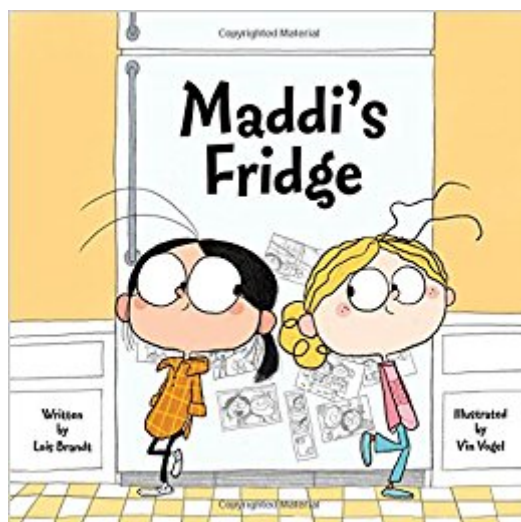


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# Maddi's Fridge



## Synopsis

Winner of: 2014 Christopher Award, Books for Young People 2014 ILA Primary Fiction Award 2015 MLA Mitten Award Honor Human Rights in Children's Literature Honor With humor and warmth, this children's picture book raises awareness about poverty and hunger. Best friends Sofia and Maddi live in the same neighborhood, go to the same school, and play in the same park, but while Sofia's fridge at home is full of nutritious food, the fridge at Maddi's house is empty. Sofia learns that Maddi's family doesn't have enough money to fill their fridge and promises Maddi she'll keep this discovery a secret. But because Sofia wants to help her friend, she's faced with a difficult decision: to keep her promise or tell her parents about Maddi's empty fridge. Filled with colorful artwork, this storybook addresses issues of poverty with honesty and sensitivity while instilling important lessons in friendship, empathy, trust, and helping others. A call to action section, with six effective ways for children to help fight hunger and information on antihunger groups, is also included.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Flashlight Press (September 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1936261294

ISBN-13: 978-1936261291

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.5 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #81,947 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #1648 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1 In her debut picture book, Brandt addresses an important issue: childhood hunger. Sofia's best friend does not have food at home. After taking on the climbing wall at the park,

the girls go to Maddi's apartment. A hungry Sofia looks for a snack and is surprised to find a lone carton of milk in the refrigerator. Maddi admits that her mom does not have enough money to go to the grocery store and makes Sofia promise to keep it secret. At home, Sofia's mother serves a delicious supper of fish and rice. The refrigerator is filled with good things to eat, including her brother's favorite treat, Cheesy Pizza Bombs. Worried about her friend, Sofia smuggles food to school, but fish and eggs are "not good for backpacks." Each afternoon, Sofia tries to follow the nimble Maddi to the top of the climbing wall, but it's too high for her. Maddi encourages her, lending her a hand, and Sofia finally climbs the wall. Wanting to do something for Maddi, Sofia tells her mother about the empty fridge. Together, they go to the store to buy groceries. To Sofia's relief, Maddi is not angry about the broken promise, and the two families share a supper of Cheesy Pizza Bombs. Vogel's digital illustrations portraying the smiling, wide-eyed girls in their city neighborhood are filled with warmth and a sense of community. An endnote provides suggestions for helping friends who have empty refrigerators and directs young readers to a companion website, [MaddisFridge.com](http://MaddisFridge.com).  
—Linda L. Walkins, Saint Joseph Preparatory High School, Boston, MA

—“I really admire Lois Brandt for writing about those in need without making this an  
—issue—, book. It—,s first and foremost a story— and a good  
one.—  
— Kirby Larson, Newbery Honor— winning author, Hattie Big Sky  
“Vin Vogel—,s playful and detailed digital tablet and pen illustrations make the story come  
alive . . . and will draw readers of all ages into this important story about friendship, problem solving,  
and how and when to break a promise.” — Karen Kline, [pscreviews.org](http://pscreviews.org) “This book brings  
awareness to the plight of hunger in the United States. For children who live comfortably, this story  
provides an entry point to begin to understand and empathize with others who are struggling in  
some way.” — Megan McCaffre, [wowlit.org](http://wowlit.org) “The illustrations are well done and add the right  
emotion to the story in all the right ways— a wonderful read aloud and will draw young  
listeners in. This is a great read especially for kids ages 4 and up.”  
— [bookwormforkids.blogspot.co.il](http://bookwormforkids.blogspot.co.il) “This title is notable. The bright, friendly illustrations soften  
the topic while still conveying the characters—, difficult feelings, such as worry and  
embarrassment. Gentle, age-appropriate humor releases the tension, keeping readers engaged as  
Sofia discovers how to best help her friend. . . . A thoughtful and well-executed look at the challenge  
of childhood hunger.” — Kirkus Reviews

Excellent book raising awareness about childhood hunger! 2 best friends hang out regularly

afterschool and one can't physically keep up because she has no energy. They end up at her house and there's not much food in the fridge to which becomes their secret. Everyday the one friend tries to bring food to school in her backpack but the food doesn't last to share by the time she opens her backpack. Finally she tells her mom the secret and they buy food together for the family. The back of the book gives practical ways of helping impact childhood hunger and raise awareness in your community. We run a backpack program which partners with local schools to serve their chronically hungry students and have purchased one for each library to help show our appreciation. We recently read it to a Girl Scout Troop who came to volunteer in our warehouse and you could have heard a pin drop! Highly recommend.

I have a nonprofit and we feed children that might be without food on the weekends. This book is written and illustrated so even Kindergarten children understand when I read it to them. I take this book to the schools that we feed children and read it to them so that kids can understand there are ways they too can help.

This was a very young child friendly way to introduce the concept of want and need. What it means to be hungry and have nothing. Understanding empathy and the power within yourself to make a change. My child had a real eye-opening moment with this book. It launched a whole discussion of "Are there people around us like this?" And, "What can I do?" The way the author takes two very similar girls and shows that they can have two very different background situations which are very much out of their control is heartwrenching but so on point. And too often seen nowadays. I feel this is a book that should be made a childhood must-read.

I love this book! I hope you do, too. It's a charming tale of two little girls who are best friends. Sofia can run faster; Maddi is a better climber. Sofia has enough to eat every day; Maddi has an empty fridge at home. Through trial and error, they learn how to help each other. Author Lois Brandt tells an unforgettable story with a thought-provoking message about childhood hunger. Vin Vogel's delightful illustrations make you fall in love with these two quirky girls and their funky urban neighborhood. Together, they have created a beautiful book you will want to read again and again - and give to the children in your life.

What an amazing book. I read it to my 7 year old daughter right and she made a connection with it right away. She wanted to talk about the girls in in it and the problems people have. The subject

matter in the book is one we've talked about with her for years but it was so great to see what sort of impact this story had on her. When kids don't know someone personally affected by hard times, it's easy for them to ignore it. This book makes it very easy for them to understand and sympathize without making it upsetting to hear about it.

This is such a great book to give kids an important introduction into poverty and what that means at such a basic level that kids will understand. There is also an important lesson on keeping secrets and when it's ok to not. Plus the message on what being a friend means. This book led to many different discussions with my 6 year old. He picked up things in the book that I missed. It really highlights the acceptance and innocence that children have. A serious but feel good book.

Great story to make children think about others.

This is a beautiful story about friendship, promises, and childhood hunger. While dealing with a weighty issue, the book maintains a warm, hopeful tone throughout and is appropriate for readers of any age. Younger readers will love the realistic friendship story, while more sophisticated readers will appreciate the deft handling of one friend's family's lack of food and the suggestions for how to help with the issue themselves in their communities, with their own friends and neighbors. Perfectly crafted text and delightful illustrations combine in this important addition to children's literature.

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