

*Eva's Treetop Festival (Owl Diaries #1)* by Rebecca Elliott

Eva Wingdale is a young owl who attends Treetop Elementary. She wears jaunty berets and cute sneakers and has a pet bat named Baxter. Eva always does the same things after school, which has become a little stale. So she has decided to organize a new Bloomtastic Festival to celebrate Spring at her school. Eva has amazing ideas for the contests and prizes, and she wants to plan all of it on her own! It's a big undertaking for a little owl, and Eva's teacher suggests that she enlist the help of the other students. But Eva is very confident that she can do it all by herself. When it gets to be a little too much for Eva to handle, she finally asks for help and the whole class works as a team to make the first Bloomtastic Festival a major success.

The diary format makes this an incredibly accessible series for emerging readers! There are 11 chapters in the book, with each one chronicling one day in Eva's life while planning her festival. That may seem like a lot, but there are only a few sentences per page and it is illustrated throughout. The illustrations are colorful and eye-catching. The overall message about asking for help and working together is an important one and is presented well. This is a really fun read for reluctant readers and kids just starting to get into chapter books. There are currently 13 books in this series, 4 books in Elliott's *Unicorn Diaries* series, and a number of similar series put out by Scholastic under their Branches imprint, so kiddos will not run out of reading material if they find they like this one!

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