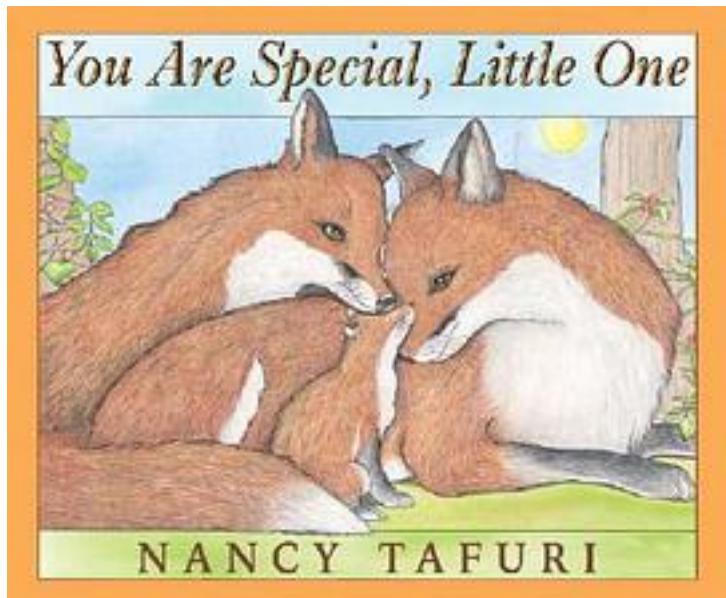


You Are Special, Little One (木板书)



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著者:Nancy Tafuri

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PreSchool-K-This simple text, accompanied by Tafuri's delicate watercolor inks and colored-pencil drawings, features six baby animals in a variety of habitats asking their parents the same question: "How am I special?" The adults describe the youngsters' unique qualities and assure them of their love. The lions, prairie dogs, penguins, beavers, meadowlarks, foxes, and humans are drawn first in their natural surroundings and shown on the next spread in close-up. Each family consists of two parents and one child. This book is a tender read-aloud, with a nice rhythm to the repeated phrase, "-we will love you forever and ever and always." The illustrations include other creatures to look for in the background. A list of all the animals is included on the copyright page. (However, king penguins and arctic terns do not share the same habitat.) This is a peaceful and beautifully drawn bedtime story, but it may well cause parents to drop off, too.

Jane Barrer, Washington Square Village Creative Steps, NY

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PreS-Gr. 1. Caldecott Honor artist Tafuri zeroes in on a desire all young ones share: to feel special. She begins, "On a hot savannah / under a shady tree, / a lion cub asks, 'How am I special?' The cub's parents reply in unison that it's his golden coat and resounding purr that distinguish him, and they reassure him in the book's refrain: "you are so special, / and we will love you / forever and ever and always." The same scenario repeats with other animals, including a prairie dog pup (keen eyes, powerful legs); a lark youngling (yellow feathers, cheerful song), and finally, a young child (warm heart, curious mind). Tafuri's colored-pencil-and-watercolor art fills the oversize pages, depicting tranquil panoramas of various animal habitats as well as plenty of cozy close-ups of parents and children snuggling. Young children will be comforted by the text's rhythmic reassurances. Karin Snelson

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目录:

[You Are Special, Little One \(木板书\) 下载链接1](#)

标签

评论

[You Are Special, Little One \(木板书\) 下载链接1](#)

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