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A Book for Children Whose Parents Are Considering Homeschooling

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Book Review by Kathy Lowers (and by Victoria Lowers, age 7) Title: Katy Author and Illustrator: Mary Evelyn Notgrass ISBN number: 1-933410-86-8
Approximate reading level: Ages 7-12 Katy by Mary Evelyn Notgrass is a godly character book that is appropriate for all children. It is of special interest to families who are in the midst of a decision to homeschool or who have decided to homeschool and are transitioning their children out of a school setting. It is also an affirming book for those already home educating. Katy is a sweet story about a nine year old girl, Katy Porter, whose everyday life is about to change, now that her parents are considering homeschooling. It is an enjoyable read about a loving and close family. But, like so many Christian families in these dark times, the Porters have concerns about the anti-god influences of the public school on their children; homeschooling is looking like a worthy option to them. Reasons for and objections to homeschooling are explored by members of the Porter family throughout the pages of this book. Katy herself struggles with the fear that homeschooling will make her different than others in a negative sense, a common fear among those thinking of homeschooling. It is interesting to see how the children adjust to the idea of being taught at home. The children are portrayed as respectful but human and the adults are good role models as well. Better yet, Mr. Porter happens to be a pastor, and we could sure use more of them deciding to homeschool (hint: buy this book for your pastor's kids). Through the eyes of a child, this book conveys the joys of an intact, functional Christian family. This is the subtle yet powerful message of the story the family loves being together, which is something that homeschooling would enhance. This is underscored by some memorable moments such as when Katy's parents lock the children out of the house by mistake, leaving the children outside in the dark. This situation makes them realize how being home together is where they prefer to be. Not only did Mary Evelyn Notgrass put together a nice book that younger children will connect with, she has given a real boost to families who are considering homeschooling. Katy is available from the Notgrass Company.

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