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Peace by Wendy Anderson Halperin

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Author: Halperin, Wendy Anderson

Title: Peace

Year of Publication: 2013

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

ISBN: 9780689825521

Number of pages: 40

Rating: Outstanding

Reading/Interest Level: Primary; All

Keywords: Peace; Neighborhoods; Schools; World; Nations; Cities; Homes; Hearts; Quotes; Art; Illustration; Poetry; Picture Book

Review:

More than a simple children’s picture book, this is a valuable book about the philosophy of peace and what it would take to have peace in the world. Each page highlights a line of the poem on peace accompanied by illustrations that capture the thoughts. For example, a page showing babies from different nations dressed in diapers, suggests that when all children are taught to have peace in their hearts, there will be peace in our nations and thus peace in the world. The poem goes on ‘When there is peace in our hearts, there will be peace in our homes’, schools, etc. The author dedicates the book to ‘your senses’ and suggests that seeing, touching, smelling tasting and hearing can help us to find Peace. Throughout the book Halperin uses soft colors in detailed images to depict life scenes. In the center of the book is art work by elementary school children depicting ‘peace in our hearts’. Many of the scenes show positive changes from previous ones to show how everything becomes different when peace enters hearts. Additionally each page is artistically laid out with short, thought provoking quotes from 64 people between and around the pictures. This is a thoughtful book that could easily generate conversation and it could easily be used in family or classroom discussions.

Reviewer: Cynthia Frazier

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