



# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

**Title:** Moonlight and Wishes  
**Author:** Randi Woodward Larsen  
**Genre:** Children - Picture Book



**Appearance:** The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

**5**

**Plot:** The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books -- those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

**5**

<b>Development:</b>	Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books -- those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.
<b>5</b>	
<b>Formatting:</b>	Formatting is the single most overlooked area by authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.
<b>5</b>	
<b>Marketability:</b>	Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.
<b>5</b>	
<b>Overall Opinion:</b>	The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.
<b>5</b>	

**Review:**

Reviewed by Jennifer Senick for Readers' Favorite

"Starlight, star bright..." — what if one quiet wish really could change everything? *Moonlight and Wishes* by Randi Woodward Larsen is about a lonely boy named Joey, who only wants one thing: a friend. Since moving from the city to a quiet ranch, Joey spends his nights gazing at the stars and makes that heartfelt wish, asking for a friend. Suddenly, a beautiful, glowing horse named Starlight appears and takes him on an unforgettable journey through space, revealing that all wishes can come true - you just have to believe. Hoping Starlight is right, he waits and waits, until one day there's a scratch at the door. Joey opens it, and on the other side is the answer to his wish: a scruffy, lovable puppy he names Spark. The captivating illustrations truly capture the magic of this story. Its message is encapsulated in this phrase: "Dreams really do come true, if you just believe."

*Moonlight and Wishes* caught my eye with its cover, but it was the story that truly enchanted me. Randi Woodward Larsen's words are engaging, and as a reader (and educator), I couldn't help feeling empathy for Joey at first. He seemed quite lonely, and I was rooting for him to find a friend finally. I was so happy for him by the end of the story because everyone deserves to have a special friend in their life. As an educator, I think this story could spark great conversations on dreaming or wishing, what makes a good friend, and asking children if they could pick an animal to be their friend, which animal would they choose? I also appreciated the magical nature of the story, which will undoubtedly hold the attention of children at home or in school. Plus, Patrick Brooks' pictures add charm to each page. Joey's journey is a sweet reminder that, sometimes, believing really is the first step.