

# **Maya and the Magic Swing**

*by Enid Duchin Jackowitz*

This little gem of a children's book is a fun early reading book for children from their pre-school days learning to understand pictures through beginning to understand words and build sentences from them. It is beautifully illustrated, and carries several positive messages for young children.

The main message is that no one is perfect – we all make mistakes. Often, these mistakes lead to something unexpected – even beautiful.

Right from the first page the reader is encouraged to accept pretend friends. Pretend friends can be very important to children, especially if their circumstances leave them without actual human or animal friends. As the story progresses, Maya imagines a pretend dog, Buster. He leads her to an amazing door, behind which she finds a host of varied and varicolored friends eager to see her. There is also a grandmotherly woman named Gertie, who introduces her to Farmer John. Farmer John's garden is blessed with an amazing variety of fruits and vegetables, all mixed together.

Acceptance of difference or variety is another important message built into this little story. None of it is preachy, yet the messages are clear. Very well done.