



Look Up!

Jung Jin-Ho , Kim My Hyun (Translator)

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Dramatic aerial views and an expressive, subtle palette tell a story about a wheelchair-bound girl looking down from her balcony at passersby below and urging them to Look up!

Dog walkers, a bike rider, a kite flier, and dozens of commuters walk by without taking any notice. Then a boy stops and looks up. He lies on the sidewalk so the girl can see him better. A woman joins him. Soon nine people and one dog are lying down and looking up. The girl looks up at the reader and smiles.

Art and text that are dramatic and elegant tell a story of kindness, compassion and friendship. This book was awarded an Opera Prima Honor at the Bologna Book Fair."

Look Up! Details

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Author : Jung Jin-Ho , Kim My Hyun (Translator)

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From Reader Review Look Up! for online ebook

Teresa Bateman says

This Korean import gives a unique look at perspective and friendship. A few words of text accompany black and white illustrations looking down at the top of a child's head and the sidewalk below. Bicycles, people, pets, and umbrellas all pass by, as the little girl wishes for someone to look up and acknowledge her. She clearly wants to be part of the wider world. Careful observers will see that the girl is in a wheelchair, but this is not emphasized. When one person looks up soon another does as well. Then passers-by begin to interact with the child above who eventually goes down to join them, at which point the illustrations have a little color added. This is a deceptively simple, largely wordless book. It is, nevertheless, a thoughtful book with a greater depth than one would initially assume.

David Schaafsma says

Spare Korean black and white picturebook from the perspective of a kid in a wheelchair looking out over a balcony and saying hi to passersby, some of whom lie down on the sidewalk and look up to him so that he doesn't have to only see the top of their heads. Sweet.

Barbara says

Interesting illustrations featuring mostly cobblestones and passersby accompany a story of compassion and one with which anyone who has been sick, injured or separated from those down below will be able to relate. In the book's pages, a girl in a wheelchair looks down at the street below. Many individuals pass by, one walking a dog, one riding a bike, and even someone flying a kite. As the girl peers down, the scenes change over the different pages with umbrellas being raised at one point to ward off the rain. Her entreaties for someone to look up and see her are ignored by everyone until one boy stops and takes the time to look up. After he invites her to come down, and she explains that she can only see the tops of everyone's heads from where she is, he lies down on the cobblestones. Following his lead, a host of others join him, bringing a bit of color into her life and offering many future possibilities for friendship. Although I liked every page in this book and the way the author/illustrator plays with perspective, I particularly liked the last two pages in which colors are blooming on the left hand side of the page and two youngsters stand next to a wheelchair and look up. The book was first published in Korea, and I am delighted to add it to my collection as an example of compassion, thinking of others, and planting the seeds of friendship.

Sara says

Look up! is a unique book about a girl in a wheelchair looking down her balcony trying to get someones attention to look up. This book is unlike any children's book I have ever read. I absolutely love the perspective of the black and white illustrations. It is a beautiful story of acceptance and inclusion. I noticed that once the girl joins the boy, color is added to the illustration. It almost seems as if a little color has been added to her world once she felt accepted and made a new friend. There are not many words in this book, but

in my opinion, the words used are powerful. Sometimes all it takes is to "look up", speak out or reach out to someone.

Li Sifan(Liona) says

Contrary to the previous book, the story of this book is very warm and sweet. It tell a story about a wheelchair-bound girl looking down from her balcony at passersby below and urging them to look up. Dog walkers, a bike rider, a kite flier, and dozens of commuters walk by without taking any notice. Then a boy Stops and looks up. He lies on the sidewalk so the girl can see him better. A woman joins him. Soon nine people and one dog are lying down and looking up. The girl looks up at the reader and smiles. This is very attractive to me. It seems to provide a completely opposite perspective from the previous books. The reader can have different opinions on all the content. This is a very good book for teaching.

Amy Layton says

This book toys with perspective as well as community relations. I've never seen a book illustrated from such a specific, height-dizzying angle! It's so creative and plays with the idea of how focused everyone is with the world in their immediate view, as opposed to what's all around them. And when they finally look up, they get a surprise that brings them all together! Overall, this is a very creative story perfect for the young reader.

Review cross-listed here!

Megan Smith says

A thought-provoking look at the world from a different perspective, with a heart warming ending. The gentle, loosely drawn illustrations remind me of Quentin Blake's.

Dylan Teut says

Loved this one!

Tara Schloetter says

Before reading the inside of the book jacket, Look Up! confused me a little, because there are very few words and the book consists of mostly illustrations. However, after I read the inside cover, I understood that the illustrations were depicting a little girl in a wheelchair who is very high up on a balcony and is looking down at the street at the people walking by. The little girl can only see the tops of peoples' heads, so eventually some of the dog walkers, commuters, bike riders, etc. began to lay down on the sidewalk so the little girl could see them better. The illustrations are done in black and white, until the very last two pages, where there is some color added to the trees, balloons, and some clothing or objects of the people down

below. This book tells a sweet story, and a story that many people will go their lives not experiencing themselves, of the little girl in the wheelchair who is making friends and receiving kindness from random strangers who are walking by below her. Although this book contains very little words, the illustrations are a little tricky to figure out and take some time to determine what is happening on each page. I would use this book as a read aloud with a child who is at the elementary-age, because there are a lot of details to the illustrations, and the perspective of the reader looking down at the street below might be difficult for some younger readers to grasp and fully understand.

Kassidy Wandke says

What an amazing take on disability awareness! I loved this book and its simplicity. *Look Up!* is a simple depiction of a girl in a wheelchair trying to get the attention of the people walking below her balcony each day. One day, someone finally looks up at her when she calls down to them. She says that she can't see so well from that angle, so he lays down so she can see better, and others follow suit, making it easier for her to experience the world below her. At the end of the story she even comes down to look up herself, and is out of her wheelchair! This is such a fun way to talk about inclusion and disability awareness with little kids. It's an interesting perspective to illustrate from as well. I really enjoyed following the pictures as well as the words and I think an early reader would really thrive with this book!

Theresa says

Deceptively simple concept and illustrations make for a lovely story with a very touching ending. A really nice book to share with an early elementary kid - let them take the lead on exploring the story.

This is also the only picture book I've read that features a main character child in a wheelchair.

Yoo Kyung Sung says

OMG!! The author grew up in the same city as mine--Daegu. It is interesting the author's info specifically mentions he grew up in Daegu.

Before people look up, their heads are just bunch of dots when you look at them from the higher up place. The narrating character from the up whispers "look up!" and finally one person looks up and lies down on the street so that the "looking-down" character can see the face of the person who is lying on the street. Eventually the character from the up, joins people on the street becoming a part of the street crew who would look up to see her face. Simple childish illustration is charming and it is quite symbolically powerful to think of physical distance as human disconnections.

Janis Kay says

4-4.5 Stars

This is adorable and very poignant.

Edward Sullivan says

Dramatic, unique look at perspective.

Jennifer says

Reading Look Up! on the heels of Brendan Wenzel's They All Saw a Cat, I suddenly want to gather All The Books about point of view. Suggestions?
