

Kira-Kira

Cynthia Kadohata

Reviewed by: Pia Visaria, 14

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

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For Katie Takeshima and her family, everyday life is a daily battle. Living in the rural south in the 1950's, Katie and her older sister Lynn face prejudice every single day, whether it be their Japanese identity or their parents' jobs. Lynn is always encouraging Katie, by teaching Katie the word *kira-kira*, which means "glittering" in Japanese. Even with all of these struggles, the Takeshima family remains strong by supporting each other and leaning on each other during the hard times. Life takes a turn for the family, when Lynn falls ill. Suddenly, the one person Katie had is slowly disappearing from her life. Kadohata has beautifully described this relationship between two sisters.

Kadohata has created this aura for the reader to feel as if they are experiencing Katie's emotions along with her. She has developed such an amazingly strong bond between Katie and Lynn which allows the audience to connect with the storyline on a deeper level. The small and minor details Kadohata has added in make this story one of a kind. Additionally, her detailed description allowed me to vividly imagine the plot in my head. After reading this book, I find it no surprise that *Kira-Kira* won the Newbery Medal in 2005.

Although this book isn't quite thriller or horror, I have to admit this book was definitely a page turner for me. I was always eager to keep on reading to see what would happen next. This book does contain some sad, depressing elements that may not be suitable for younger kids. For those reasons, I would recommend this book to anyone above the age of ten years. Apart from that, I think this book is good to just get your mind off of things and relax or would make a great present as well!

Recommended Titles:

- "Weedflower" by Cynthia Kadohata
- "The Thing About Luck" by Cynthia Kadohata
- "Half a World Away" by Cynthia Kadohata
- "A Million Shades of Gray" by Cynthia Kadohata