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The Iridescence of Birds: A Book About Henri Matisse

Haley Cook

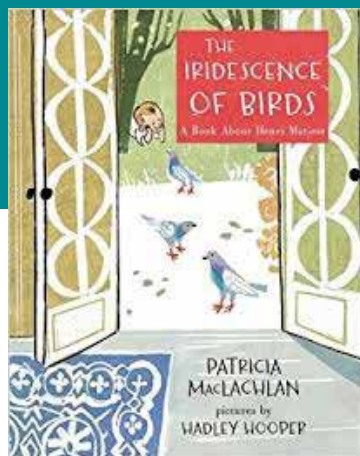
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Book Review

The Iridescence of Birds: A Book About Henri Matisse

Author

Patricia MacLachlan

Illustrator

Hadley Hooper

Reviewer

Haley Cook

Rating

Excellent

Level

Preschool, Primary

Pages

40

Year

2014

Publisher

Roaring Brook Press

ISBN

9781596439481

Henri Matisse grew up in northern France where the weather was dreary and the sun was rarely seen, but this didn't mean that there was no color in Henri's life. He is surrounded by colorful plates that his mother paints and the pigeons that he takes care of. With the guiding hand of his mother, Henri observes life around him. This inspires his own paintings and leads him to create his own colors by mixing paint to show what he observes and counterbalance the grey city of France. Matisse eventually grows up and continues to create art, with the influence of his childhood and his mother still seen clearly in these pieces.

MacLachlan has created an informational picture book that gives an insight into the life of Henri Matisse and the inspiration for many of his pieces. The illustrator, Hadley Hooper, spent many hours researching the techniques and works of Matisse to guide the illustrations. Hooper has made them more visually appealing to children, since Matisse tends to use bright, vibrant colors that children might find uncomfortable to look at. The text of the story contains sentences that are split up across multiple pages, usually three to four pages per sentence. This gives the book a choppy feeling and creates a plot that is harder for readers to follow. Overall, MacLachlan has created an appealing, polished piece that helps children learn more about the founder of the Fauvism art movement, Henri Matisse.