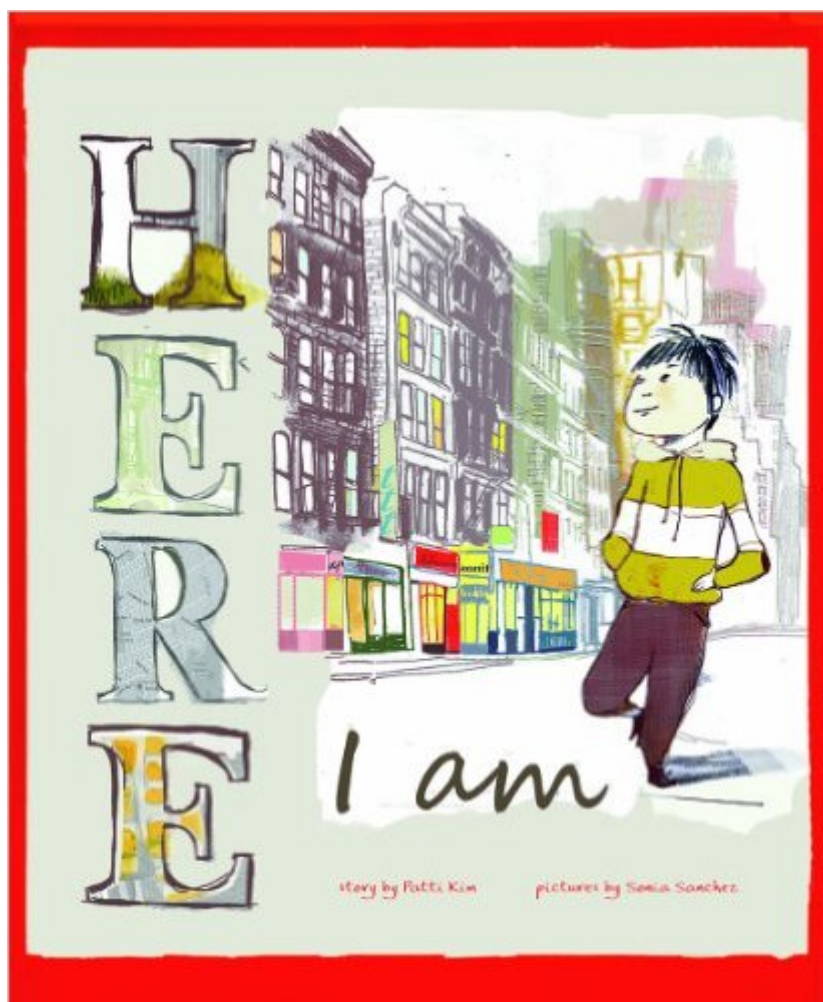


The book was found

Here I Am



Synopsis

Newly arrived from their faraway homeland, a boy and his family enter into the lights, noise, and traffic of a busy American city. The language is unfamiliar. Food, habits, games, and gestures are puzzling. The boy clings tightly to his special keepsake from home and wonders how he will find his way. How will he once again become the happy, confident kid he used to be? Walk in his shoes as he takes the first tentative steps toward discovering joy in his new world.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: NP (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Capstone Young Readers (September 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1623700361

ISBN-13: 978-1623700362

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #484,079 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Emigrants & Immigrants](#) #3247 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History](#)

Age Range: 5 - 10 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 5

Customer Reviews

Here I Am by Patti Kim and illustrated by Sonia Sánchez is a wordless book yet it tells a complex story of one boy's immigration, and struggle to make America his home. Because it relies on the reader's imagination to supply the text, it becomes uniquely personal while remaining a universal story as well. As a wordless book, the success of the story relies on the quality of the artwork. Sánchez's complex illustrations succeed. They capture the many emotions and struggles which the boy faces. The story begins with the boy peering out an airplane window. This is not the face of an excited child thrilled to be flying the skies to an anticipated destination. Sadness paints his face. Subsequent illustrations depict signs with random letters. Their message remains gibberish to eyes unfamiliar with English. We follow the boy through his days as he confronts, confusion, loneliness, fear, sadness and isolation. Until he finds a seed which becomes a talisman for

possibility, for hope and positivity. Eventually, the sed brings him friendship and a feeling of belonging. In the final illustration, the boy imagines that he sees the words "Here I am." Now he not only can recognize and read the English words, he realizes that he belongs. As part of the back matter of the book, the author includes comments that explain the back story which motivated her to write "Here I Am." With her family, she immigrated to the U.S. from Korea. with her family. This is her personal narrative but it is also more global than that. She writes, "If you are an immigrant or maybe just facing something new and different in your life, I hope my story helps you see that you're not alone.

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