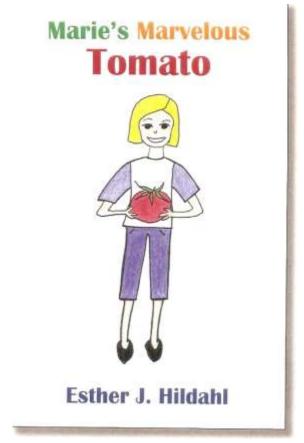# Marie's Marvelous Tomato

by Esther J. Hildahl

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

Marie's Marvelous Tomato is a delightful story of a young girl's summer project. Marie and her best friend, Ginger, have planned a summer full of excitement. When Ginger announced her parents were getting a divorce and she must move to Seattle to live with her grandparents, Marie's summer plans all vanished. Marie felt very sad for Ginger because her own parents divorced years ago and she lost touch with her father.

Marie is a girl that loves to eat tomatoes and suddenly she comes up with a plan for her summer project, she will grow a tomato plant. She plants it with care and tends to it daily. Finally, a small green tomato appears on her plant. It is the only tomato on the plant, but it grows and grows into a giant tomato! Marie's family encourages her to enter her tomato in the fair.

The judges agreed, Marie's tomato was the largest tomato entered in the fair but it had the best shape and color. Marie was given a blue ribbon for her successful summer project.

The story ends very happy when Ginger announces her parents are getting back together and she won't have to move to Seattle. Marie receives a letter from her father saying he missed her and her brother and would like to come to visit them if it would be alright with her mother. Marie was very happy, she had her best friend back and was going to get to know her father.

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

This is a delightful story about Marie who is faced with a lonely summer. Her best friend, Ginger, is gone, Mom is busy with her work, and stinky brother, Mel, is no help at all. Marie decides to grow a tomato plant to fill her lonely time. Through the ups and downs of horticulture, Marie stays focused on her task and loyal to the helpless plant she has vowed to tend while also keeping in touch with Ginger. Ms. Hildahl has created great characters (I was especially fond of the grandmother…) and a sweet story that will charm any age. It has a satisfyingly happy ending, as all children's books should, with an added surprise.