

Youth Services Book Review

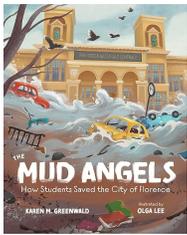
Reviews of current nonfiction, fiction,
and picture books by Massachusetts
Librarians!

The Mud Angels: How Students Saved the City of Florence by Karen M. Greenwald, illustrated by Olga Lee

Posted on [January 1, 2024](#) by [susanh579](#)

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***The Mud Angels: How Students Saved the City of Florence* by Karen M. Greenwald, illustrated by
Olga Lee. Albert Whitman, 2024. 9780807552780**



Rating: 1-5 (5 is an excellent or a Starred review) **5**

Format: ARC (publication 4/4/24)

What did you like about the book? An uplifting story about visiting students pitching in with local residents to clean up and clear out the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Florence after the flooding of the Arno River in 1966. Waves washed through the city, but even when the waters receded they left a hazardous mess of debris and mud throughout the area. Without needing to speak the same languages, the visiting students came together to help retrieve and dry out the books and save part of Florence's history. Beautiful illustrations show the city, both in its splendor and in its filth, and its people as they cycle through joy to despair and finally, hope.

Anything you didn't like about it? Not at all

To whom would you recommend this book? Children ages 6-12, especially if they are in need of inspiration or uplifting stories.

Who should buy this book? Elementary schools and public libraries.

Where would you shelve it? jNon-Fiction picture books

Should we (librarians/readers) put this on the top of our "to read" piles? Yes!

Reviewer's Name, Library (or school), City and State: Vicky Tandy, Athol Public Library, Athol, MA

Date of review: December 21, 2023

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