

# LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

## Author

Rhee, Helena Ku

## Illustrator

Illustrated by Stella Lim with  
Ji-Hyuk Kim

## Reviewer

Barrington, Susannah

## Pages

Unpaged

## Price

\$17.99

## ISBN

978-1-5362-0993-8

## Publisher & Date

Candlewick, 2023

## Classification

Fiction

## Grade Level

K

## Book Review: SORA'S SEASHELLS

Beautiful dynamic watercolor illustrations accompany Helena Ku Rhee's straightforward story about a kindergarten-aged girl named Sora. Sora collects seashells on the beach with her visiting Korean grandmother, but her grandmother always leaves the best shell somewhere for others to find as "a gift...for anyone who sees its beauty." After her grandmother returns home, Sora starts kindergarten and gets bullied for having a "weird" name. On top of this stress, her grandmother passes away, and in the ensuing distress, Sora discovers the meaning of her name, a new appreciation for her grandmother's seashell gifting habits, and the courage to stand up to and reconcile with her classmates.

Each page-spread offers colorful, emotion-laden illustrations with either short paragraphs or single sentences of prose. The characters' facial expressions and the dynamic action shots deftly support the concise prose. The illustrator, Stella Lim, based her work on sketches from Ji-Hyuk Kim, whose inspiration comes through in the sketch-like style of the watercolor art. A gentle introduction to the existence of grandparent-death and bullying at school, SORA'S SEASHELLS is recommended for public and school libraries.

