



2018

Heartbeat

Karen Abbott

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Book Review

Heartbeat



Author

Evan Turk

Illustrator

Evan Turk

Reviewer

Karen Abbott

Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary

A new baby whale grows within her mother with one heartbeat strong and sure. She is born, and together the mother and child sing songs in unison until a whaling vessel surrounds them with harpoons. Tragedy ensues and an expansive look at the many ways whale products have advanced mankind is shown in picture after picture. Then a little girl's heart begins to beat in tune with the whale's and the harmony of life throughout the universe begins to heal and the missing beat begins anew.

From the beauty of new life to the tragedy of life taken, this book is an ocean of emotion. The book is beautifully illustrated with text artfully incorporated into the images so that they blend seamlessly into one voice, mirroring the message of unity and life. The death of the mother whale and the images of the harpoons are not bloody but are jarring, so little ones may need some conversation about the images to process what is happening. The beauty of the message and how it so well conveyed make this book a must-read.

Pages

56

Year

2018

Publisher

Atheneum

ISBN

9781481435208