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Review: One Leaf Rides the Wind

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Mannis, Celeste Davidson, *One Leaf Rides the Wind*. Illustrated by Susan Kathleen Hartung. Viking, 2002. ISBN: 0670035254

Description:

Engaging illustrations of a young girl meandering through a Japanese garden attract readers to this little volume. Elegant and tranquil settings invite the reader to wander with the child as she discovers garden elements such as one leaf, two carved dogs, three bonsai trees, a pagoda, and a lotus-covered pond. The eleven verses do not disappoint(,delete comma) but introduce young children to these delights in easily understood haiku. As well as serving as a counting book, this work introduces various aspects of ancient Japanese culture in additional text at the bottom of the page.

Critique:

One Leaf Rides the Wind is useful on several levels. In addition to providing a simple introduction to the poetic form of haiku, it provides exposure to Japanese culture and serves as a beginning counting book. Its stylized illustrations set a tone of tranquil beauty throughout.

Awards: IRA Children's Book Award, Parents' Choice Silver Honor Award, Junior Library Guild Selection.

Related Subjects: Counting, Diversity, Gardens, Haiku, Japan

Character Themes: Appreciation of nature, Curiosity, Discovery, **Knowledge**