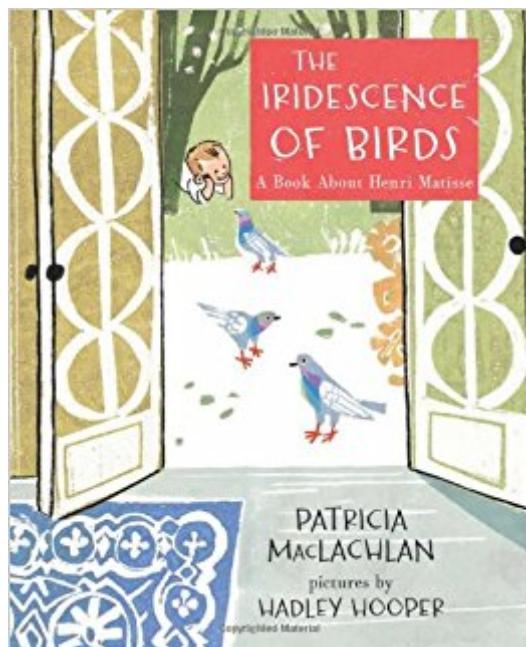


The book was found

The Iridescence Of Birds: A Book About Henri Matisse



Synopsis

If you were a boy named Henri Matisse who lived in a dreary town in northern France, what would your life be like? Would it be full of color and art? Full of lines and dancing figures? Find out in this beautiful, unusual picture book about one of the world's most famous and influential artists by acclaimed author and Newbery Medal-winning Patricia MacLachlan and innovative illustrator Hadley Hooper. A Neal Porter Book

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD240L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press (October 14, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1596439483

ISBN-13: 978-1596439481

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.4 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #170,698 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > History #99 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Art

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Gr 1-4 •This richly textured picture book looks at Henri Matisse's inspiration as a young boy, beginning with a spread depicting the gray, clammy French village in which he grew up. But while it is cold and damp outside, Matisse's mother fills the interior of their home with light through pattern and color. She paints natural scenes on plates, allows her son to mix and experiment with paint, and covers every possible surface with color. They are surrounded by their art. This look at Matisse's creativity and artistic process is strong and unusual for several reasons. MacLachlan concentrates on Matisse's mother and her influence on his eventual career. Her poetic text doesn't give the specific details of the man's life, but readers come away with a real sense of his art. Hooper's art, a combination of relief printmaking and digital techniques, expands readers' understanding of the text. They have strong solid lines, contrasting with the wide range of pastel

colors. Hooper isn't derivative of Matisse's style but rather takes his tools and creates something new. On one spread, the background features a piece of Matisse's art; careful viewers will notice the artist in the foreground, growing from a boy into a man. The book gives off a creative energy that readers of all ages will find fulfilling. The simplicity of the text makes this book appropriate to use as a springboard to Matisse's work for even the very young. A poetic look at creativity, both natural and nurtured. •Susan E. Murray, formerly at Glendale Public Library, AZ

Starred Review Could an essential, spirited picture book capture the brightness of a childhood that inspired a lifetime of genius? In two long, lyrical sentences, MacLachlan wonders about the early years of Henri Matisse, who grew up in a cold, gray city in northern France and was warmed by the colors of the paints, fabrics, and birds that surrounded him. Posing her thoughts as questions, MacLachlan distills Matisse's first experiences, assembling them in rough detail to communicate their emotional impact, much like the Fauvist master her subject became.

Hooper's vivid block-print illustrations vibrate and hum, echoing Matisse's lively sense of dynamic composition and brilliant color. In expansive spreads that fill the pages, she shows us a boy who thrilled to his environs, especially their hues, patterns, and iridescence. A central spread has young Henri climbing a ladder on the left while his grown self stands on the opposite side, demonstrating inspiration that has been realized. Thereafter, the child and adult Matisse occupy the pages together, sharing the space, now filled with the artist's iconic imagery, and fulfilling their communal promise. Endnotes by the author and illustrator illuminate the depth and specificity of their research and suggest further reading. Grades K-3. --Thom Barthelmess

An absolutely lovely book. I bought it for my 18 month old great-nephew who is in love with books that show creative colors and images. He knows birds from bees and butterflies and identifies each. While he's very respectful of his books (for an 18 month old), I was very pleased with how sturdily bound the book was and the quality of the paper. I suspect this will be a book he'll keep for decades. You can tell by the image I've included, how happy he was.

Love the story - it is easy for children to understand and become inspired by. The illustrations are gorgeous - they give homage to Matisse's work but are in beautiful combinations of line-drawings, color and texture within a printmaking style unique to Hooper. I absolutely adore this book and can't wait to give them as gifts to young and old friends!

Another elementary level reader that I use with my struggling middle school readers. One, it's about creativity and expression of oneself. Two, my struggling readers often miss the point in a text; both the text and illustrations encourage students to think about what is influencing them. Three, it's exposure to Matisse, which they may not otherwise experience.

This book entices the reader into the book with the relationship of child and mother. The text and fabulous illustrations pull the reader through the story as the child grows to manhood. Colors and images honor the spirit of Matisse's work with care and love.

I didn't fully understand the brilliance of THE IRIDESCENCE OF BIRDS until my daughter started to bring it to me to be read over and over and over again. But this book really is brilliant. Using simple, but beautiful language, the author tells the story of Henri Matisse in a way that both delights children and allows them to relate to this artistic genius. And the pictures are utterly charming. My 2 year-old absolutely loves this book!

A wonderful book that I read about on the Brainpickings weekly blog and ordered right away for my "grandchildren of choice". Mothers reported that it was a hit! It is a beautifully written & illustrated very simple biography of Matisse--highly recommended for the artistic child!

Beautifully illustrated story about the colorful life of Matisse. Perfect for a young artist or a big one who appreciates well done children's books. Very well made book with thick paper too.

This book is perfect for introducing a budding young person to a great artist. It gives a simply basic reason for his love of colors, windows and birds and makes a wonderful gift!

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