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Review of *Mary Who Wrote Frankenstein* by Linda Bailey

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Mary Who Wrote Frankenstein

Bailey, Linda

Illustrated by Júlia Sardà

New York: Tundra, 2018

9781770495593

This is the story of Mary, a little girl who is unhappy with her life. To escape, she often finds herself in her imagination, thinking up daring stories to avoid the realities of life. She and her sister run off and begin travelling Europe with a poet. Eventually, they come to stay with some friends. On a stormy night, they decide to hold a contest of who can write the best ghost story. Mary struggles to come up with a story until one night, when all these various ideas she has had in her head culminate into one story about a mad scientist and his disturbing creation. The book closes by telling of the legacy of *Frankenstein*, and how it all began with a girl named Mary who liked to imagine things.

This book is written well. It presents eighteen years of Mary's life succinctly and clearly, not leaving any big holes in the story. The illustrations are lovely. They are structured in a way that feels like a masterfully constructed collage. The colors are generally dark, but there are splashes of brightness across a few pages. The book does well combining history with a bit of inspiration by pointing children to dream and imagine bigger things than they think they can. It would serve well as a learning tool pointing children towards that goal.

Highly recommend

Cory Brookins, Centennial Library Intern