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Review of *Snow Horses: A First Night Story* by Patricia MacLachlan

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Snow Horses: A First Night Story

MacLachlan, Patricia

Illustrated by Micha Archer

New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2022

9781534473553

Patricia MacLachlan writes about the excitement of the coming New Year. The story follows a sleigh and its horses, Tim and Tom, as they offer rides to the children of the town through the snow. The children's joy is palpable, and the horses are dutifully excited. They ride through the glittering town and across the snow. The story concludes with the elderly and their friends having a ride of their own. They reflect on their own youth and joy in the passing of years. The illustrations provide an added element to the colorful chaos and excitement of the piece. The illustrator uses different textures and prints to bring the figures out against the snowflake covered pages. The story itself is missing an element. Although it portrays its beautiful theme of reflection and youth, it fails to provide an intriguing element of learning. They nicely portray a simple life and the repetition of years. The intended audience would enjoy the colorful pages, but the themes and morals of the story might be a bit complicated for children.

Optional *Janelle Burd, Centennial Library Intern, Cedarville University*