



Me, Frida

Amy Novesky , David Díaz (Illustrator)

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Like a tiny bird in a big city, Frida Kahlo feels lost and lonely when she arrives in San Francisco with her husband, the famous artist Diego Rivera. It is the first time she has left her home in Mexico. And Frida wants to be a painter too.

But as Frida begins to explore San Francisco on her own, she discovers more than the beauty, diversity, and exuberance of America. She finds the inspiration she needs to become one of the most celebrated artists of all time.

Me, Frida is an exhilarating true story that encourages children to believe in themselves so they can make their own dreams soar.

Praise for *Me, Frida*

"The writing is lucid, the emotions are universal, and the illustrations soar. Glowing with warm, vibrant colors, the charcoal and acrylic paintings create distinctive, statuesque people within imaginatively conceived landscapes, cityscapes, and interiors." *–Booklist*

Me, Frida Details

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Author : Amy Novesky , David Díaz (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Me, Frida for online ebook

Lisa Vegan says

I wanted to love this book more than I did but I did really enjoy it. Frida Kahlo and San Francisco (San Francisco in 1930-1931, when my mother was there as a teenager) was a big draw for me. Most interestingly, learning about the impetus Frida's San Francisco trip had on changing her art style and her sense of herself as an artist in her own right, well I found all that fascinating.

I'm not sure whom I'd recommend this book for though. It delves into a lot of psychologically sophisticated feelings and motivations (albeit superficially) so I'm not sure about this for younger children if this is an introduction to Frida and Diego and art/artists. I guess for children who already know a bit or are about to make a museum visit, age 7 and up would work; otherwise, maybe those ages 8-10 or 11; I'm not certain.

I felt engrossed in the story but there was something lacking and disjointed about it; I think it would have been better if filled in with more biographical information and more information about Frida as an artist. The note in the back fills in that gap a bit. I do think the story, of this period of Frida's life, did a good job of conveying the feelings of fear and loneliness and the sense of freedom that can occur while traveling to and getting to know a strange place.

The illustrations were very reminiscent of Kahlo's work. I particularly enjoyed the pictures of the city, the redwoods, and I appreciated how color was creatively used in all the illustrations.

The message of believing in yourself is likely to resonate with young readers/listeners.

3 1/2 stars

Tasha says

Opening this book is like opening a treasure box filled with images that are deep, fiery, passionate and intensely beautiful. This is the story of Frida Kahlo and her travel to San Francisco alongside her husband, artist Diego Rivera. Rivera was hired to paint a mural for the city, but Frida was restless as he started work on it. As Rivera spent longer and longer hours working, Frida was left alone in a foreign country and big city. She didn't speak much English and knew almost no one. So Frida began to explore the city on her own, allowing the things she loved to be the focus. And in the process, she found her own voice and her own artistic vision. She was no longer silent, but instead a vivacious beauty who would show the world what she was capable of.

Told in simple words by Novesky, this book captures the situation Frida found herself in with clarity. The author also revels in Frida finding herself and her art, her explorations and her self awareness. It is a celebration of more than Frida Kahlo. It is a celebration of women artists of all sorts. Diaz's illustrations are done in acrylic, charcoal and varnish on linen. The combination of media give the illustrations an amazing depth of color that is beautifully saturated at times and light and airy at others. Just the use of drips in the illustrations is beautifully done. The drips become age, emotions and trees. They add a wild beauty to the images that suits the subject well.

A beautiful picture book about an amazing artist, this was surely worthy of the Pura Belpre Honor Award. Appropriate for ages 7-9.

Amanda Hayes says

Novesky's (Elephant Prince) portrait of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo depicts the artist as a reticent newcomer in a foreign country, who gradually gains self-confidence from her surroundings. Overflowing with compelling imagery ("Frida especially loved Chinatown. It smelled of incense, fish, and fog"), the story also incorporates the motif of Kahlo as a tiny bird. Married to muralist Diego Rivera, Kahlo is overshadowed by her adoring husband's size and reputation: "Diego, big as an elephant; Frida, a lovely little bird on his arm." When she and Rivera fly to San Francisco in 1930, they are shown holding hands and soaring—sans airplane—up the coastline. Readers will notice a small, pink bird in nearly every scene, the same one that appears in the painting that helped launch Kahlo's career. Vibrant spreads feature backdrops of warm colors dripping into cooler ones (and vice versa), just as the brightly dressed, bejeweled Kahlo melded with the damp, gray city. Diaz's (Ocean's Child) overlapping complementary colors add a gorgeous yet slightly unsettling visual element, his intense hues and folk/naïve style recalling Kahlo's work.

Children's Book Review: *Me, Frida* by Amy Novesky, illus. by David Diaz. Abrams, \$16.95 (32p) ISBN 978-0-8109-8969-6. (2010, October 1). Retrieved October 11, 2014, from <http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0...>

Cynthia ? ♥ ❁ says

Me, Frida by Amy Novesky
Illustrated by David Diaz
Abrahms, 2010. 32 pgs.
Reading Level: ages 4-8

Me, Frida is a gorgeous lushous visual treat with a story that matches the quality of the illustrations. I would liken the experience of reading this book to falling into one of Frida Kahlo's paintings. However, the illustrator, David Diaz, does not simply copy Frida's style of artistic expression, but adds his own personal touches to that of the famous artist, thereby, creating something quite unique. The colors are vivid, warm, and inviting. My daughter's hands touched every page as we read this award winning book. It is no wonder that *Me, Frida* won the Pura Belpre Illustrator Honor Book Award in 2011.

Me, Frida focuses on Frida's life as the new bride of Diego Rivera, the famous muralist and painter. Specifically, the setting is the newlyweds time in San Francisco in 1931 when Diego Rivera received his commission to paint his renowned murals on the government buildings of the city. During this time Frida, also an artist, begins to find her artistic voice, while her more established husband is busy creating his own art. When the couple is together Frida is often neglected and overlooked. Parties are given in her husband's honor, but no one notices the eclectic Frida.

Left to her own devices, Frida travels the streets of San Francisco gaining confidence in herself. With this

new found confidence, she unlocks her own personal artistic style. Instead of copying the style of her husband, Diego Rivera, Frida paints in an intimate and folkloric style, which hearkens back to her native Mexican culture. The first painting to explore this style is Frida and Diego (Wedding Portrait) painted in 1931 during her stay in San Francisco. The painting now resides in the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco, California. It's the painting she entered in her first show. Frida goes on to paint many more self-portraits when asked about this the painter stated, "I paint myself because I am so often alone and because I am the subject I know best."

Me, Frida shares all this biographical information about this wonderful female painter without sounding stiff and stilted. Me, Frida by Amy Novesky and accompanying illustrations by David Diaz is a excellent introduction to this influential painter.

Jasmine Howard says

The book called "Me Frida" was about a women named Frida whom was an artist and married her husband Diego Rivera who was a famous artist and they lived in a house in Mexico. Diego recieved a telegram to come to San Franscio and Frida had always wanted to live far away from Mexico. She began to pack her bags to leave with her husband and fly to San Franscio but Frida had never been outside of Mexico before. Frida and her husband found themselves in the city and Diego looked huge while Frida was very little compared to Diego. They lived in the artist quarter of San Franscio and drank coffee and sliced oranges. Frida felt homesick and watched her husband paint the mural for the city while she played Mexican folk songs but Diego loved Frida's singing just not when he had work to do. The couple explored the city together and were very opinionated about sightseeing. They explored some more and Frida fell asleep in the car on th way home. Diego didnt come home sometimes but the married couple attended several parties. The city elite celebrated Diego while Frida was quite. Frida felt lost without her husband,she couldnt speak English and had no friends and the city was strange to her.Frida began exploring the city on her own and loved Chinatown because the incense,fish,and fog. Frida became alot bolder and independnt in the city because she felt good in her comfort zone and felt bigger and better than life. Frida came home and bgain to paint portraits and her artwork was known as "passable"which meant good enough but she was striving for excellence. Frida and Diego attended another party and stood right by her husbands side and she started missing Mexico and got tired of being silent. Frida began to sing to her husband as he worked. Diego loved Frida singing so he joined in saying "Huzzan" at the end of the verse of the song. Frida painted a portrait that night of a colorful wedding portrait of her and Diego. She began writing a tiny note on her violet ribbon of the portrait she painted of her and her husband together. She then painted the same exact portrait in the city of San Franscio in 1931 where she was featured in the 6th Annual Exhibition of the San Franscio society of women artist. When people saw Frida all dressed up and looking beautiful they couldnt stop staring at her. This book is age appropricate for primary readers ages 5-10 because the words and the story is very easy to relate to and full of diversity. The artistic elements in this novel were line(No border/Simplistic),color(warm/cool),shapes(Basic shapes),texture(very detailed,design(realistic),media they used acrylic,characoal and varnish on primed linen,oil on canvas,style(used various combinations of artistic abilities).

I would reccomend this book to a educator,artists,and parents. This book has a really great storyline and makes you think about survival instincts like independence,love,scarifice and starting new beginnings. It talks about a human being whom finds a voice,talent and acceptance in this world. It teaches you to follow your dreams as well as express your feelings to others that may not know you personally. I really enjoyed

Lisa Lathrop says

- [illegible]

Shauna Masura says

Experience the exotic diversity of San Francisco city life, the sun-drenched fields of California, and the bold artists who were able to capture it all. In *Me, Frida* by Amy Novesky, famous painter Diego Rivera is sent to San Francisco to paint his famous murals throughout the city, and he must bring his wife Frida Kahlo with him. Despite leaving her beloved home in Mexico, Frida triumphantly finds her way as an artist and develops her own style outside of her husband's fame and influence. Frida's story is one of self-realization and female empowerment that is of particular importance for a generation growing up on Bratz and Barbies. The illustrations are rich with vibrant colors and folk influences, much like the paintings of Frida Kahlo herself. The back pages illuminate the preceding narrative and provide interesting facts that will leave readers wanting more art, more stories, more Frida. *Overall, Me, Frida* is a winning tale that will add depth and artistic expression to any elementary non-fiction collection.

Sabrina says

Summary: Me, Frida, is about the famous artist, Frida Kahlo and her life. After moving to San Francisco with her husband Diego, Frida was lost. She was a newcomer to a different country and overshadowed by her husband's fame. Slowly gaining confidence, Frida paves her own way and showcases her talent.

Evaluation: This is a wonderful book about finding strength and confidence in yourself. Frida was able to advocate for herself and prove that she and her craft had value. Her determination is inspiring. The book's illustrations are beautiful and look like artwork. Each page is filled with color and goes along with the text perfectly.

Teaching Idea: I would have the student's research about Frida and her husband. Then the students would have to discuss the historical context of which she painted in. As a craft, I would have the students create their own artwork inspired by Frida.

Edward Sullivan says

Well-written, beautifully illustrated introduction to Frida Kahlo.

528_Laura says

Me, Frida is a beautiful picture book biography describing the time in which Frida Kahlo and her husband Diego Rivera lived in San Francisco while Rivera worked on the famous mural created for the Pacific Stock Exchange. The colorful and vibrant illustrations are captivating as the reader learns more about Frida as a painter, wife, and visitor in a foreign city. The reader is empowered by Frida's strength and resilience as she endured the loneliness and disappointment of being in her husband's shadow. This picture book would serve as an excellent resource for students studying Frida Kahlo or famous Mexican artists. Elementary school aged students would get a feeling for Frida as a person as well as a artist. The author, Amy Novesky includes an author's note extending the biographical information presented throughout the text.

Me, Frida was a 2011 Pura Belpre honor book for illustrations.

Liz ODU says

Me, Frida

By Amy Novesky

I was excited to read this book because I am obsessed with the Frida soundtrack from the movie. The book mentions more than one occasion on how hard it was for Frida when she moved with her husband to an

American city. Her husband Diego was a big time artist and that was basically why they moved in the first place. Many changes occurred with the move and it was hard for her especially at first because not only was she in an English speaking country, (she was from Mexico) she was also living in her husband's shadow. Because she was in a bit of a rut she decided to explore the city. Once she did this she realized that she liked it and felt more comfortable being there. Something sparked in her that made her want to be seen so she started to paint. She was yearning to be recognized and heard. Well, her new found skill at art paid off and she became a hit in the artist world. I realized that she "arrived," but I am left to think was it because she was featured in the Exhibition in San Francisco or because she realized her talents? The colors in the book were amazing, very colorful and bright. They were simple too. I like the faces and body shapes especially of Frida and Diego. This book could be used in several ways in the media center. It could be used to discuss following your dreams or your hearts and wanting to be heard (maybe a guidance lesson), it could be used in art and geography.

Tammy J says

I felt that this book was a neat book. It spoke about dreams and how they became reality. However, as we all know some good things aren't always as great as we think. Frida was an artist and always dreamed of living in the big city. Well, one day her husband Diego gets a job and they move. At first she likes the city but later realizes that she is lonely and really misses her family back home in Mexico. Since her husband has to work she is left alone and gets bored. She tries to do things to entertain herself but her husband tells her to be quiet since there is work to be done. I can kind of relate to the character because I moved up here to be with my husband. I always wanted to move somewhere away from my home but have come to realize that I really had something spectacular at home. I get lonely a lot because a majority of my friends are down where my mom lives and life was different there. It is hard to adjust to new places. As the story continues, Frida follows Diego to explore but they don't find that they have the same interests. I feel all people are like that and they say that opposites do attract. The illustrations play a key role to how Frida feels. Going to a new place was a change and since she spoke no English it was even worse. We can relate this to kids in the classroom who don't speak English. They most likely feel lost because it is a new world and foreign to them. This would be a great book to add to the classroom to let students know to find things that they like and to try to experience life but it is okay to feel scared since it is something new. I love that she explores on her own and feels free to do what she wants. At times you have to do things on your own. For Frida she was only a stand by and just for show it seemed like for her husband. No one really admired her work and at times this can be difficult. You have to stand up for yourself and evaluate your work. As teachers, we do this often and we know how it feels to watch others get credit as we get nothing.

I love that the story is real to life and really explains the role of a women in a man's eye. Women are seen as smaller and not breadwinners. This young women was bold enough to show her true color so that she had her time to shine. I can see why is won the Pura Belpre honor book.

Erica says

I love learning about Frida Kahlo's life, and this story was really interesting and informative

Nicole Grote says

Me, Frida is a book about Frida Kahlo and her husband Diego. The book follows their new life in San Francisco where Diego was hired to make giant murals. Yet Frida was often left alone to her devices. Many didn't know that Frida was an artist herself. Frida made many of her own masterpieces. The more people got to know her, the more her work was being recognised. The end of the book tells the story of the painting she made of her and Diego, which became one of her most popular works of art. It's a great picture book that teaches children about Frida Kahlo and all of the beautiful art both her and her husband Diego created. The book is illustrated by the one and only David Diaz who does a beautiful job. He created illustrations that are both colorful and textured which makes the book that much more interesting for the reader. The book makes a great read aloud and would be great for any art units or history units a teacher may want to bring into the classroom.

Amanda L says

A small slice of Frida's life while living in San Francisco, emerging from the shadow of Diego Rivera and finally coming to the limited critical and public acclaim she received in her lifetime. Great illustration captures Kahlo's overall style and serves as a worthy homage. Surprisingly, some of the illustrations of Frida, especially those in profile, didn't quite capture her likeness in my opinion, and self portraiture is such a critical component of her work. Slight detraction. I also wish it were longer.
