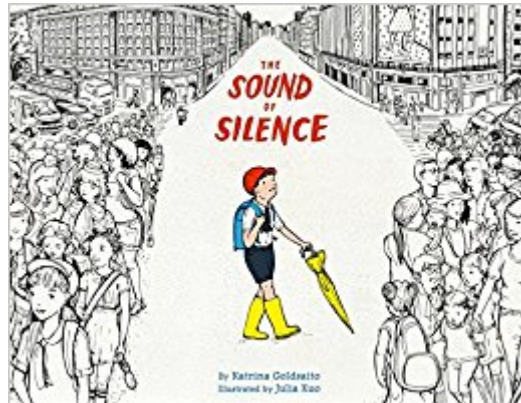




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The Sound Of Silence



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.

Customer Reviews

K-Gr 4 • On a rainy, bustling morning in Tokyo, a young boy is surrounded by a symphony of sounds: boots squishing, raindrops pattering, cars rushing, and, to his delight, a koto player producing a range of high, low, and "twangy and twinkling" notes as she tunes her instrument. When Yoshio asks the musician what her favorite sound is, she answers, "Ma," the silence between sounds. Intrigued by her comment, the boy spends his day in search of the elusive ma. Kuo's art provides the backdrop for the child's quest in scenes of contemporary Tokyo, from the high-speed Shinkansen trains that pass through its stations ("whoosh") to the bamboo grove near the school playground that whispers "takeh-takeh-taheh." Most of the images (in pen, with color added digitally) span spreads, offering wide-angle views of the city, but there are a few single-page pictures, proffering their own unique perspectives. The art is rich in detail and features a variety of concentrated colors that give way to muted grays and browns when suddenly, while reading, Yoshi experiences ma, something that feels peaceful, "still inside him." In an author's note, Goldsaito acknowledges the influence of the Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu, who believed that "without silence, sound would be meaningless." VERDICT This book will be especially welcome in settings that teach yoga or mindfulness, but its message and striking art will be appreciated anywhere the din of daily life can overwhelm. • Daryl Grabarek, School Library Journal

"Kuo (Daisy and Josephine) draws with an architect's precise line, alternating gallery-worthy spreads of Tokyo's crowds and buildings with domestic scenes of Yoshio and his family. Debut author Goldsaito's final passages about *ma* successfully illuminate the term and could be used to teach children to meditate, the way Goldsaito's father taught her, as she explains in an afterword." -Publisher's Weekly "An illustrated serenade to the art of listening to one's inner voice amid the noise of modern life." "Goldsaito's lyrical writing, part ballad and part haiku, and Kuo's illustrations, midway between manga and Chris Ware's yet thoroughly original, carry the story with effortless poetic enchantment." -Maria Popova,

Brain Pickings"One of my absolute favorite books of the year, I'll tell anyone who will listen that The Sound of Silence is like a dharma talk led by Christopher Robin. Which is about as high a compliment as I can give."~â€œ~â€œ The Huffington Post"Only when Yoshio least expects it does the longed-for moment, breathless and fragile, arrive in this handsome picture book...."~â€œ~â€œ The Wall Street Journal

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