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Winter Lights: A season in Poems and Quilts

Gillian Streeter
gstreeter@fortbend.lib.tx.us

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Hines, Anna Grossnickle. *Winter Lights: A Season in Poems and Quilts*. Illustrated by Anna Grossnickle Hines. Greenwillow, 2005. ISBN 0060008172. \$17.89. 32 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Primary, All

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Picture Books; Poetry;

Subject: Winter--Juvenile poetry; Children's poetry, American--Juvenile poetry; Books--Reviews

Mankind yearns for light and warmth during wintertime--decorations, songs, and even holidays celebrate light. *Winter Lights* portrays holidays in winter that use and celebrate light with unique illustrations. Each two-page spread illustration is a quilt, carefully sewn to depict images of fireplaces, candles, a Christmas tree, moonlight, lanterns, and even an aurora borealis. Alongside the picture is a short poem about the image. The last three pages of the book detail how the quilts were made and the inspiration for the images the quilts depict. Different quilting techniques are also described.

Hines is evenhanded in her attention to many different winter holidays, including Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Solstice, Chinese New Year, and St. Lucia's Day. Other more universal winter scenes, such as moonlit snow are also shown. This book would be most interesting to a quilter, but because of its intricate illustrations and simple poems it will appeal to most readers. The author lists sources for the quilting techniques used and her website address at the book's end.