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Tell Me My Story, Mama

Irene Halliday

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Lund, Deb. *Tell Me My Story, Mama*. Illustrated by Hiroe Nakata. Harper Collins, 2004. ISBN 0060288760. \$15.99. 40 pp.

Reviewer: Irene Halliday

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Babies--Juvenile fiction; Parent and child--Juvenile fiction; Birth--Juvenile fiction;

"Tell me the story about when I was inside you, Mama."

What child wouldn't glow at being the star of her/his very own story? Each child has a unique pre-birth tale which parents should remember, tell and re-tell, sharing the variety of feelings awakened during the anticipation and birth of a new baby. The excited, small heroine of this delightful story has obviously heard her story many times and eagerly awaits each personal detail, such as the visible shape of her foot kicking her Mama's belly. The climax of the story or the "special part" is her actual birth, and the "best part" is when Mama and Daddy see her for the first time, and she sees them. Both events carry a sense of wonder at the miracle of a new life.

This charming celebration of love and family is based on actual events during the author's own pregnancy and was partly written as they occurred. Pregnancy details are shared with taste and humor appropriate to a pre-school through kindergarten age range. The gently whimsical and child-like watercolor illustrations are a perfect complement to the text. Pregnant mothers will not only enjoy sharing this delightful book with their young children to prepare them for a new brother or sister, but will also probably experience a greater awareness of each child's pre-birth story and how to share it with each little "star".