

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

Author

Irving, A.J

Illustrator

Illustrated by Kip Alizadeh

Reviewer

Baker, Laura

Pages

Unpaged

Price

\$18.99

ISBN

978-0-593-43044-6

Publisher & Date

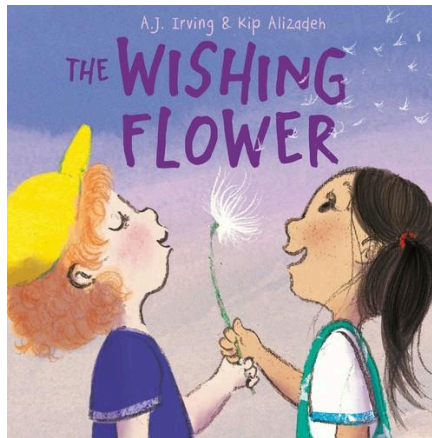
Knopf, 2023

Classification

Fiction

Grade level

K-2

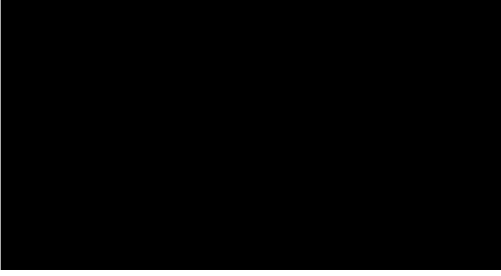


Book Review: WISHING FLOWER, THE

Birdie is an imaginative, sweet child. She loves nature, books, and discovering things others don't see. She is also very shy. She feels "inside out" around others. When her classmates are playing jump rope or are on the swings, Birdie prefers to immerse herself in the pages of a book or to find a dandelion---a wishing flower--and send her wishes soaring. All that changes when the new girl, Sunny, comes to school. Sunny likes nature, too, and the pair hit it off, drawing pictures together, eating lunch together, and eagerly waving hello when they meet. Birdie looks for Sunny each day and always feels warmed by Sunny's smile. She blushes when Sunny chooses to sit by her and feels her heart flutter like a hummingbird's wings when Sunny grabs her hand to run to recess. Finally, Birdie musters her courage to invite Sunny to something. They share books, braid each other's hair, run and laugh together, and even share a wishing flower, each declaring that their unnamed wish has already come true.

This is a book about belonging and the search for friends. It could also be about something more. It could be interpreted as being about friendship, it could be about a platonic crush, or it could be about stronger emotions. In interviews, the author confirms that she was writing with an LGBTQ viewpoint. Given that the characters are young girls, nothing is openly stated or shown, so it will depend on the interpretation of the readers to decide what the hints mean. The joy of finding a friend is one that will





resonate with readers, but libraries should be aware of the various ways the book can be interpreted and be prepared to respond to questions from both adults and children.

