**The Tiger Rising**

**By Author, Kate DiCamillo**

**Reviewed by: Jake 16**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Rob Horton is a twelve-year-old boy, who finds a tiger caged up in the woods. Friendless, he lives with his father in a motel, and his mother died a few months before they moved. He meets the new girl in his class, Sistine, who wears a dress to school every day with her newly divorced mother. While she initially hates him and the South, she starts to warm up to him after he decides to show her the tiger. The tiger brings them closer, and Rob solves the mystery behind why the tiger is in the woods in the first place. As they argue over releasing the tiger, they bring in Rob’s father and the motel housekeeper called May. Through their journey together, Rob grows closer with his father and both children confront their sadness and anger.

The most moving part of the story is when Rob’s father finally mentions Rob’s mother’s name. Throughout the book, Rob refuses to cry and he isn’t allowed to mention his mother’s name. With her death, Rob feels like she took all the happiness with her. Rob’s father finally saying her name out loud shows children that their parents can be sad too, and that not acknowledging grief doesn’t mean it goes away. By sharing their feelings with each other, they grow closer and start to heal from her death.

I would recommend this book for children ages 9+, as the book does briefly mention death. Furthermore, it does describe an animal’s death and poverty. As a result, this book isn’t suited for sensitive children. The book does a good job of dealing with grief, as Rob deals with the death of his mother and moving away from everything he has known. In addition, Sistine has to deal with her parents’ divorce and her father’s extramarital affair, and the representation can be helpful to younger children. I would recommend gifting this to anyone, especially people who want to make new friends or are dealing with the issues previously mentioned.

**Recommended Titles:**

Redwall by Brian Jacques

The Tale of Desperaux by Kate DiCamillo

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O’Brien

The Magician’s Elephant by Kate DiCamillo

Urchin of the Riding Stars by M.I. McAllister