

Ada's Violin

Susan Hood

Reviewed by: Joanne Lee, 16

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“Ada’s Violin” is a heartwarming story of a young girl Ada who lived with her family in the poor town of Cateura in the capital city of Asunción, Paraguay. This town was the main garbage dump and was extremely poor. The children who grew up in this town were displeased. Things started to change when musician Favio Chávez offered violin, guitar, and cello lessons to the children. Many interest children, including Ada, showed up, but Chávez did not have enough instruments for all the children. So, he decides to seek the help of a carpenter and they created the instruments themselves with materials in the landfill. Soon, all the children were able to have their own instrument, and they practiced and practiced. This picture book shows how the children who lived in a poor, dirty town grew up to influence others with their music.

This picture book was amazingly written. Based off a true story, this book was greatly written and the pictures are beautifully drawn. I loved that the book explored a true story where children who seemed to have no hope or future became highly successful using the resources that they had. This picture book seems most appropriate for children in preschool or kindergarten, or ages 4-7. This book will not only entertain the young children, but also give them hope in working hard to achieve something great even if their situation seems to be the worst.

I would recommend this book as a gift, but I also think it is a great book to check out at the library. This book would serve as an excellent gift to young children interested in music, especially the violin, and other kids to encourage them. This book is also a great book to check out at a library for children to enjoy a short and heartwarming story.

Recommended Titles:

- Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, Laurie Ann Thompson
- I am Loved, Nikki Giovanni
- Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain, Cheryl Bardoe