



2020

Tomorrow

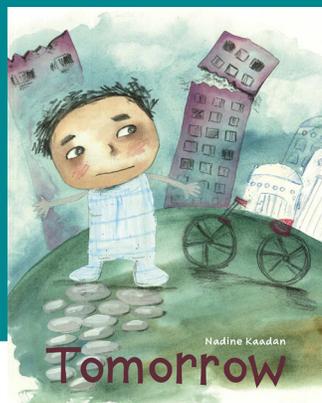
Jennifer Padgett

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Book Review

Tomorrow

Author

Nadine Kaadan

Illustrator

Nadine Kaadan

Reviewer

Jennifer Padgett

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary

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Pages

32

Year

2018

ISBN

9781911373438

Publisher

Lantana Publishing

Torn apart by the manifestations of war, a child can no longer live as children often do. Yazan finds himself surrounded by loneliness and boredom, spending days making paper planes, doodling on paper, and making formations out of pillows. One day, when he cannot stand the monotony and isolation of being inside, he dares to venture outside into the dangerous streets on his little red bicycle. As loud sounds explode all around him, he contemplates if he should continue on to the nearby park. His father finds him, and silently, they walk home together hand in hand. His mother is delighted by his return and decides she will take up painting again, but this time it won't be canvas that she'll use. She will cover his bedroom wall with the beautiful scenery of a park of which he could only dream.

Tomorrow is a timely piece of children's literature that sheds light on war-torn countries. Yazan, an early elementary school-aged youth in Syria, has lost all sense of normalcy. Surrounded by worries youth shouldn't have to bear, his reality speaks louder than words. The author of this thought-provoking and empathy-triggering picture book beautifully brings this difficult topic to the reach and ultimate understanding of young readers. Kaadan masterfully weaves common childhood themes of family, friendship, isolation, and the need for adventure into her story, making it relatable for children ages 6-10. The story she craftily weaves is alluring and almost perplexing in a way that will provoke further questions from the reader. Perfect for use in social studies classrooms, this book will bring awareness to current events as well as widen students' horizons.

*Contains mild violence.