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Moth: An Evolution Story

Jennifer Padgett

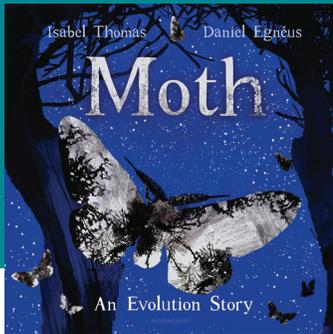
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Book Review

Moth: An Evolution Story

Author

Isabel Thomas

Illustrator

Daniel Egneus

Reviewer

Jennifer Padgett

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary

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Pages

48

Year

2019

ISBN

9781547600205

Publisher

Bloomsbury Children's
Books

Light and black peppered moths have many commonalities. They both begin their journeys evolving from their protective cocoons into insects with delicate wings. Most are speckled and freckled, though occasionally, they're born with wings the color of charcoal, appearing as dark as night. Over time, the light peppered moths win the game of survival and reign the day and night. Then, as the world transitions into one of factories that pollute the atmosphere and machines fueled by coal, tree branches soak up the blackness that surrounds them. Something miraculous happens, and the black peppered moths return, multiply, and camouflage with the denigrated trees. The light peppered moths, unable to blend in, become easy prey. They nearly disappear, until the world decides to change as cities become greener and the air cleaner. Today, after years of fighting to stay alive, both variations coexist in all their brilliance.

This is a beautifully and intricately illustrated book of adaptation and survival. The pictures are stunningly crafted, adding life and vibrancy to a masterfully written text. The evolutionary story of this fascinating species is described using rhyme, simile, and other rich literary features. Some words appear in eye-catching curvy patterns, while others drift across the sky and onto the face of a smoke-covered building. The content is ample and inclusive enough to keep readers interested but not overwhelmed with too much specificity and length. Written at approximately a second- or early third-grade reading level, this book is one that elementary school science teachers will cherish, because readers will return to it time after time to catch a glimpse of beauty and gain a seed of knowledge.