



A New Green Day

Books Reviewed:

[A New Green Day](#) [1]

Issue:

[243](#) [2]

Reviewer:

[Jill Bennett](#) [3]

~~Editor's Choice:~~

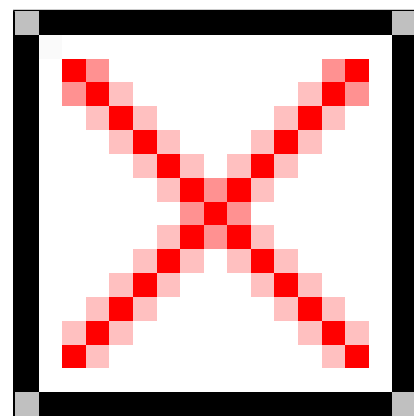
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Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

4



If ever there was an invitation to look anew at the natural world, then Antoinette Portis's sequence of lyrical riddles offers just that.

We follow a little girl from sunrise to nightfall as she responds to morning's invitation to 'Come out and play!'

Once she's up and outdoors a series of voices belonging to a snail, a leaf, an inchworm, a tadpole a pebble, a cloud, rain, lightning, thunder, mud, shadow and finally night, pose a clever riddle on each recto, the answer being revealed at the turn of the page. 'I'm a map of my own / green home. / Follow my roads / and climb? - A mountain path perhaps? Turning to the verso we discover those words were spoken by leaf, a leaf whose shape and veins are almost mirrored by one of the trees standing behind.

Both Portis's illustrations and verses are beautifully textured: 'I'm a sweet sucked smooth / in the river's mouth. / Let me roll in your pocket,' is a speckled pebbled held on the girl's outstretched palm above a grainy shore.

Every riddle asks readers and listeners to embrace the great outdoors, to re-experience the familiar with all their senses alert and with a willingness to allow each encounter with nature to reveal unexpected riches.

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Links:

- [1] <http://cww.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/a-new-green-day>
- [2] <http://cww.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/243>
- [3] <http://cww.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/jill-bennett>