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Review of *Because* by Mo Willems

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Because

Willems, Mo

Illustrated by Amber Ren

New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2019

9781368019019

Because traces the path of musical inspiration from the compositions of Liszt to the ears of a young girl who, upon visiting the symphony with her aunt, decides to learn everything she can about music. Because of the dedication of each musician, orchestra librarian, usher, and auditorium worker, the girl is changed by what she hears that night and grows up to become a composer herself. Mo Willems and Amber Ren's beautiful picture book illuminates the transformative power of music. More importantly, it shows young readers that although the impact of hard work may not be realized until years later, this does not make that work any less meaningful. *Because* would be an excellent read aloud selection for the music classroom but would be equally enjoyed at home. **Highly Recommended** *Jacy Stahlhut, Centennial Library Intern, Cedarville University*