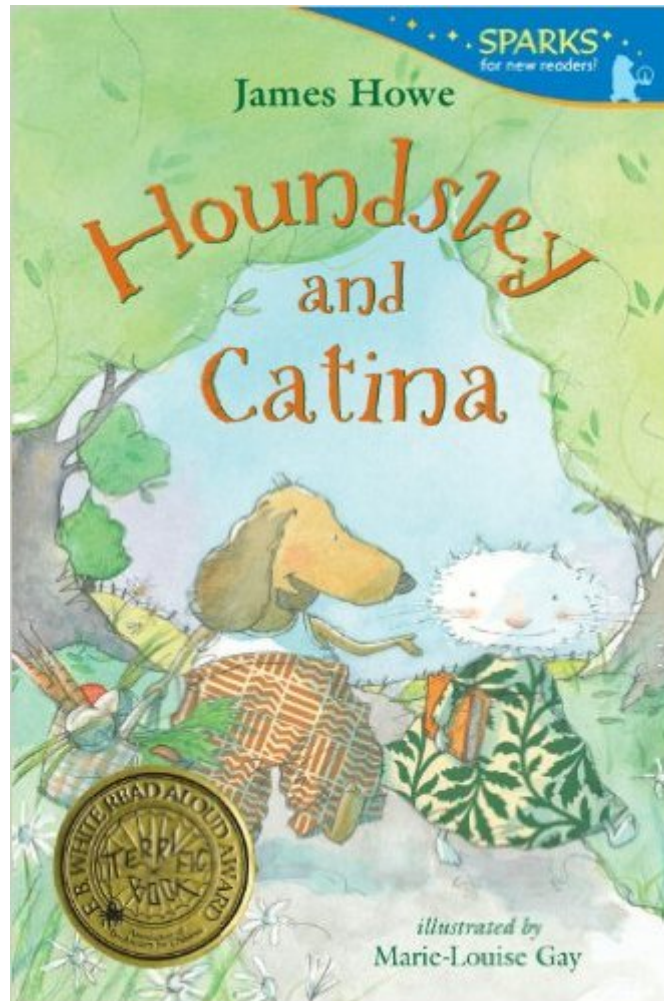


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# Houndsley And Catina: Candlewick Sparks



## Synopsis

The subtle dance of friendship - from holding your tongue to knowing what to say - is played out in three sweetly humorous tales about an unlikely, likable pair. Catina wants to be a famous writer. Houndsley is an excellent cook. Catina thinks Houndsley is a wonder. Houndsley thinks Catina is a very good friend. So what should Houndsley say about Catina's seventy-four-chapter memoir? And can Catina find the right words of comfort for Houndsley after the big cooking contest fiasco? James Howe's funny and endearing world of ginger tea, no-bean chili, and firefly watching is brought to life in cozy watercolors by Marie-Louise Gay in this tender chapter book about what it means to be friends.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580L (What's this?)

Series: Candlewick Sparks

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Reprint edition (April 9, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763666386

ISBN-13: 978-0763666385

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #98,594 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#72 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Lions, Tigers & Leopards](#) [#226 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Intermediate Readers](#) [#369 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

After I read this book with my three-year-old, I returned the next day to the bookstore to get the rest of the series, the artwork is beautiful and the stories are truly charming. In this first book, Catina writes her memoirs because she wishes to be famous but she is not a very good writer. Houndsley is tactful and supportive. In the second chapter, Houndsley is encouraged by his friends to enter a cooking competition but he gets so nervous he even forgets the beans in his three bean

(vegetarian) chili. In the third chapter, the friends resolve their experiences in the first two chapters and watch fireflies together. My mother in law said she wished Catina didn't admit to disliking writing but I thought it was good that she could be honest with her friend. The other books are equally fantastic. I think they are wonderful read-aloud books but would be a good for beginning readers as the print is large and the chapters are short. One of my favorite aspects of these books is that the characterizations are sophisticated even in a few words. We get a feel for each character and who they are and I like seeing that in this level of book instead of the ubiquitous early reader books that just rehash tv shows or movies (not that those don't have their place but original work is deserving of our attention and praise). Love, love, love.

For a beginner this is the perfect beginner chapter book. It is written in 3 parts that are easy for the reader to follow. Chapter 1 is all about Catina and her passion. She wants to be a famous writer. She writes all day long and finally shares her work with Houndsley. Chapter 2 is about Houndsley. He loves to cook. Catina, wanting to see him famous encourages him to enter a cooking contest. The contest does not turn out to be what he was expecting. Chapter 3 is about the power of friendship. After getting to know both characters and their passions, the book ends off with that is really important in life. I love this book because it is not only easy to read, but the lesson is very clear and amazing. There is nothing more important than the power of friends and friendship.

A wonderful book that teaches it's more important to enjoy what you do instead of just doing something in hopes of being the best at it. Houndsley the dog and Catina the cat have hobbies they want to be the best at but they soon discover that being the best may not be the most important thing nor may it be easy as they had hoped it would be. It has great illustrations that enhance the story.

A favorite series all around at our house. I love the lessons it teaches, my daughter loves the story and pictures...and the fact that she is reading a chapter book.

A premier publisher of audio book adaptations of children's picturebooks, Live Oak Media has produced audio editions of an outstanding title by author James Howe and illustrator Marie-Louise Gay. "Houndsley and Catina" is the story of Catina the cat who wants to be a successful writer, while Houndsley the dog is a rather good cook who aspires to winning an important cooking contest. While the two of them seek fame, they find that having a good friend is an even better reward for

doing what they love to do and are so very good at. In addition to being available as a hardcover/CD combination, this outstanding and highly recommended title is also available as paperback/CD, hardcover/cassette, and paperback/cassette editions.

If you like the Frog and Toad books, you will probably also like the Houndsley and Catina series. The stories have the same gentle, low-key quality and a similar prose style. And the pictures are prettier. How I Know: Although I don't have children in the right age bracket to buy the books, I've read them while shelving in the library.

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