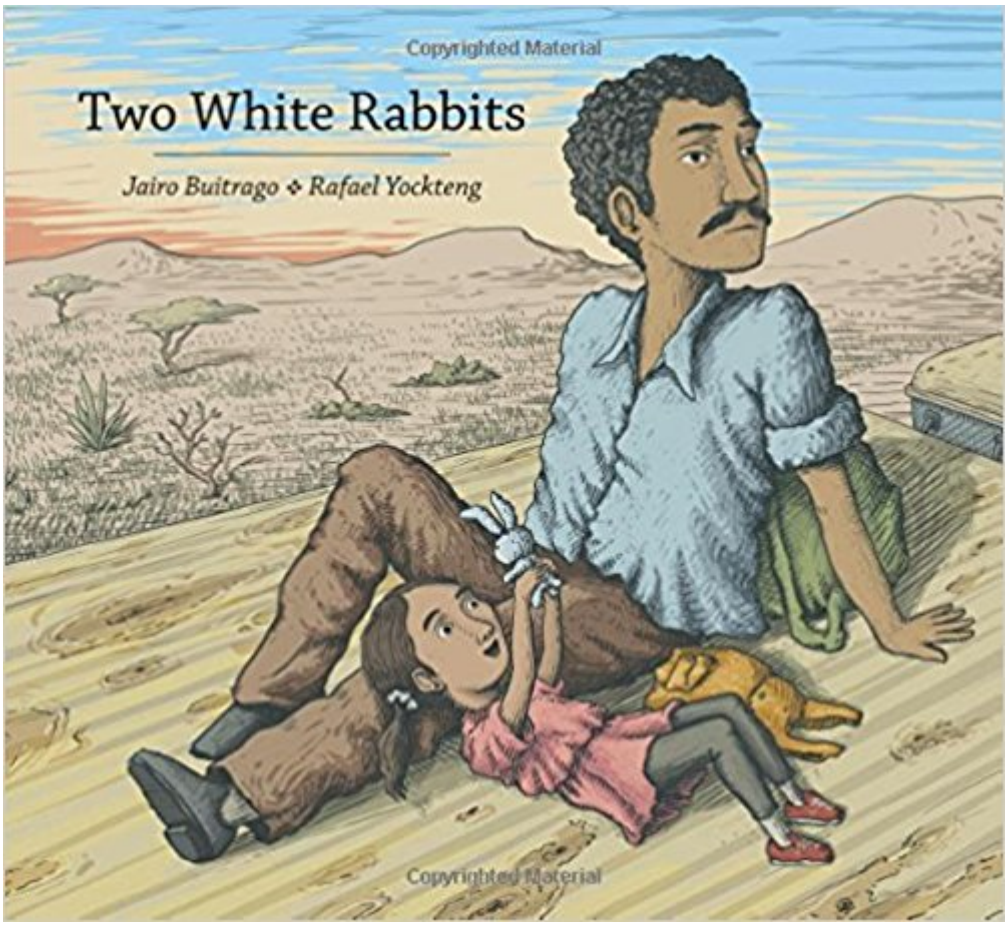
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Two White Rabbits



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Synopsis

In this moving and timely story, a young child describes what it is like to be a migrant as she and her father travel north toward the U.S. border.They travel mostly on the roof of a train known as The Beast, but the little girl doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know where they are going. She counts the animals by the road, the clouds in the sky, the stars. Sometimes she sees soldiers. She sleeps, dreaming that she is always on the move, although sometimes they are forced to stop and her father has to earn more money before they can continue their journey.As many thousands of people, especially children, in Mexico and Central America continue to make the arduous journey to the U.S. border in search of a better life, this is an important book that shows a young migrantÃ¢â ¬â„¢s perspective.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 490 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books (October 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1554987415

ISBN-13: 978-1554987412

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.5 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #180,620 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Mexico #169 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Trains #353 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

K-Gr 3Ã¢â ¬â •A young girl and her father face challenges together as they move from place to place. They travel by foot and by train and are happy to catch a ride with passersby when they can. Sometimes their journey is delayed (or derailed) when they must stop because of soldiers or if father has to earn more money to continue along their way. Told entirely through the sensibility of the child, the narration informs readers that "the people who are taking us don't always take us where we are going." The young girl passes the time by counting the interesting items she sees

such as animals, people, clouds, and stars. She is very curious about where they are headed, but never receives an answer to her query. Yet, she is content because she has her daddy and her two white rabbits. This simple, yet poignant picture book beautifully illustrates the life of one migrating family. Set in Central America or Mexico, it shows the arduous journey north to the United States in search of a better life. This book is a great tool for introducing immigration, and can be appreciated on many levels. The digitally created illustrations are detailed and full of expression, telling a story of love, struggle, and determination. VERDICT An important and timely picture book for every library collection.Ã¢â ¬â •Amy Shepherd, St. Anne's Episcopal School, Middleton, DE

A Kirkus Reviews Best Picture Book of the YearA School Library Journal Best Picture Book of the Year A NCTE Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children Recommended BookA USBBY Outstanding International BookA Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book of the YearSelected for the Notable Books for a Global Society list"Hope and hardship coexist in this haunting look at refugees fleeing home in hopes of a safer, more secure life." — Publishers Weekly, starred review"An important and timely picture book for every library collection." — School Library Journal, starred review"...it's a masterpiece of understatement. In leaving readers with much to wonder about, the book packs the most powerful of punches." — Kirkus Reviews, starred review"Two White RabbitsÃ Â belongs on bookshelves everywhere: itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s an extraordinary, compellingÃ Â first step to understanding and empathy, and a persuasiveÃ Â teaching tool to inspire effective doing." — BookDragon"Older readers will appreciate the allegory, and younger ones the simplicity of this spare immigration tale." — Booklist

This powerful story about the refugee experience of migrating from Central America to the United States is written, translated, and illustrated by people who understand the struggles and hardships people endure before making a decision to journey to the USA. It is unlike any other book on this topic. Justifiably an award-winner and on many best book lists, Two White Rabbits will stay in your mind - and in your students' thoughts too.

I think it's important to teach my children the experiences of others. We live in Texas and we live around immigrants who have worked hard to come here. I want my son and daughter to appreciate their journey and drive to be here.

Immigration story featuring a father and young daughter. The daughter learns to count as they travel. Place is not clear but most characters look Hispanic and there are Spanish signs so you could assume they are traveling from Central America to the north. Illustrations by Rafael Yockteng are very good in depicting more than the text is sharing.

This picture bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s narrative style uniquely reflects the characteristics of many graphic novels, allowing much of the story to be told through its images. Moreover, the illustrations in Two White Rabbits, created with thin, ink-drawn contours and textured, scratchy, digitized cross-hatching, immediately evoke the artistic style of graphic novel illustrations.This simple yet compelling story narrates the immigrant journey of a young girl and her father as they cross through Central America to come to the United States. Although it is made clear through various context cluesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •the landscape and geography of the illustrations, big signs written in Spanish, and the phenotypes of the charactersÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •that this is a Central American migration, the familyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s country of origin is never specified, nor is their destination. In effect, the story produces a seemingly-generic, non-descript story of immigration, reflecting the all-too-common occurrence of this real-life narrative. As noted by Kirkus Reviews, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“In leaving readers with much to wonder about, the book packs the most powerful of punches.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The story expertly captures the white-washing of immigrant narratives, both within literature and the media, as well as through legal and political responses (or lack thereof).Two White Rabbits focuses on one family amongst the hundreds of thousands who make this perilous journey each year. This immigrant narrative is so common that it cannot be confined to any one family or any one individual; rather, it is lived and experienced by countless families and individuals. This storyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s vagueness is one of its most sophisticated strengths, emerging as a poignant critique on human, immigrant and refugee rights. Although immigrants and refugees and, generally speaking, human beings, should never be reduced to mere numbers, identifiable only through saddening statistics, this compelling story reminds us that, lamentably, they often are.The story begins with a two-page spread of a little girl riding on the shoulders of her father, their arms spread out like wings as they run down the street with warm grins on their faces. The background is completely white, negative space, and instead of seeing a presumed backdrop of a city or town, all we see is the road, the sidewalk, and the girl with her dad. The words read: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“When we travel, I count what I see.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The narration is from the first-person perspective of the little girl. On the next page is another two-page spread with no words. The little girl and her father are bent down looking at the ground, where several hens and baby chicks scamper about.

The words on the previous page, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“I count what I see,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• subtly invite readers to count what they see on this wordless spread of images. Young readers could count how many baby chicks they see, how many hens, how many brown hens, how many white hens. This style invites readers to take the time to ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“readÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• the illustrations, number what they see, and make detailed observations. The beginning pages immediately set the tone for the book as a whole, letting readers know that the images are crucial for understanding the story. Again, as mentioned in the preceding paragraph, this picture book has the hallmarks of a graphic novel, with sparse, vague words that rely heavily on the storytelling ability of the images.The abundant white, negative space that we see on the first page continues throughout the story. Detailed images stop short, giving way to blank, white nothingness. This visual technique can be seen as a powerful reinforcement of the broader narrative, serving to symbolize the imminent erasure of this familyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s experiences.This pattern continues throughout the rest of the book: sparse words appear on one page, followed by a two-page spread of just images on the next. Not only does this approach contribute to the symbolism and literary poignancy of the story, but it also creates a wonderful exercise in counting, observation, and interpretation for young readers. The deliberate silences of the narrative, and the simplicity of the story line as a whole, grants teachers the opportunity to fill in these blanks with their students through a variety of potential lesson plans and activities: for example, a lesson on immigration narratives and refugee rights (for older students, perhaps); a lesson on the geographical landscapes of Central America (for intermediate students); or a lesson on counting and verbal description (for younger students).Buitrago dedicates this book to ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“my dear Adriana/ and the invisible walkers through/ the countries.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The mistreatment of and negligence towards South American immigrants, who are often, in fact, refugees, has stripped them of even more human rights, and rendered them ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“invisible walkers through countries,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• non-identifiable statistics, and, ultimately, a phenomenon in need of urgent attention.This book is at once simple and complex, generic and diverse, sweet and chilling, all of which contributes to its success. As a whole, it expertly renders difficult topics accessible and enriching for young children, reminding us, through it all, of the amazing power of the unsung heroes in our personal lives.

Summary: A little girl and her father are making the difficult journey from Central America or Mexico to the United States. The travel first by small boat, then on the top of a freight train. TheyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re delayed by soldiers, and must run away. Sometimes the father has to stop and work to earn more money. The story is told by the girl, who doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know

where theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re going. She passes the time counting birds, clouds, and soldiers. She plays with a boy when her father has to work. She wonders where they are going and how long it will take to get there. Grades K-2.Pros: A fascinating and eye-opening story for children living north of the border. The text, in the little girlÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s voice, doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t explain many of the things going on in the illustrations, like the father grabbing his daughter and fleeing from soldiers. There are few details given about their homeland, making the story more universalCons: ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s hard to understand whatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s going on just from reading the text. Young readers will need an adult to give the story some context.

A friend let me borrow this wonderfully written and illustrated book and after reading it twice I just had to write a review recommending it! Why does it have so few stars? I guess the publisher doesn't put in too much marketing efforts in promoting it. It's up to us readers to discover really great books that are under-appreciated or have yet to be found. The story is beautiful and heart-wrenching, and the illustration absolutely completes the book to perfection. Love it and would recommend it to adults and children of all ages. I admire and appreciate Author and Illustrator Jairo Buitrago and Rafael Yockteng for publishing this beautiful work.

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