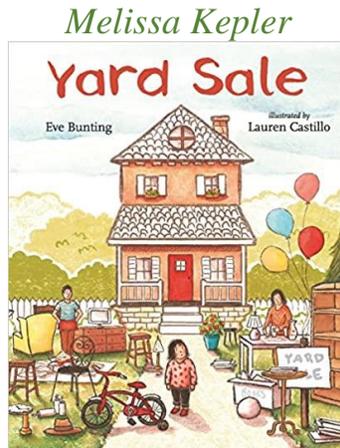


Second Reaction: *Yard Sale* Critique

Bunting, Eve. *Yard Sale*. Illustrated by Lauren Castillo. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2015. Print.



Yard Sale is a very touching story about a young girl witnessing her parents going through the process of downsizing. Throughout the story, Callie, the main character, explains how she doesn't want certain items to be sold in their yard sale. Callie is not too sure about leaving their house to move into the small apartment with her family. She is really attached to her family home and is not ready to relocate to a new home. Moving away from the only home you have ever known is a hard change to overcome—for someone of any age.

This book offers a lot of opportunities for readers to understand the issues of poverty and to also feel empathy. One key example is the fact that the family needs to move from a house to an apartment. The two homes have significant price differences, and moving to an apartment will cost the family less money in their monthly budget. For adult readers of this book, this is not new information. However, for children who are reading or listening, this is something that might not be something that has even been brought up in their family. When I was a child, I only had one friend who lived in an apartment. To me, it was not obvious that it was cheaper than my house; it was just Kaydee's home. One important element of this topic to touch on is that just because Kaydee lives in an apartment, does not mean that my home is better. Kaydee's apartment was a smaller home, but was still a home. A house is not more important than an apartment, it just costs more. So, when families downsize, moving from a house to an apartment really makes a difference in the amount of money they spend in a month.

Not only is the price of living different, but Callie's parents will also be able to afford more food for the family. In some families, children only eat when they are at school or day care. When diminishing the cost of living, you can gain some money to spend on more food—or food of better quality. It is vital to teach children the importance of doing what is right for the whole family. Even though it may not seem like it is benefiting the whole family, parents do know what is best for their children.

I read this book to my 6-year-old niece. My sister and her husband are not at all hurting for money, so I am taking it upon myself to make sure she understands that there will be some people her age with less money. I explained to her that Callie's parents made the decision to move to a smaller home, but there are other ways to make these decisions. I put this information into terms she would understand by saying, "Mel and Beanie (my daughter) live with Grandma and Grandpa. We do this because I do not have a job that pays me all the time. So, living with Grandma and Grandpa lets me save money until I can get a real job. Then Beanie and I can have our own house and maybe we can have a slumber party!"

As I was reading, my niece started to understand what was going on in *Yard Sale*. She felt sad for Callie—especially when Callie felt sad about putting crayon marks on her headboard. Knowing that the child in the book is sad makes the reader feel sad, as well.

Something I will do in my future classroom—if it can be approved by administration—is hold an assortment of drives. Toy drives, coat drives, food drives, etc. I want to teach my students about diversity and how to be empathetic towards others and help them when they are needing it. This is going to be a great book to use for my future classroom and the donations I intend to do.

About the Author

Melissa Kepler is a Lincoln, NE native and a life-long Husker fan. She is a non-traditional student majoring in the education field and planning to graduate on December 18, 2021. The above critique includes part of her personal experience with life lessons that were talked about in the story *Yard Sale*.

