



2010

### The Song of the Whales

Lauren McMullan

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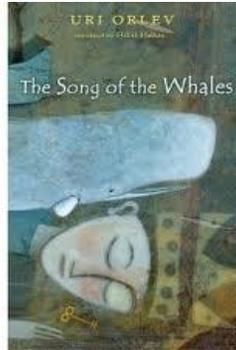
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Orlev, Uri. *The Song of the Whales*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010. ISBN 9780547257525. \$16.00. 112 p.

Reviewer: Lauren McMullan

Reading level: Primary, Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informative; Fiction;

Subject: Grandfathers--Juvenile fiction; Dreams--Juvenile fiction; Jerusalem--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Michael is nine. He likes sculpting, reading, making friends with old people and collecting odd things. Michael does not like moving to Jerusalem so that his parents can make sure they inherit Grandpa's fortune -- until he meets Grandpa. Grandpa likes books, collecting antiques, his housekeeper and dreaming. The last of which is his gift. Grandpa can dream as no one else, because he can bring people into his dreams. It is not long before Grandpa has moved in with Michael and his parents so he can bring Michael into his dreams. Together they move through Grandpa's memory, imagination, and work. Grandpa's dream work is to fix other's dreams when they come to him in need of help. It soon becomes clear that Grandpa is going to die soon. One night he takes Michael into a dream where Michael is asked to fix his schoolmate's dream. Grandpa tells Michael when they wake that he has the gift of dreams too.

Orlev produces a delicate tale of the sweetness in relationships between the young and old. Mingling in both dream world and "the really real world" this mellow but engaging story takes us through the delight, terror, wisdom and confusion of the lessons we learn in our dreams with remarkable clarity. It is a book that provides insights for all ages and radiates with a feeling of depth that just one read through cannot capture completely.

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