



Maddi's Fridge

By Lois Brandt

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Maddi's Fridge By Lois Brandt

Winner of:

2014 Christopher Award, Books for Young People
2014 ILA Primary Fiction Award
2015 MLA Mitten Award Honor

With humor and warmth, this children's picture book raises awareness about poverty and hunger

Best friends Sofia and Maddi live in the same neighborhood, go to the same school, and play in the same park, but while Sofia's fridge at home is full of nutritious food, the fridge at Maddi's house is empty. Sofia learns that Maddi's family doesn't have enough money to fill their fridge and promises Maddi she'll keep this discovery a secret. But because Sofia wants to help her friend, she's faced with a difficult decision: to keep her promise or tell her parents about Maddi's empty fridge. Filled with colorful artwork, this storybook addresses issues of poverty with honesty and sensitivity while instilling important lessons in friendship, empathy, trust, and helping others. A call to action section, with six effective ways for children to help fight hunger and information on antihunger groups, is also included.

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Maddi's Fridge By Lois Brandt Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 1–3—In her debut picture book, Brandt addresses an important issue: childhood hunger. Sofia's best friend does not have food at home. After taking on the climbing wall at the park, the girls go to Maddi's apartment. A hungry Sofia looks for a snack and is surprised to find a lone carton of milk in the refrigerator. Maddi admits that her mom does not have enough money to go to the grocery store and makes Sofia promise to keep it secret. At home, Sofia's mother serves a delicious supper of fish and rice. The refrigerator is filled with good things to eat, including her brother's favorite treat, Cheesy Pizza Bombs. Worried about her friend, Sofia smuggles food to school, but fish and eggs are "not good for backpacks." Each afternoon, Sofia tries to follow the nimble Maddi to the top of the climbing wall, but it's too high for her. Maddi encourages her, lending her a hand, and Sofia finally climbs the wall. Wanting to do something for Maddi, Sofia tells her mother about the empty fridge. Together, they go to the store to buy groceries. To Sofia's relief, Maddi is not angry about the broken promise, and the two families share a supper of Cheesy Pizza Bombs. Vogel's digital illustrations portraying the smiling, wide-eyed girls in their city neighborhood are filled with warmth and a sense of community. An endnote provides suggestions for helping friends who have empty refrigerators and directs young readers to a companion website, MaddisFridge.com.—Linda L. Walkins, Saint Joseph Preparatory High School, Boston, MA

Review

"I really admire Lois Brandt for writing about those in need without making this an 'issue' book. It's first and foremost a story—and a good one." —Kirby Larson, Newbery Honor-winning author, *Hattie Big Sky*
"Vin Vogel's playful and detailed digital tablet and pen illustrations make the story come alive . . . and will draw readers of all ages into this important story about friendship, problem solving, and how and when to break a promise." —Karen Kline, pscreviews.org

"This book brings awareness to the plight of hunger in the United States. For children who live comfortably, this story provides an entry point to begin to understand and empathize with others who are struggling in some way." —Megan McCaffre, wowlit.org

"This title is notable. The bright, friendly illustrations soften the topic while still conveying the characters' difficult feelings, such as worry and embarrassment. Gentle, age-appropriate humor releases the tension, keeping readers engaged as Sofia discovers how to best help her friend. . . . A thoughtful and well-executed look at the challenge of childhood hunger." —Kirkus Reviews

"The single greatest achievement of *Maddi's Fridge* is [that it] delivers its message directly, through the intriguing story embellished with artful illustrations, without preaching or political commentary. *Maddi's Fridge* is a book that works on a child's awareness level, with no intervening adult judgements to cloud the basic reaction of human compassion. It also tells children exactly what they can do to help. *Maddi's Fridge* is a wonderful book for all kinds of children, whether they are hungry or not." —Midwest Book Review

"Filled with colourful artwork, this storybook addresses issues of poverty with honesty and sensitivity while instilling important lessons in friendship, empathy, trust, and helping others." —toronto4kids.com

"In her debut picture book, Brandt addresses an important issue: childhood hunger. . . . Vogel's digital illustrations portraying the smiling, wide-eyed girls in their city neighborhood are filled with warmth and a sense of community." —Linda L. Walkins, *School Library Journal*

"This book introduces a topic that is rarely explored in picture books, and it would be a welcome addition to larger picture book collections." —Melissa Morwood, *BayViews*

"Cartoon-style illustrations, depicting a vibrant and diverse city neighborhood, help soften the difficult issues raised Food insecurity, childhood hunger, and poverty are treated with tenderness and humor." —April Mazza, *Booklist*

"While the issue of childhood hunger is serious, the story is neither preachy nor patronizing. It is instead silly and sweet and strong. It is brilliant and appealing. That's because it is, at heart, a story about friends. It's about Maddi helping Sofia climb the wall, and Sofia helping Maddi get enough to eat." —catherinespascha.com

"*Maddi's Fridge* is a compassionate, hopeful, giving, funny picture book about friendship and real world family issues. A rare gem!" —Carrie Charley Brown, *writersrumpus.com*

"This is a big-issue book, handled delicately. It's not preachy or judgmental, and has a sweet story about friendship first and foremost. The funny parts with yucky food hidden in a backpack provide some levity in what could be a very serious book. It provides a great starting point for discussions about hunger, charity, and talking to an adult when something seems wrong with a little friend. The illustrations are fun and the language is accessible. A perfectly sweet book about a serious topic. Very well done!" —Denise Mealy, *thechildrensbookreview.com*

About the Author

Lois Brandt is a writing teacher who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon, West Africa. She lives in Issaquah, Washington. **Vin Vogel** is a Brazilian illustrator and designer who has illustrated more than 45 children's and young adult books in his native Portuguese and French. He lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gloria Taylor:

The book Maddi's Fridge make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem with the subject. If you can make studying a book Maddi's Fridge being your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like start and read a book Maddi's Fridge. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this e-book?

Robert Lewis:

This Maddi's Fridge usually are reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The reason why of this Maddi's Fridge can be on the list of great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple examining food but feed you actually with information that probably will shock your earlier knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions at e-book and printed types. Beside that this Maddi's Fridge forcing you to have an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

James Waddell:

That reserve can make you to feel relax. That book Maddi's Fridge was bright colored and of course has pictures around. As we know that book Maddi's Fridge has many kinds or category. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and loosen up. Try to choose the best book to suit your needs and try to like reading that will.

Virginia Laird:

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