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The North Star

Nicole Davis

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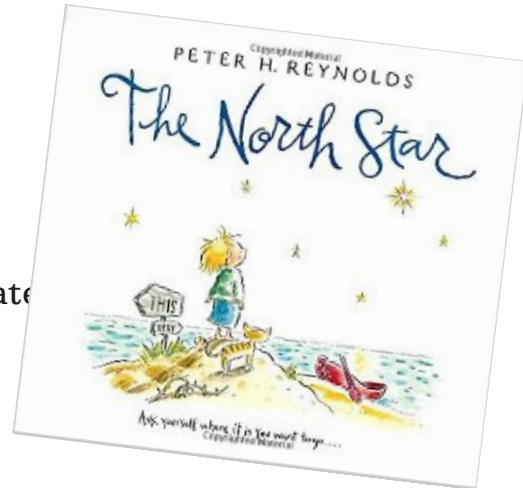
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Book Review

Title: The North Star
Author: Peter H. Reynolds
Reviewer: Nicole Davis
Publisher: Candlewick Press
Year: 2009
ISBN: 9780763636777
Pages: 62
Interest Level: Preschool, Primary, Intermediate
Young Adult
Rating: Outstanding



Review

A young boy begins his journey through life and asks what is the right path and right destination. At first, the boy grows and observes, taking his time and doing what he likes. One day, a helpful cat tells the boy that he should be starting his journey and shows him the path he should take. The boy dutifully follows the path even though it gets a little confusing. At one point, he realizes he might be lost and begins to wander off the path but the cat stops him and tells him to hurry on his way. The boy encounters a bird further on the path who asks where the boy is going. Unsure, the boy realizes he needs to create his own path and find his own destination. In the end, he embarks on his own journey: the beginning.

The North Star can help readers of all ages reevaluate the path they are taking. It introduces the idea to children that there is not one right path for everyone to follow and that it is important for them to follow their own guiding light. The book can be used as a starting point for a discussion on who to follow and how to find a good direction in life. The watercolor and ink illustrations are friendly and minimal, matching the style of the text. Working together, they create a story that is simple to follow while introducing profound ideas. It will inspire each reader to create a life of joy.