

Saskia Spark-Lee: Trading Trouble

AUTHOR

REBECCA SHARPE SHELBERG

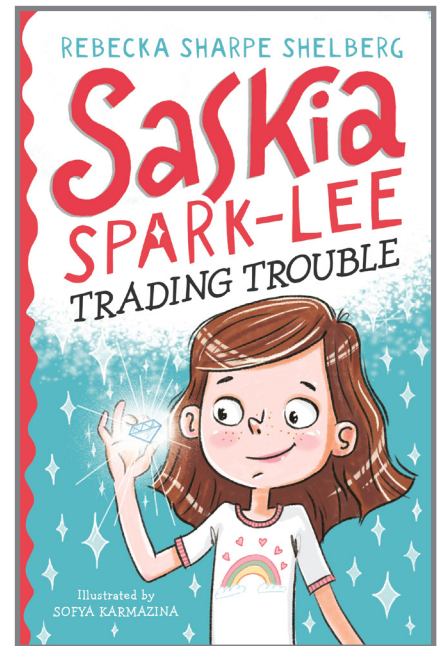
ILLUSTRATOR

SOFYA KARMAZINA

SCIS: 5448861

ISBN: 9781760655563

RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

Saskia Spark-Lee collects sparkles—shiny rocks, crafting gems, bits of glittery wrapping paper and even dewdrops off the leaves in her garden. Entranced with a classmate’s shiny quartz stone, Saskia promises to trade her real diamond for it. The only problem is, she doesn’t *have* a diamond! But with the advice of her two dads—Da and Dee—and a spangly surprise, Saskia could solve her trading trouble and light the spark of a new friendship.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rebecca Sharpe Shelberg is a children’s librarian and author who lives in Sydney, with her husband and three mischievous children. She firmly believes that stories and illustration are the real magic in this crazy, confusing world. She loves love and kindness, and really does want world peace. When she isn’t reading, writing, listening to or talking about books, reading at the library or to her children, she is asleep. Her first picture book, *Reflection*, was a CBCA Notable book.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sofya Karmazina is a book designer and illustrator, who is passionate about great stories and children’s books. Working both digitally and using traditional media, her work is driven by curiosity and perseverance. She has previously illustrated *Ribbit Rabbit Robot* (written by Victoria Mackinlay) and *The Internot* (written by Josh Lawson). She was shortlisted in the New Illustrator category with *Ribbit Rabbit Robot* (written by Victoria Mackinlay) in the 2021 CBCA Awards and longlisted in the 2021 Australian Book Design Awards for the same title. She was also longlisted in the Best Designed Series (including Classics) category of the 2018 Australian Book Design Awards for Rowland Sinclair Mysteries by Sulari Gentill.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer

after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.

- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.

WHILE READING

Orientation

- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. Which character/s are we introduced to in the opening scene of the novel?
- What mood is the author setting?
- Write what you think could happen in the story based on how the writer has set the story up.

Complications

- It is the author's job to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals. What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?
- Can you identify the climax of the story, the moment of highest tension?

Characterisation

- Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Draw a picture of a character from the book from how they are described in the book, or how *you* think they look, and then describe their personality in five words. Compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person?

Setting and World-building

- Consider the world the author has created in this novel and answer the following questions:
 - Can you describe it?
 - How is it different to the world you live in?
 - Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?

Resolution

- How does the story conclude (resolution)?
 - Compare the ending of the story with how you imagined it ending at the end of the first chapter.
 - Were you surprised by where the story went?

ACTIVITIES

- Design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.
- Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently to the character in the novel?
- Imagine that a movie was being made of the novel. In small groups, create a soundtrack to accompany some of the key scenes, thinking particularly about the mood you want to convey. You could either make a compilation of existing songs or compose your own musical pieces. Present your soundtrack to the class, explaining why you have chosen the pieces you have.
 - Also choose your ideal cast for the movie and create a movie poster.