

2023

Review of *Gibberish* by Young Vo

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Recommended Citation

Chandler, Alexis, "Review of *Gibberish* by Young Vo" (2023). *Library Intern Book Reviews*. 403.
https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/intern_book_reviews/403

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Gibberish

Vo, Young

New Jersey: Levine Querido, 2022

9781646141104

Dat has sailed on a boat and flown on a plane but finds going to school more daunting. Dat and his Mah have moved countries, and Dat doesn't know the language—everything he hears sounds like gibberish. Dat struggles to understand and connect with his new world until a friendly little girl comes to his aid, teaching him that there are other ways to communicate and how to make sense of the gibberish. Suddenly, Dat feels more at home in his new environment. With beautiful contrasting illustrations, readers can visually follow Dat's journey. The book begins with Dat and his Mah in color and the rest of the world in black and white. While Dat and Mah look normal, everyone else looks strange, like they are out of a Mickey Mouse cartoon. As Dat comes to understand more about his new world, the illustrations shift to match Dat and his mother, creating a vibrant, colorful picture. Themes of empathy, verbal and nonverbal communication, and friendship combine well to create a unified and engaging story. Additionally, it has a good message for kids, encouraging them to seek out those different from them and just be a good friend. It would fit well in any public or school library. **Alexis Chandler, Centennial Library Intern.**

Recommended