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Little Pinto and the Wild Horses of Mustang Canyon

Sarah Checketts

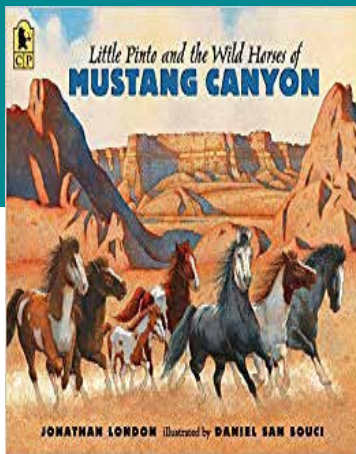
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Book Review

Little Pinto and the Wild Horses of Mustang Canyon

Author

Jonathan London

Illustrator

Daniel San Souci

Reviewer

Sarah Checketts

Rating

Dependable

Level

Toddler, Preschool,
Primary

Pages

40

Year

2002

Publisher

Candlewick Press

ISBN

9780763695125

Little Pinto and the Wild Horses of Mustang Canyon is a story of a young colt, barely a day old at the beginning, who belongs to a wild herd that runs free in Mustang Canyon. They run together seeking water, safety, community. The leader of the herd, Old White Face, protects his family from stranger horses and other dangers, such as a plane. In all the excitement and adrenaline, Little Pinto - who scrambles to keep up - falls into the roaring river. Managing to survive, he is reunited with his parents and back to running freely through the beautiful landscapes of the canyons.

The illustrations for this story are magnificent. The watercolors used create a feeling that the reader is in the desert along with the mustang. San Souci, the illustrator, skillfully painted the horses and surroundings to look realistic regarding proportion, movement, and lighting. The masterfully painted landscapes that span the length of two pages help the reader to feel a part of the story's world. The many hues in the canyon walls and desert grasses and the horses themselves create feelings of awe and tranquility. While the story itself is simple and short, the ideas of the importance of the family bond and goodwill within one's community are easily understood by all readers regardless of age.