“The Journey that Saved Curious George”
by Louise Borden and illustrated by Allan Drummond

Review by Jaden Meyer

I am reviewing a book about Margret and H. A. Rey, and how they made a wartime escape to America while thinking of the story of Curious George.

Hans Augusto Reyersbach and Margarete Waldstein grew up in Hamburg, Germany, in the early part of the 20th century. Their families were friends. He loved to draw, and loved to visit the zoo. She always wanted to become an artist. He was the first to explore the world, and after World War I found his way to Brazil. A few years later, after Hitler came to power, Margarete knew she had to leave Germany. After spending time in London, she moved to Brazil, where she met Hans, her old family friend. They married in 1935 and moved to Paris, where they began to think up stories about Fifi, a curious little monkey who got into a lot of trouble. As the Nazis began to take control of France, they were forced to flee on bikes, with few possessions. One thing they did take: the manuscript for a book called The Adventures of Fifi. When they arrived in America in 1940, they went to work and the next year they published their first book about Fifi, now known as Curious George.

Two Jewish values that were important in this book was “be happy with what you have” and “never give up” because no matter what challenges they faced they always got through it, and continued to work and be happy even in such hard times.

I did not enjoy reading this book, even though after doing some research I found that the full story is quite interesting. I recommend that people who enjoy smaller simplified versions of stories or are younger readers around 7-8 to read this.