

***The Capybaras* by Alfredo Soderguit**

This charming picture book starts out in a chicken coop, where things are safe and comfortable, with rules and routine. That is until a group of capybaras show up and disrupt the lives of the chickens. Capybaras are the largest living rodents, native to South America, that generally reside near bodies of water. The chicken coop they come across is near a winding river where hunters are on their annual hunt. While never explicitly stated in the book, the hunters are presumably hunting the capybaras, as is common practice in South America. The chickens don't want the capybaras around, but allow them to stay as long as they follow the rules. A cute friendship develops between a chick and one of the young capybaras, much to the chagrin of the older chickens. But ultimately, the two very different species become close and start to depend on each other.

The black and white color scheme is enhanced by accents of red, yellow, orange, and brown. It's sparse, but works very well with the story. It is a very sweet story about friendships overcoming differences, with just such great art. This would be a fantastic book to read to a child at bedtime!

GK