



2008

# Mother's Song: A Lullaby

Sandra L. Tidwell

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

---

### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Tidwell, Sandra L. (2008) "Mother's Song: A Lullaby," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 29 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol29/iss1/1>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

Greene, Ellin. *Mother's song: a lullaby*. Illustrated by Elizabeth Sayles. Clarion Books, 2008. ISBN 9780395715277. \$17.00. 34 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Toddler; Preschool;

Rating: Outstanding;

Genre: Picture Books; Lullabies;

Subject: Lullabies--Juvenile fiction; Folk Songs, English--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

*Mother's Song* is a lovely lullaby adapted by Greene. A mother and her baby are pictured amidst the magical world of fairies and elves. Sayles' illustrations are of soft but rich pastel tones, which perfectly portray the calming tone of this lullaby. Each page-turn reveals a two-page-spread (at the end of the book is a three-page fold-out) of fairies and elves dancing, playing musical instruments, slumbering in delicate blossoms, or gently floating on the air or on calm water in tiny leaf boats. Delicate butterflies, a sparrow, bumblebees, and other animals help portray the verses as well. My favorite verse, "Ten thousand pearls beneath the sea, My babe more precious is to me," shows five fairies of different nationalities sewing pearls on leaves, which will soon crown the heads of the mother and her baby.

*Mother's Song* celebrates motherhood and emphasizes the blessings and strengths of a mother's love for her baby. "A baby is more precious than beautiful blossoms and ten thousand pearls, a baby's eyes brighter than stars, a baby's hair finer than silk." Thanks to the research of Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould, the author of "Onward, Christian Soldiers" and "Now the Day is Over," we have the words to this beautiful English folk song. Although the original melody for this lullaby has been lost, an adapted musical score by Paul Alan Levi is included at the back of the book. The simple arrangement has a lilting, soothing tone.

Volume 29, no.1 (September/October 2008)