

# LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

## Author

McGrath, Robyn

## Illustrator

Illustrated by Isha Lobo

## Reviewer

Baker, Laura

## Pages

Unpaged

## Price

\$18.99

## ISBN

978-1-6659-2537-2

## Publisher & Date

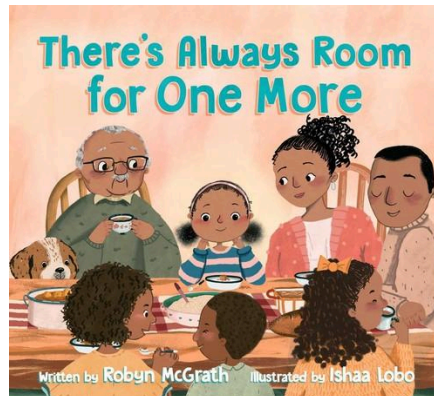
Paula Wiseman/Simon & Schuster, 2023

## Classification

Fiction

## Grade Level

45294



## Book Review: THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE

When Clare's grandpa is to come live with them, the family decides to get a new dining room table. Clare is excited to have Grandpa, but she loves their old table. It is full of memories of making crafts, enjoying Saturday morning pancakes, and playing games with the rest of the family. Clare is silent as her parents pick out a used but bigger table. She reluctantly helps finish and paint the new table. Helpful neighbors drop by and are invited to Grandpa's welcome party with the phrase, "There's always room for one more!" Feeling conflicted, Clare finally cries and expresses her emotions. Her mother explains that it is okay to feel sad at change but that they now have opportunities to make new memories. Baking peach cobbler--Grandpa's and Clare's favorite dessert--and making cards for the welcome party help break in the new table and assure Clare that the memories don't have to end.

This is a story full of warmth. Clare's family is loving and close. They do things together, they don't get upset when paint gets spilled during the table painting party, and there are always neighbors stopping by to help with the work or to contribute something to welcome Grandpa. The illustrations capture the warmth of a close-knit family in a friendly, racially diverse neighborhood. Author McGrath does a good job of letting us inside Clare's head to understand what she is thinking and feeling.

Perhaps the phrase, "There's always room for one more" applies not only to people but also to good memories. Choose this book to talk about families, about change and growth, and about the importance of keeping old

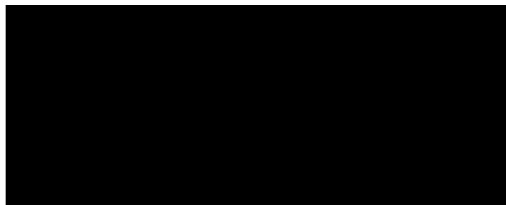


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Book Review: THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE



memories and making new ones.



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