



2017

Refuge

Ariel Woodbury

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Book Review

Title: Refuge
Author: Anne Booth
Illustrator: Sam Usher
Reviewer: Ariel Woodbury
Publisher: Little, Brown and Company
Year: 2016
ISBN: 9780316361729
Pages: 24
Interest Level: Preschool
Rating: Excellent



Review

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem where their son, Jesus Christ, is born. Shepherds and Wise Men come to see the child. After the visitors leave, Joseph dreams that his family is in danger. The family quickly leaves and must rely on the kindness of strangers to survive. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus finally find refuge in Egypt.

This is an excellent book about the nativity that brings into focus, especially for Christian readers, the reality that Christ and his parents were refugees. A timely piece that gently suggests compassion and charity in the current affairs of the world. The book is from the perspective of the donkey which carries Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem and finally to Egypt. The text is simple and unobtrusive, letting the feeling of the book call the reader to action rather than doing so directly. The illustrations are simple, fitting the subtle style of the rest of the book. This would be a great way to start talking to children about what it means to be a refugee.