



2020

What I Like Most

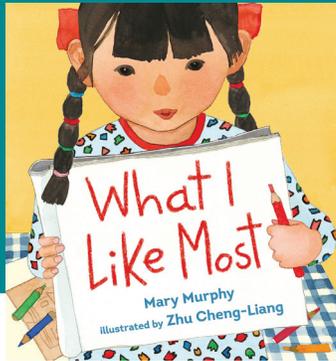
Jennifer Pagett

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Book Review

What I Like Most

Author

Mary Murphy

Illustrator

Zhu Cheng-Liang

Reviewer

Jennifer Pagett

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Rating

Excellent

Level

Preschool, Primary

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Pages

32

Year

2020

ISBN

9781536209402

Publisher

Candlewick

A girl takes stock of all the things that bring her happiness. There's the window through which she sees the mailman, children at play, and trees that will elongate as time passes. There's her grandmother's sweet apricot jam, spread across her toast and eaten with delight. There's the river that flows gently and houses ducks and fish. There's also the special book with a girl who looks like her on it, and the teddy bear she's had since she a baby. All these things will change over time. They'll get used up, or simply wear out. Some, like the river, will remain but transform over the passing years. One constant that will never change, though, is the love that exists between the girl and her mother, and in the end, that is what she treasures most.

This is a thoughtful, poignant story about gratitude and love as it exists through the eyes of a child and through the depth of the bond between a parent and child. The positive, reflective tone illuminates the pages, casting a ray of sunshine across them. The optimism and innocence projected in this text is wonderfully refreshing, and children will feel hopeful and lighthearted after reading it. The gorgeous, rainbow-colored hues and detailed, realistic illustrations throughout will draw readers in. Journeying along with the girl's experiences, they may even be inspired to share some of their greatest likings. With a second grade reading level, this book is ideal for children ages four to eight.