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Outside Your Window: A First Book of Nature by Nicola Davies

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Author: Davies, Nicola

Title: *Outside Your Window: A First Book of Nature*

Illustrator: Hearld, Mark

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: Candlewick Press

ISBN: 9780763655495

Number of Pages: 108

Rating: Outstanding

Reading/Interest Level: Preschool; Primary

Keywords: Nature; Outdoors; Birds; Animals; Seasons; Gardening; Flowers; Nonfiction; Educational; Environment

Review:

Outside Your Window is a stunningly illustrated book of simple nature poetry. The book has fifty-eight poems divided into four sections: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. The poems cover a wide range of topics, all inspired by outdoor observations and the changing seasons. Subjects include spring blossoms, bird migration, growing summer vegetables, flowers, stars, rainbows, mushrooms, seashells, chickens, lambs, and crickets.

Davies captures the wonders of nature as a small child first experiences them. She writes about things in a simple and curious way, noticing the small things like dripping icicles and spider webs. Sights, sounds, and smells in each poem are described in easy language, but in such detail as to invoke the very feeling of each season. The illustrations are beautifully done in mixed media paper-cut collage, and they complement the text very cohesively. Educational value is high for children as they learn about things like the growth of a frog, bees making honey, cows giving milk, composting, and the important work that worms do. The hardcover is very high quality and has large, sturdy pages. Overall, this book would serve as a fantastic introduction to both poetry and nature for children and will leave them eager to explore and learn more about their environment.

Reviewer: Dana Staples

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