

CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Nicola Mason

All the World

By Liz Garton Scanlon

Illustrated by Marla Frazee

La Jolla, CA: Beach Lane Books, 2009

All the World invites readers to contemplate the beauty of the simple things in life. From work to play, author Liz Garton Scanlon, presents common, every-day tasks, the beauty of sharing them, and the reality that “All the world is all of us.” The book provides a sense of humility, presence, an appreciation for community, and a strong realization that small things are a part of a bigger picture.

This book evokes an inviting calm. Flowing rhythms and alliterations feel like lullabies. A sunny morning, which turns into a rainy afternoon and concludes with a quiet evening, takes us from beach, to market, to park, to restaurant, to home. Every page invokes a sense of community.

Nanas, papas, cousins, kin

Piano, harp, and violin

Babies passed from neck to knee

All the World is you and me

The book's simplicity and gentle storytelling are exquisitely illustrated by Marla Frazee, winner of the 2010 Caldecott Honor Award and the 2009 *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book. Frazee's illustrations reinforce the compassionate message of the book. She shows intertwining events seen from different perspectives. Hidden landscapes connected by people and objects in various settings evoke familiarity. Every page provides a rich sketch of the story, drawing the listener into a world of awareness and compassion.

Scanlon collaborated with author Natalie Dias Lorenzi to design a curriculum guide that connects various subjects with the book. Available as a free download on her website, <http://www.lizgartonscanlon.com/All-the-World.html>, the guide helps students boost vocabulary, explore colors, and create instruments,

puppets, silhouettes, and artwork related to the book's elements. Suggestions for mindful listening, reflective exercises, and critical listening provide opportunities for assessment and creative ideas.

This is an ideal platform for teachers to collaborate and integrate different subjects. For the music teacher, the book also provides a rich improvisation resource. Bountiful words, colors, objects, and feelings presented in a constantly rhyming sequence could also serve as a wonderful drone for adding melodic content. Most words are consistently presented as quarter or eighth note patterns,

Table, bowl, cup, spoon

Hungry tummy, supper's soon

Butter, flour, big black pot

All the world is cold and hot

All the World conveys a timeless message highly appropriate and adaptable to the elementary music classroom. Illustrated with exquisite detail, the book celebrates connections, the contemplation of important things in life, and the need for taking time to think and be still. It is an enchanting read and a visually inspiring delight. ■

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