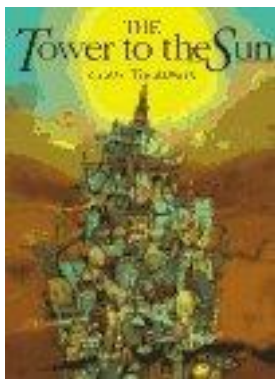


The Tower to the Sun



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著者:Colin Thompson

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Grade 1-6. Thompson creates a futuristic world in which the Earth is shrouded in a yellow, polluted mist and only the "weakest wash of sunshine" comes through. The richest man in the world and his grandson set out to penetrate the fog in order to see the sun. Collecting buildings from every continent, they spend years fabricating a tower. Finally, the leaning tower of Pisa is set at its peak, and the sky grows lighter. Sitting next to his great-grandson, the man feels the "warmth of life shine on his skin." The outlook of this book can only be described as bleak with its stark, desolate cityscape; dreary apocalyptic sky; and slim hope of continued survival. The only bright bit of fun arrives with the building of the tower where Thompson's signature crowding of minute details allows readers to put aside the story's premise in favor of discovering every visual nuance and identifying famous buildings. And yet this distraction is obliterated by the final illustration with its desolate line of silhouetted people waiting for their climb up the now menacing structure that looms like a foreboding atomic mushroom cloud. Maybe young readers will be incensed at the implied downtrodden apathy of this world's general population. Maybe this book will serve to spark the imagination in older readers to find more far-reaching, positive solutions. There's a lot of potential for discussion here.?Martha Topol, Traverse Area District Library, Traverse City, MI

作者介绍:

Thompson (How to Live Forever, 1996, etc.) offers readers plenty to think about, while providing, as usual, a great deal to look at in this story of a world where the sun no longer shines. The richest man in the world wants his grandson to see the sun as it truly is, without the haze of pollutants that makes their world look as if it were wrapped in "dirty cotton wool." The biggest balloon ever cannot take them beyond the clouds, so they resolve to build a tower that will-- "What use is all my money if I can't build dreams?" asks the grandfather. The construction of the tower is full of Thompson's expected visual and spatial puns and drolleries; when, after decades of work, people start adding whole buildings to the tower, some very recognizable architectural works (the Guggenheim, the Sydney Opera House, Stonehenge) appear. The carefully wrapped Tower of Pisa is the final element that enables the very old man and his great-grandson to feel the warmth of the sun at last. Thompson's opening and concluding comparison of the tower with the Great Wall of China doesn't hold up to any sort of scrutiny, but his painterly pyrotechnics make this worth lingering over. (Picture book. 5-8) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

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评论

"他感觉温暖的阳光洒在皮肤上，就象他自己童年的夜晚被父母轻轻抱上床的时候一样。"

如果有一天，我们连太阳都看不见 . . .

(一百年以后。当我们回望地球，除了云以外你再也看不到任何的其它。从一端到另一端，海洋，陆地以及长城全都笼罩在一层无法消散的黄雾之下。像一个边缘模糊的暗淡无光的太阳，这颗疲倦的星球孤独地置身在浩瀚的太空中。)于是后来,他们造了一个能看到太阳的塔.(那个老人，曾经是世界上最有钱的人，他坐在塔的顶端用手臂揽着他的曾孙。他感觉温暖的阳光洒在皮肤上，就象他自己童年的夜晚被父母轻轻抱上床的时候一样。)(T__T)...

华丽的黯淡

when all the famous buildings r filed up and penetrate the fog, ending up with the warmth of life shine on the old man's skin, i was touched.the world is beautiful just the way it is. a ray of sunshine, a drop of cystal clear rain, a grain of sand...call for a grateful heart.

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