



Ripley's Missing Locket

Written by Connie Herrick

Illustrated by Mark Herrick

Age Range: 3-10

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What to Expect: Friendship, problem-solving, positive thinking, pets

Losing something precious can be a devastating experience. Through endearing pet characters, *Ripley's Missing Locket* helps readers mentally explore this familiar scenario, validating their feelings of distress and modeling positive thinking and problem-solving skills they can use to find a solution.

Ripley, the calico cat, is so excited about her new locket! It is sparkly and shiny and just purrrfect. After a satisfying morning showing it off to all of her friends and family, however, Ripley is horrified to find her beautiful new locket is gone. Luckily, her brother Hariel (the upside-down goldfish) offers some good advice. He reminds her that everyone has a unique way of looking at the world, so with the help of her friends and family, Ripley can hunt for her missing locket, knowing that everyone is using their special expertise to help.

The text uses simple vocabulary, sound play, and gentle humor to keep even young readers engaged in the story. At the same time, beautiful watercolor illustrations bring Ripley's animal friends and natural environment to life in delightful detail. At

the end of the story, readers get a gentle reminder that it's friends and family, and not material possessions, that are really precious.

Overall, *Ripley's Missing Locket* is an engaging and instructive way to help young readers think about family, possessions, and perspective.

—*The Children's Book Review*