



2020

Cherry Blossom and Paper Planes

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Padgett, Jennifer (2020) "Cherry Blossom and Paper Planes," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 41: Iss. 11, Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol41/iss11/5>

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Book Review

Cherry Blossom and Paper Planes

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Illustrator

Sanne te Loo

Reviewer

Jennifer Padgett

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary

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Pages

48

Year

2020

ISBN

9781782505617

Publisher

Floris Books

Adin and Dina are the best of friends, and they love to climb the lush fruit trees surrounding them. They pick cherries, savoring their sweet taste and using their juices to draw on each others faces. Then Adin tells Dina his mom wants a job in the city, and before he heads to his new home, she hands him a bag of cherry pits. On lonely days, Adin throws some off his balcony, hoping they'll travel far. When reunited for a visit, he places more of them inside paper airplanes and flies them through the sky. When Dina rides her bicycle towards Adin's on a cold, wintry day, she stops and pushes pits into the frozen ground. As the sunshiny days of spring arrive, Adin and Dina look across the landscape and see they've created a magical path of cherry blossoms outlining the way to each other.

This is a beautiful story about a friendship that marks two young lives with memories to last a lifetime. Readers will be deeply touched by the bond that Adin and Dina share and the ingenious way they fashion a trail from one residence to the other. Their relationship is endearing because they refuse to let time or distance tear them apart. But the author also eloquently shows how both try to threaten their companionship. For example, Adin begins wearing clothes to look more like a city boy than the cherry juice-cheeked country boy Dina grew up knowing him to be. Their friendship ultimately wins out, leaving readers with warm, joyful feelings. The illustrations throughout are gorgeous, providing the perfect backdrops to this unforgettable text.