



2008

Where I Live

Gillian Streeter

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Spinelli, Eileen. *Where I Live*. Illustrated by Matt Phelan. Dial, 2007. ISBN 9780803731226. \$16.99. 112 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Moving, household--Juvenile fiction; Astronomy--Juvenile fiction; Novels in verse--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Diana loves her home—she loves her yellow house with white shutters, the tree she helped plant, and her room, which she has just painted midnight blue to match the night sky. Diana is a fan of everything related to stars, she even nicknames her baby sister Twink. When her father loses his job and her family moves in with her grandfather in another town, Diana can only think of moving back. She misses her friend Rose, her teacher Ms. Clifford, and the nest of birds on their old front door—even though her new room is midnight blue too. Soon she discovers her new home is not all bad; she gets to see her grandfather every day and her new friend Sam loves stars as much as she does.

Spinelli is gentle and honest in Diana's descriptions of her old home and sadness in leaving it. She also is open about changes being good sometimes, as with Diana's new home and friends. This is a good book for hesitant readers, text is sparse and in free verse form. Lists also abound in the book: lists of star facts, reasons Diana and her friend Rose are so close, and causes for the family's move. Simple, light pencil illustrations compliment the text well—overall a mild story about the challenges and sadness of moving, as well as the truth that change isn't always a bad thing. A 2009 Bluebonnet Award candidate.

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