The Sound Of Silence
Synopsis

"Do you have a favorite sound?" little Yoshio asks. The musician answers, "The most beautiful sound is the sound of ma, of silence." But Yoshio lives in Tokyo, Japan: a giant, noisy, busy city. He hears shoes squishing through puddles, trains whooshing, cars beeping, and families laughing. Tokyo is like a symphony hall! Where is silence? Join Yoshio on his journey through the hustle and bustle of the city to find the most beautiful sound of all.

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages
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Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars  See all reviews  (19 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #7,286 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  #10 in Books > Children’s Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life
Age Range: 5 - 8 years
Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Yoshio heads out of his house and into the hustle and bustle of Tokyo. He hears all sorts of things, like splashing puddles and rain on his umbrella. Then he hears the sound of a woman playing a koto and visits with her. He asks her what her favorite sound is and she replies that it is the sound of silence. Yoshio spent the rest of the day looking for silence. But there was always some kind of sound, others talking, the breeze in the bamboo, traffic and trains. He couldn’t find silence anywhere, not in the bath where water dripped or in bed where he could hear a radio playing far away. He went to school early the next day, still seeking silence and then for one moment, he heard it. Even inside he was still. He discovered it was in between all of the other sounds, just waiting for him there.

Goldsaito has written a beautiful contemplative picture book where seeking the sound of silence is a search for finding your own inner place of peace. Even as the book looks towards silence, it celebrates the other sounds of a bustling city, a busy school and a family at home. As the sounds grow quieter, the book slows too allowing readers to see the way towards silence as they
move through the book. Kuoâ€™s illustrations are gorgeous with their fine lines and details. They capture a city with many inhabitants walking together, traffic moving, and plenty of action. They also show the beauty of the bamboo garden, the loving family eating together and then Yoshio eager to find the solution to hearing silence. Readers will hear silence on many of the pages thanks to the beauty of the illustrations and the moment it takes to really look at them. A very special picture book that will speak to many readers in our busy modern world who are themselves looking for a peaceful break in their day. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

What a beautiful, lovely book! The Sound of Silence has all of the things I look for in my favorite children’s books -- great story, beautiful illustrations, and an important message for readers of all ages. I hope to see more from this author!

What a sweet, charming and contemplative book for children and adults alike! Katrina Goldsaito takes the reader on little Yoshio’s wonderful journey through bustling Tokyo as he seeks to discover the "favorite sound of all" - the sound of silence. Beautifully written and illustrated, this deserves to sit alongside the classics on the shelf of every child's bookcase.

A beautifully illustrated book that explores the concept of silence in a jungle of noise- and where the silence exists. The book takes place in modern time Tokyo (where the new and old are constantly intertwining) with scenes depicting plausible moments and interactions. I teach mindfulness to students so this book will go well to introduce and further explore the concept of settling in and silence.

This is a beautifully written and illustrated book for children. It took my small town class on a magical journey to experience the sights and sounds of Tokyo. It also made for a great compare and contrasting discussion about culture, and the book lent itself to writing about the joy of simple sounds. As a teacher, I can appreciate Yoshio’s quest for silence!

There is nothing quite as priceless as a special book and this is one of them. I love it - story, pictures, and the message it sends. I can see gifts for my grandchildren in this one. A book that each will read and re-read and quote through the years.

Bought this as a back to school gift for active, loud 4 year old - it was a nice way to sit still for a while
and read something calming and beautiful and it is EXCELLENT for slowing down the little ones and having a talk about our favorite sounds and for listening for silence in our days...the word gets thrown around these days but if you’re looking for ways to teach mindfulness to kiddos, this book is for you!

The story of Yoshio is lyrically conveyed and told by Goldsaito and the illustrations are gorgeously drawn by Kuo. This book transports the reader to another place and presents children with a story of a little boy who is searching for this sought-after thing in a sound-laden place like Tokyo, called silence. It’s a book I know my son and I will read over and over again for years to come and one I will hold onto in anticipation for when my child starts a family of his own.

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