



2019

Tigers & Tea with Toppo

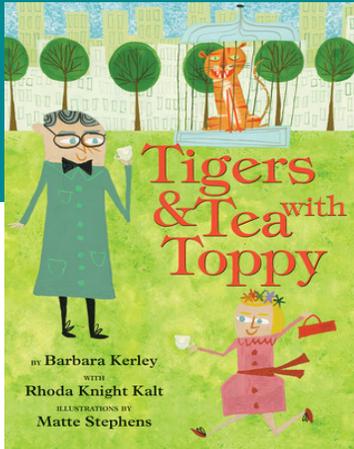
Nan Rao

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Book Review

Tigers & Tea with Toppy

Author

Barbara Kerley and Rhoda Knight Kalt

Illustrator

Matte Stephens

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Reviewer

Nan Rao

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Preschool, Primary

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Pages

40

Year

2018

Publisher

Schlastic Press

ISBN

9781338134278

Fridays are everyone's favorite day of the week, and that certainly rings true for Rhoda, the granddaughter of wildlife artist Charles R. Knight. Every Friday after school, Rhoda embarks on an exciting fieldtrip with her Grandpa Toppy through the halls of American Museum of Natural History where his grandpa has dedicated his many famous paintings. Despite Toppy's poor eyesight, his art pieces create a vivid ancient world that sparks the fascination of Rhoda and other museum visitors. Their weekend adventure continues with a visit to the Central Park Zoo. Toppy's fascinating tales of the animals often creates a wonderful connection between strangers, and he often invites those people home for tea.

The book retells a wonderful memory that Rhoda has growing up with her world famous grandfather painter Charles R. Knight. She invites the reader to catch a glimpse of the passion her grandfather has for animals and the dedication he has in sharing that with the rest of the world through his talented artwork. The book illustrations are whimsical and especially heartwarming as the illustrator similar to Toppy also has vision impairments. This story provides a small memorable piece of the life and legacy of someone who chooses to follow his heart. It is an inspiration to young reader and encourages them to follow their dreams through perseverance and hard work.