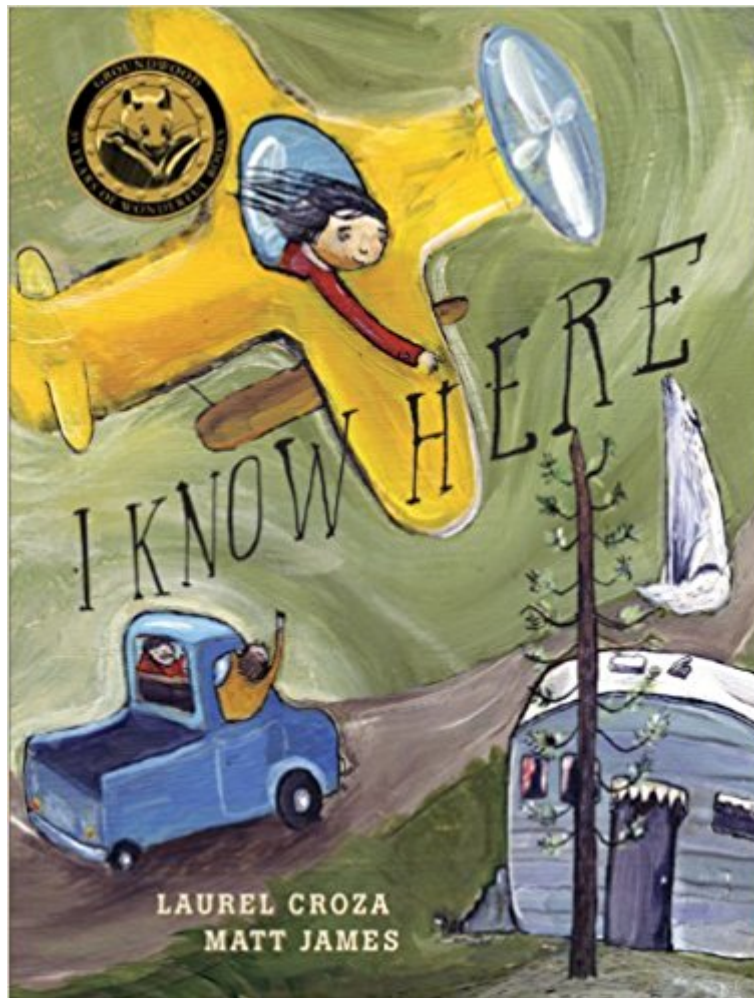




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I Know Here



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Synopsis

The little girl in this story lives in a trailer near a forest in Saskatchewan, where her father is building a dam. She knows and loves everything about the place, but the dam is nearly finished, and when summer comes the family will move to Toronto – a city marked by a big red star on the map at school. – “Have the people in Toronto seen what I’ve seen?” – the little girl asks, thinking of her road, her school, the forest where she plays hide-and-seek and where the wolf howls at night, the hill where she goes tobogganing in winter. And with her teacher’s help, she finds a way to keep everything she loves about home. This simple, beautifully written story, complemented by Matt James’s vibrant, imaginative illustrations, will resonate deeply with anyone who has had to leave their home for a new place.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 570 (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 44 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books; 35 Anv edition (September 24, 2013)

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Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

Gr 2-5 – Moving from rural Saskatchewan to the city holds a lot of opportunity for a girl and her brother. The young protagonist experiences her share of apprehension as well, – “This is where I live. I don’t know Toronto. I know here.” – Here – is first described as a single, trailer-lined road that runs from the dam that her father is working on to the school. Readers are then treated to the flora and fauna of the forest, hills, and creeks that the girl will miss. There’s

the man who delivers the groceries, her teacher, and her classmates, too. Miss Hendrickson suggests that she draw a picture encompassing all that she'd like to remember. She does and after sharing it with the class, she folds it away for safekeeping. "I will fold up the howl of the wolf and the smell of the fox in his cage...and the feel of my heart beating fast as I swooped over my road in a five-seater airplane. I will fold my drawing up small, put it safe in my pocket and I will take my road with me. To Toronto." The simple, straightforward text is spot-on in capturing the child's sensibilities and feelings. James's vibrant acrylic and India ink on panel artwork brings the girl's world to life, with its starkness, beauty, and haunting appeal. The stylized paintings at times have a surreal quality and are almost dreamlike in their composition. A regional look at a universal slice of childhood. Luann Toth, School Library Journal © Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Based on the author's childhood memories of leaving northeastern Saskatchewan for Toronto, this debut picture book captures a child's fear of moving with a touch of magic realism. Both words and pictures show a little girl's frustration and uncertainty when she learns that she will be uprooted ("I don't know Toronto") and her sadness at leaving behind what she knows and loves. Before she moves, she lives in a trailer park where her dad is building a dam, and energetic, colorful pictures in acrylic and india ink show her playing hide-and-seek in the forest, listening to wolves howl at night, and going to school with nine other kids: "only me in grade three." She is terrified of the city, and the pictures show her imagined images of big looming buildings that look like monsters. Kids facing their own wrenching upheavals will take heart in the girl's celebration of her roots and what she knows about herself and the world, all of which give her strength to move on. Preschool-Grade 2. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I purchased this for myself a while back after positive reviews just spoke to me and I'm so glad I did. The text is beautiful, poetic yet straightforward, as the little girl tries to gather up her memories in pictures and words for the impending move from the woods of Saskatchewan to the big city. It's really a universal theme, yet so particular to this girl and her surroundings. The illustrations are perfect. They're well described in the professional reviews so I won't try to think of more adjectives, but know they are wonderfully paired with the girl's emotions and impressions of the beloved place she's leaving and her worried feelings about the big city she is about to experience. I really love this

book.

This amazing little book is suitable for everyone because it addresses transitioning from one phase of life to another, as we all do. While written for children, adults can still comprehend the importance. I recommend this book to everyone who must make a change in their life and who may be a just a little apprehensive about it.

A poignant story for preschoolers, and a touch base for conversations on moving to a new home. The illustrations convey a strong sense of place. A keeper.

A little girl watched as her brother Doug excitedly raced down the stairs of their trailer shouting, "We're moving, we're moving to Toronto. When summer comes." Their father, who had been working on a dam in eastern Saskatchewan, would be leaving because its construction was almost complete. She really didn't know anything about Toronto, she only knew about where she was. The road she lived on had eight trailers. That she knew. The forest had lots of pine trees and she could recognize "the howling sound a wolf makes when it calls out at night in that very same forest." That she knew. She could smell the "fox's damp fur" before she smelled him, where a "good tobogganing hill" was, a creek that wound around the hill, and "the squishy spot by the beaver dam" where her sister caught frogs. That she knew. Toronto was something she didn't know anything about. It was the big red spot on the map and that was all she knew. She knew that the big yellow truck delivered groceries, that she was in grade three, that the dam was "built right across the North Saskatchewan River," and where her baby brother, Michael, was born. Did the people in Toronto know about where she lived? What could she take there that would remind her of her home? This is a beautifully touching story of a little girl who has to leave her home to move to Toronto, a place that doesn't know her. Sometimes it is difficult for children to move to another place, especially if they have lived in one home all their lives. As the little girl so aptly states, "I know here." She didn't know Toronto, but would be taking memories with her. This is one of those sweet happy/sad things that has happened to a lot of us. The artwork is very appealing with a certain childlike quality that somehow emphasizes how important childhood memories are to all of us. This book was understandably a winner of the Boston Globe Horn Book Award. If you are planning on moving, this is a very special book you might want to take a look at!

Due to my military career, by the time my son was 8 years old he had known four homes in three

cities across two states. Selfishly, I thought that at such a young age the moves wouldn't have too much of an impact on him. Sadly, I was wrong. The first move took him away from the beautiful Texas Gulf Coast beaches where he literally learned to walk barefoot in the sand. The second move took him away from his doting grandparents, and the final move removed him from the hustle and bustle of New York City. The announcement of every move was met with tears and the refrains of "I like it here. I don't want to go." When it came time to leave, he unwillingly entered the family van and sadly waved goodbye to everything he had grown to love. Perhaps this is why Laurel Croza's "I Know Here" struck so close to home with me. It's a children's book with a poignant story about a third-grade girl who lives in Canada's remote Saskatchewan region. One day, out of the blue, she learns that upon completion of her father's job working on a dam, the family will move across the country to Toronto. "This is where I live. I don't know Toronto. I know here," is her immediate reply when informed by her brother of the news. She then goes on to describe with passion and underlying heartache all the things she knows and loves: the forest, the howling wolf, the squishy spot by the beaver dam where her little sister catches frogs and her school, which is in a trailer at the end of the road. To help her cope with the move, her teacher has her draw a picture of something she has seen, something she would like to remember and take with her when she leaves. Inspired, the little girl draws pictures of everything she knows and folds the drawing tightly so it fits in her pocket so she can take it with her to her new home. The book's touching, relevant illustrations by Matt James add to the poignancy of the story as he captures the rustic images of Canada and the melancholy feelings the girl experiences when she realizes she's leaving the only world she has ever known. "I Know Here" is a moving tale of hope and resilience that will soothe the hearts of young and old alike who are facing a move. It offers the simple but inspiring message that saying goodbye doesn't mean you can't take the things you love and treasure with you safely in your memories.

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