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# Finding Wild



## Synopsis

"Sometimes the most striking picture books are the ones that make readers see something in a new way, or that creatively express a concept regularly pondered but rarely put into words."--Shelf Awareness, starred review  
"Lloyd's sparkling debut celebrates nature through a whimsical meditation on the idea of wildness. Halpin's lush and delicately detailed mixed-media pictures...dominated by muted greens and blues pull readers into the diverse landscapes the children traverse. A spirit of adventure and exploration runs throughout the book." --Publishers Weekly  
A lovely, lyrical picture book with gorgeous illustrations that explores the ways the wild makes itself known to us and how much closer it is than we think. There are so many places that wild can exist, if only you know where to look! Can you find it? Two kids set off on an adventure away from their urban home and discover all the beauty of the natural world. From the bark on the trees to the sudden storm that moves across the sky to fire and flowers, and snowflakes and fresh fruit. As the children make their way through the woods and back to the paved and noisy streets, they discover that wild exists not just off in some distant place, but right in their own backyard.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (11 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Written by Megan Wagner Lloyd Finding Wild was illustrated by Abigail Halpin who brilliantly captures the unbridled, untamed, free spirited energy of life. Ostensibly about the wildness of

nature, itâ™s about so much more than that, more than wild creatures in their natural habitat, more than locations unchanged by humans. It is scent and sound, places and dreams, full of challenge and possibility, risks and rewards. It is determination and persistence. It is flowers growing in sidewalk cracks, trees shattering through boulders doggedly pursuing survival. Life thriving under the most inhospitable of circumstances. It is indomitable human spirit. Though the text is brief, the possibilities it suggests are immense. Adoption-attuned Lens: This book also is an excellent potential conversation starter for adoptive families. Kids feel freer to explore a story that is not overtly their own yet may bear similarities in terms of difficulties, danger or survival. This added layer of dissociation enables them to explore events without fully awakening their own struggles, tough situations, harsh circumstances. Tread lightly. Let kids take the lead. Unless kids choose to speak of their personal events, focus conversation of how awesome kids • faced these challenges and survived. --Gayle H. Swift, "ABC, Adoption & Me: A Multicultural Picture Book

Two children set off to discover the wild, leaving their urban world and heading into a nearby park filled with trees, ferns and birds. There are moments of wonder and some shivers too. Wild smells different from the city too and demands that you breathe it in deeply. Wild can be dangerous, prickly and poisonous, but it can also be filled with softness and soothing. It can be hot and cold. It is filled with secrets to explore and even discoveries to eat and savor. Even in large cities where there doesnâ™t seem to be room for wild to exist, you can see it if you follow the subtle clues. Lloydâ™s writing is a poem about wilderness and the importance of it in our lives. She doesnâ™t lecture about it in any way, allowing nature itself to invite readers in more deeply. She allows nature to sing on the page, showing its many sides. She does not shy away from showing that nature can be slightly frightening but balances that nicely with more positive sides of being outside and enjoying the outdoors. Halpinâ™s illustrations are done in watercolor and colored pencil. She creates a wild that is filled with huge trees, large leaves, flowers and shadow. It is also full of water, places to swim and berries too. Her art covers the entire page at times, filling it to the brim with nature. Other times, the wild is surrounded by white space on the page, allowing young readers to both feel immersed in green wonder but also able to glimpse it from a distance at times too. A lovely encouragement to find your own wild in your neighborhood, this picture book should be wildly successful. Appropriate for ages 3-6.

Iâ™m a genre fan of Picture books and have had hours of fun mixing them with children. And while most of my collection is currently boxed, the young and emerging adults in my life still quote parts of

their favorites. I don't shop seriously for them anymore, but I do buy a good one when I find it. My latest purchase is Finding Wild, by Megan Wagner Lloyd. Finding Wild fosters awareness and appreciation of nature and is an enthusiastic encouragement to unplug and go outside. That's something many children heartily need in our "wonderfully-- technological age. Beginning with questions, the author draws the reader into an adventure that the illustrations vividly underscore. Sometimes the words are factual, and sometimes wild is buried too deep. At other times they're inspirational to the imagination, [the wild] steals back forgotten places. Reading this would be a wonderful opportunity to remind a child of their own outdoor experiences, from the walk out to get the mail to the last trip to a national park. This is a book that could build the sense of adventure with repeated readings instead of diminishing it a real test for a picture book. Because the subject matter is conceptual, whether the reader is engaged or not will matter. But given that, I think it will be a repeat request for many children. I haven't yet had the opportunity to be that adult reader, though now that it's in my collection it's something I look forward to. I might make a mini photo album with pictures of them on their outdoor adventures to look at after each reading,-- a great way to mix reading with nature. The age range, preschool to 2nd grade is about right, though children will hit the sweet spot at different times.

questions posed on the first page: What is wild? And where can you go to find it? They see it (it leaps and pounces and shows its teeth), hear it (Wild roars and barks and hisses and brays), smell it (Every scent begging you to drink it in), and taste it (honey from bees and sap from trees). Sometimes wild burns or stings, but other times it soothes. When the explorers enter the city, it seems as though wild has been completely covered over by pavement and buildings, but peeking through a fence they discover that wild is everywhere. 32 pages; ages 3-7. Pros: The vivid, mainly green illustrations nicely complement the descriptive text. Younger readers will be inspired to explore the natural world around them; older readers may be inspired by the beautiful, descriptive language to write about it. Cons: Do kids really get to go off and explore the wild by themselves anymore?

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