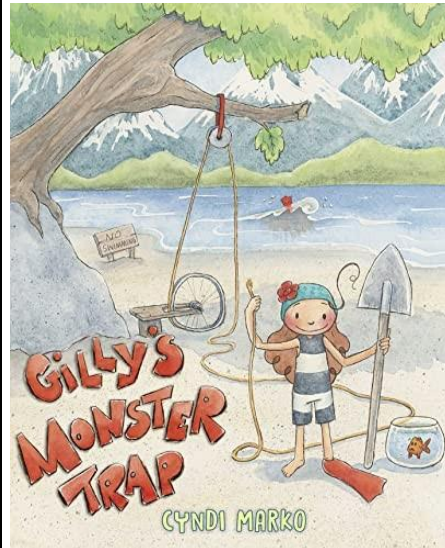
Paula Wiseman/Simon & Schuster, 2023

## Classification

Fiction

## Grade Level

K-1



## Book Review: GILLY'S MONSTER TRAP

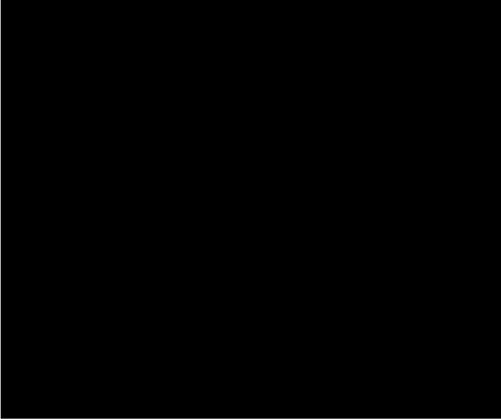
Gilly loves the water and is always at the beach. Even when she is not in the water, she still wears swim fins on her feet in place of shoes, flapping through town and carrying her pet goldfish, Finnegan, with her in his bowl wherever she goes. One day, the townspeople start complaining that something snatched the fish in the fish market, the net from their fishing boat, and even a woolly sweater left near the beach. Rumors fueled by overactive imaginations abound about what the mysterious "sea monster" might be like. When the unknown creature snatches Gilly's flippers from off her feet when she idly dangles her legs off the pier, she decides to build a trap to catch the "monster." The creature is ensnared, but not in Gilly's trap. It is caught in a net just offshore. Feeling sorry for whatever is caught, Gilly enlists the help of the town to free the creature, only to find it is a friendly walrus looking for company. Gilly and Finnegan eagerly volunteer for that role.

This is a sweet tale with fast action and just enough mystery to keep readers guessing. Though improbable in plot, young readers will relate to Gilly's attempt to build a "trap" and to get to the bottom of her disappearing flippers. Each page has small vignettes of scenes carefully drawn to tell the



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story succinctly. Finnegan the goldfish adds the right bit of visual interest with his expressions that often mimic Gilly's. When the mysterious sea monster turns out to be a friendly walrus, the mystery is solved to satisfaction.

This book makes a great read-aloud selection with a warm ending to please everyone.



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