



Henry's Stars by David Elliot, author and illustrator

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Henry is a pig with a sense of order and a clear view of his world. He also gains pleasure from the natural beauty surrounding his farmyard home.

One evening, Henry sits outside on his doorstep and looks up at the stars. He's amazed to see the stars form the shape of The Great Pig in the Sky. Keen to share his discovery, he hurries to the woolshed to show the sheep.

However, when the sheep gaze at the night sky they're excited to see the Great Sheep of the Stars. Abigail the cow joins the group and Henry tells her about The Great Pig in the Sky. But when Abigail looks where Henry is pointing she's excited to see a Great Star Cow.

Henry's disappointment grows with other animals claiming to see their own kind in the starry sky. Where has his Great Pig gone? Dejected, he trudges home to his shed. There, in his peaceful yard, he rediscovers the wonder of the night.

Elliot's illustrations are reminiscent of an earlier era. The weathered woolshed, wooden fences, and aged trees have a timeless feel. The animals have appealing expressions and some of the four-legged creatures stand upright. Henry is the only creature wearing clothing which is limited to a red neckerchief. Soft blues accentuate the night sky with the animals showcased in starlight.

A subtle story about how people often see themselves at the centre of the universe and view the world from their own perspective. A companion picture book to the first title: *Henry's Map*.

Author / illustrator's website:

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**Reviewed by children's book author,
Jean Bennett**

