

★ **Jump for Joy**

Karen Gray Ruelle

Hadley Hooper, Illustrator

Astra Young Readers (Jan 23, 2024)

Hardcover (32pp)

978-1-66260-202-3

Joy has always wanted a dog; Jump has always wanted a kid. As they wait for the right companion, they make substitutes out of flowers, ferns, sand, and snow, but their formed friends never last. The book utilizes white space and stark black-and-white illustrations to evoke Jump and Joy's loneliness; the characters are in a different illustration style, further emphasizing their isolation. Only when the pair find each other do their worlds fill with color.

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (January / February 2024)

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