



Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time

James Howe , Marie-Louise Gay (Illustrator)

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The creators of the E. B. White Read Aloud winner HOUNDSLEY AND CATINA offer a charming sequel about taking time out from the hustle and bustle.

The first snow of winter has fallen, and Houndsley is very happy, as he loves the quiet time. Catina does not like the quiet time, however, and she does not enjoy being snowed in. What about all her plans for the day? What if their evening concert has to be canceled? With a bit of pretending, a few books and board games, a flourish of creativity, and some time to dream, Houndsley helps Catina let go of her worries and enjoy the snowy day, wherever it might take them.

Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time Details

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Author : James Howe , Marie-Louise Gay (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review *Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time* for online ebook

Christine says

It's really snowing outside and Catina is fretting. Houndsley teaches her how to enjoy the "quiet time" and finds fun things for them to do indoors. Great story to read when there is a blizzard raging outside.

Josiah says

One of the interesting things about the *Houndsley and Catina* series is the "About the Author" section on the rear inside flap of the book jacket, which always includes a word from both the author and illustrator about what each particular book means to them. I like what James Howe has to say about the writing of *Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time*, that it is a reminder to himself, as well as to the many kids whose schedules are so overstuffed with activities that they're never able to stop moving, of the importance of allowing oneself some quiet time on a regular basis so as to give one's inner voice a chance to speak. Without time for deeper thought and consideration, the events of one's life have a way of whooshing by and beginning to melt all together as if they have no meaning apart from each other, and then there's no way to take a closer look at the things we have done and learn from them. Houndsley definitely understands this concept of the importance of introspection, and I really think that a greater number of kids do, too, than most adults might think.

As a slow but steady snowstorm falls outside, and Houndsley and Catina watch the tiny flakes pile up to become a very deep drift around Houndsley's house, Catina begins to worry about the concert that is planned for that night. She, Houndsley and all of their friends had been practicing so hard for it; what if it has to be canceled? There's no doubt that Houndsley and Catina are going to be snowed in together at Houndsley's house for quite a while, but what if the storm doesn't stop in time for the concert? Ever a ballast to Catina's fretfulness, Houndsley reminds her that whatever will happen with the concert is out of their hands, but the choice is theirs to enjoy the quiet day indoors for what it is while they have it. Though it may not be in Catina's nature to relax and go with the flow as easily as Houndsley, she eventually allows herself to be caught up in the quiet happiness of spending time alone with her friend, reading poetry together, eating lunch, and sitting by the warm, crackling fire. There's a positive energy to being up and around and doing things, making real, measurable progress in one's life, and this effect need not be downplayed, but it can be very nice, as well, just to let go of a day and not force it to become something great, as long as your companion for the day means as much to you as Houndsley and Catina do to each other. Speaking as a person who's never comfortable with not making clear personal progress for very long, I cannot think of a finer day than that.

Even after their quiet day has ended, the tranquil joy of time spent with a close friend lingers with Houndsley and Catina as they join the rest of their friends in an attempt to put on the concert for which they had all been practicing. A sublime day of rejuvenation and friendship spent indoors is capped off by an outdoors show that carries the unassuming nature of the snowy day through the air on the back of the sweet musical notes, combining the effort required to learn how to play it with the relaxation that allows one to perform at one's best. It is a day, and night, to be fondly remembered.

James Howe really knows how to tell all kinds of stories very well. In the *Houndsley and Catina* books,

especially *Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time*, he manages to hold the interest of the very youngest of readers without using silly comedy or loud themes. He just lets Houndsley and Catina be themselves, trusting that it will be enough for the kids who read the books. And it really is. We learn a lot about the nature of friendship just by watching Houndsley and Catina interact, and I hope that there are many more books in the series to come, so that we have many more opportunities to learn from them. I would certainly consider giving two and a half stars to *Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time*.

Calista says

I thoroughly enjoyed this quiet little story. It's about a snow day and two friends being together enjoying doing quiet things. At first Catina was upset that the snow would keep them from doing so much stuff and then Houndsley showed her the enjoyable things they could do together.

I love that quiet with a big snow. It is one of life's joys. We are supposed to get snow this weekend, but being in the big industrial city, that quiet doesn't happen as much as my days in Michigan.

This is an excellent middle grade reader, probably grade 2-3. It is a wonderful little story.

Shannonmde says

there are some great lines in this book about a music concert in the snow...

Houndsley began to worry that Bert would ruin everything. Bert's only part was to play the final note of the final piece of music. *how awful*, Houndsley thought, *to end the evening with a crash*.

But when the last note came, it was not a crash or a clash or a boom or a bang. It was the closest that cymbals can come to silence. It sounded like a chime in the wind. It lingered and floated and fell into the quiet time.

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Ramona says

What a nice "quiet" book for bedtime. Houndsley and Catina are practicing for the concert but it looks like they might get snowed in. Catina starts to worry about all the things she can't do when they are stuck in the house, like go home to curl her whiskers and put on a dress for the concert, but Houndsley reminds her to focus on the fun things they can do when it is snowing and quite. Like bake cookies and write poems and read them to each other which my daughter said she wanted to do today! A new favorite!

Terry says

What a refreshing story! It is perfect for a snowy day ... or remembering a snowy day. In his quiet way, Houndsley draws Catina into the fun of enjoying the unexpected and invites us along, as well. The watercolor illustrations draw out the coolness of the season, yet make you feel warm inside, too. I was surprised, though that the readability level came out at the fourth grade.

To read our full review, go to The Reading Tub®.

Julie Esanu says

The Houndsley and Catina series is a wonderful collection of books that focus on friendship and the quotidian activities of children. This lovely book made me want to curl up with cocoa and cookies and enjoy a quiet winter afternoon. It is a great book to use with kindergarten and first grade because students are able to make many text-to-self connection.

Sandie says

This is my first Houndsley and Catina book....I have to say that my daughter and I and maybe most especially me just love these characters! I think the pictures are darling but the story is wonderful. Houndsley and Catina compliment each other so well and make such a wonderful story together. Everyone should have a best friend like this. I look forward to reading more books by this author!

Dolly says

We just love love love the Houndsley and Catina series by James Howe and Marie-Louise Gay. The collaboration has resulted in four (and hopefully more to come!) stories that are simple, contemplative and heartwarming. They are truly a joy to read aloud. This story centers around a winter storm, and while Catina is frantic about all of the things she is missing, Houndsley reminds her of the simple joy of enjoying the quiet and simply surrendering to the beauty of the storm. This is a perfect book to read on a cold and snowy winter day.

"There's nothing to do but enjoy it. Isn't it beautiful?"

Heather says

45 months - we've read a few of these short chapter books and enjoyed them. Being fairly quiet people this one was particularly fitting. We also enjoy Marie-Louise Gay's illustrations... A Canadian author/illustrator we have read many of her Stella books.

Sheila says

My daughter received this book as a gift, so we had to read it together. A sweet story, and perfect for a cold winter night. The gentle text reminds you how to slow down on a snowy day and enjoy the quiet, the peace, staying home, enjoying the solitude, and even baking cookies.

JaNeal says

Though I love the original Houndsley and Catina most of all (one of my favorite early readers--a format I read extensively), this one is delightful! The mood is palpable and the character are charming. The author also weaves details masterfully through such a simple form. And then there are the illustrations--a perfect companion to the text. Love it! I'll be reading this one over and over.

Mary says

I adore books like this: Beautiful, calming narratives enriched by like illustrations. A (5y) got this in her stocking and read it to herself first, but then asked me to read it aloud with her later that day. N (7y) listened in, and they both engaged with the story by asking questions and suggesting related scenarios. It has a lovely ending that might send you into the kitchen to heat up some cocoa if not bake some cookies.

Jill says

This was my first experience with a Houndsley and Catina book and I fell in love! Such a sweet story that is simple yet rich in illustrating the truly meaningful things in life. As someone who loves and performs music, I also particularly appreciate the sub-story about how music brings people together and can express and magnify the beauty around us. I was captivated by the way the author and illustrator quietly celebrate the peacefulness of slowing down. I love the subtlety of the artwork - very interesting colors and textures in among the more muted drawings, and not at all kid-ified, for lack of a better word. (not that I don't love the bright bold colors of more traditional kids' illustrations but I do think that we often underestimate kids' ability and desire for complexity in art and music). Can you tell I loved it?

babyhippoface says

As friends Houndsley and Catina look forward to their upcoming concert, a snowstorm threatens to cancel the event. Catina is frustrated, but Houndsley is enthralled by the quiet beauty of the falling snow. By pretending they are stranded on an island, they find many happy ways to pass the time, and still manage to make their concert. Marie-Louise Gay's muted watercolors are a charming partner to the vivid imagery and lyrical language that make this early chapter book an absolute gem.
