

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

Author

Yuly, Toni

Illustrator

Illustrated by the author

Reviewer

Baker, Laura

Pages

Unpaged

Price

\$18.99

ISBN

978-1-6659-1718-6

Publisher & Date

Atheneum Books, 2023

Classification

Fiction

Grade Level

PreK-1

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Book Review: SLOWLY SLOWLY

Toni Yuly gives us a truly beautiful book—one surely destined for an award—about taking the time to notice the small, slow changes around us. A small child in an orange-colored, hooded jacket runs through a field past a tree outside but then pauses to take note of something. When we turn the page, we see the same field and tree, but this time, we see the child kneeling to look at a tiny snail creeping along a blade of grass and a little turtle on a rock. The pages go on to show the same field with the same tree days later, but with another tiny detail added. A spider starts a web, and someone starts to build a house in the far distance. Subsequent pages show the field and tree later on, with the spiderweb fully formed. This time the house has a framing. As the seasons go on, a bird builds a nest and raises young, the tree buds and produces fruit, the turtles have added to their number, and the orange-jacketed child makes friends with someone from the family who has moved in to the now finished house in the distance.

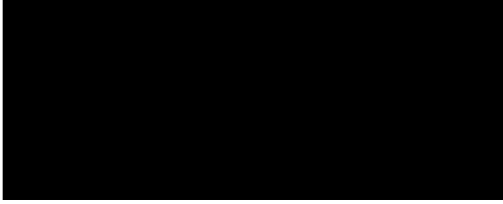
This is a remarkable book for both its story and its artwork. Yuly proves the saying that less is more. She creates beautiful images that are simple and clean. Her minimalist style combines with a hazy, soft-textured art that at once captures readers' attention and creates a calm feeling of comfort. The progression of the pages is most effective. Neither the text nor the composition points out the small changes in the landscape. Readers have to notice the changes that occur with the seasons and the progression of small things in the background, like the house, a bird's nest, and the turtles by the pond. The story is presented in a way that gets readers to slow down, look, and appreciate—which is the point of the entire story.

Sometimes really good things, like nature and even friendships, take time, but they are there to appreciate if one slows down enough to notice. This is the perfect quiet book for one-on-one story time and for encouraging



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readers to pause and notice what is around them.



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