



2017

# La La La: A Story of Hope

Karen Abbott

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# Book Review

**Title:** La La La: A Story of Hope  
**Author:** Kate DiCamillo  
**Illustrator:** Jaime Kime  
**Reviewer:** Karen Abbott  
**Publisher:** Candlewick  
**Publication Year:** 2017  
**ISBN:** 9780763658335  
**Number of Pages:** 372  
**Interest Level:** Preschool, Primary  
**Rating:** Outstanding



## Review

A small girl is singing her song to the world. She listens with her hand to her ear, but there is no response, just a few falling leaves. Are they answering her song? She ventures outside but neither the tree nor the pond nor the grass are responsive. She returns inside frustrated. The leaves continue to follow her inside. Has something changed? She ventures out again into the night, but still nothing sings back to her. She finds a ladder, but still can't seem to reach the answer to her song. Back inside, she sings herself to sleep and from outside she hears a song. Running outside she basks in the song of the moon and sings her own song in duet.

A beautifully illustrated pictorial story of loneliness discovering a friendship with nature and imagination. The background indoors is white, plain, and isolating. The orange leaves add color as they tumble in on her and draw her outside where she investigates her colorful Fall surroundings but finds no friends. Her frustration is evident, although the only word in the entire book is, "la". The illustrations of the exterior never fully consume the page until the night when each illustration covers everything. Her first glimpse into the dark is framed in complete white as if she is contained in a box and about to be set free. This is a great book for the imagination, as it leaves so much open to personal interpretation. Wander with your little reader into the open world outside, and take this wonderful book with you.