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The Stumps of Flattop Hill

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Book Review

Title: The Stumps of Flattop Hill
Author: Kenneth Kit Lamug
Reviewer: Karon Abbot
Publisher: One Peace Books
Year: 2016
ISBN: 9781935548867
Pages: 40
Interest Level: Preschool, Primary
Rating: Intermediate



Review

Little Florence is dared to enter the mysterious house on Flattop Hill. Rumor has it that children who enter the house on the hill never return, but become one of the stumps that fill the hillside. Attracted by the mystery, Florence sets out at night to discover for herself if the rumors are true. She climbs the hill, enters the house, goes past creatures, and breeches the final door. It is unclear what happens to the courageous little heroine, but a new stump does indeed appear.

The book falls a bit short of expectation. The continuous rhyme is awkward and uncomfortable, with juxtaposed words that make the meaning unclear. The overall gist of the tale has a nice spine-tingly feel, but it never achieves a smooth crescendo of meaning or clarity. Too much of the tale is left to the imagination and too little is coherent. The illustrations are very derivative of Edward Gorey, and fans of his style will enjoy the artwork. The story's hypothesis is intriguing but insufficiently executed, a one-time read at best.