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Green Green: a Community Gardening Story

Cynthia Frazier

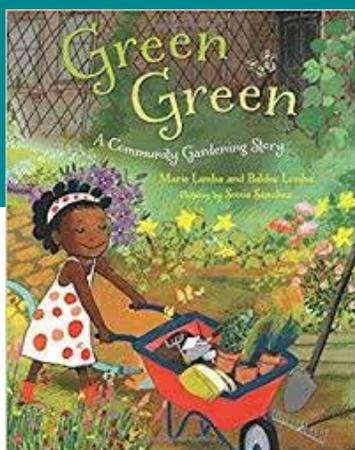
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Book Review

Green Green: a Community Gardening Story

Author

Marie Lamba and Baldev

Illustrator

Sonia Sánchez

Reviewer

Cynthia Frazier

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Toddler, Preschool,
Primary

Pages

32

Year

2017

Publisher

Farrar Straus Giroux

ISBN

9780316320566

‘Green green, fresh and clean’ describes the country where smiling children play in lush grass while birds sing and butterflies flit from flower to flower. ‘Brown, brown dig the ground’ describes what happens as bulldozers encroach as the city grows and tall buildings are built. Soon there is not much left of the green space but a garbage filled weedy empty lot. But with an idea of ‘working together’ to clean out the trash a beautiful place is created in the neighborhood. Green spaces spread from a small community park and garden space to spots of flowers and plants next to buildings, on terraces, window sills and rooftops. ‘Green green, keep it clean’ inspires all people of all ages and races to make a difference in the world we live in. The last pages of the book share ideas about the creation of community gardens, the importance of bees and butterflies and how to make simple butterfly decorations.

This book is beautifully illustrated in colored pencil by Sonia Sánchez, an Eisner Award winning artist. It was written by Marie Lamba, an author with over 100 published articles and her husband Baldev Lamba. Mr. Lamba is a professor of Landscape Architecture at Temple University and President of the Pennsylvania –Delaware Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture that supports legislation to promote green spaces in cities. Green Green was a Best in Rhyme nominee in 2017, for the short words of verse on each double page of colorful and evocative illustrations. Though a picture book, it is appropriate for children in nursery school to sixth grade and could be used to start discussions about the importance of green space that attracts birds, butterflies and bees, environmental change, community gardens, and urban revitalization.