



2009

Crow Call

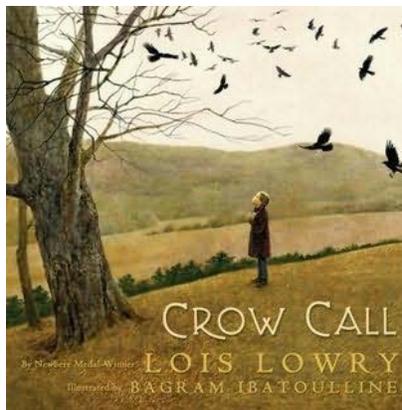
Sandra L. Tidwell

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Lowry, Lois. *Crow Call*. Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline. Scholastic, 2009. ISBN 9780545030359. \$16.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Picture books; Biographies;

Subject: Fathers and daughters--Juvenile fiction; Hunting--Juvenile fiction; Crows--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

In the late fall, when the air begins to feel the coolness of approaching winter, hundreds of crows descend upon Provo and the surrounding Utah countryside. It is a delight to watch their wonderful aerial maneuvers as they find their roosts in the huge trees. This wonder also strikes Lizzie while on an early-morning November outing with her father, who has just returned from being away at war for many years. The special crow-calling whistle has worked excellently--hundreds of crows have flown in. Initially, Lizzie and her father set out to hunt the crows which have been eating their crops. However, their conversation about life and fear temper the father's intent, at least for the day. They wonder together what the crows are thinking as they look down at the small girl who is calling them. Do they think she is their friend or "maybe their baby, all grown up!"

The soft, natural tones of Ibatoulline's realistic illustrations complement Lowry's thoughtful text which describes the author's long-awaited first outing with her father in 1945. This tender story explains Lizzie's feelings as she cautiously talks with this "stranger" and asks questions to get to know her Daddy again after his absence. Lizzie's father patiently listens and responds to Lizzie's questions, watches her run up and down the hills calling the crows, and plays an animal calling game with her. No, they haven't shot any crows, but father and daughter have connected in a very personal meaningful way; hand-in-hand they traverse the hillside on their way home. The end of the book features a photograph of Lois in the plaid shirt her father purchased for her from Kronenberg's department store soon after his return home from the war.

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