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Papa is a Poet: A Story About Robert Frost

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Book Review

Title: Papa is a Poet: A Story About Robert Frost  
Author: Natalie S. Bober  
Illustrator: Rebecca Gibbon  
Reviewer: Nicole Clark  
Publisher: Macmillan  
Year: 2013  
ISBN: 9780805094077  
Pages: 40  
Interest Level: Primary, Intermediate  
Rating: Outstanding

Review

Told from the point of view of his young daughter Leslie, Papa is a Poet provides a brief and lyrical snapshot of the life and personage of Robert Frost. Lines taken from Frost’s poetry are seamlessly woven into the narrative to tell the story of the family’s life on their New Hampshire farm, their move to England, and the first publishing of a book of Frost’s poetry upon their return to the United States. The detail with which their day-to-day life is described makes clear how Frost drew on what he saw and experienced all around him to write his now well-known and beloved poetry.

This story is a wonderful depiction of Robert Frost’s life and wonderfully integrates his poetry in the story of his life. An author’s note following the story explains that much of the text was adapted from a journal kept by Lesley Frost from age five. Photographs of the Frost family are also included, as are quotations from Robert Frost and a sampling of his poetry. Readers who enjoy and are familiar with such poems as “The Road Not Taken” and “Nothing Gold Can Stay” will enjoy this charmingly-illustrated look into the life of a favorite poet.