



You Are Stardust

Elin Kelsey , Soyeon Kim (Illustrations)

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You Are Stardust begins by introducing the idea that every tiny atom in our bodies came from a star that exploded long before we were born. From its opening pages, the book suggests that we are intimately connected to the natural world; it compares the way we learn to speak to the way baby birds learn to sing, and the growth of human bodies to the growth of forests. Award-winning author Elin Kelsey — along with a number of concerned parents and educators around the world — believes children are losing touch with nature. This innovative picture book aims to reintroduce children to their innate relationship with the world around them by sharing many of the surprising ways that we are all connected to the natural world.

Grounded in current science, this extraordinary picture book provides opportunities for children to use their imaginations and wonder about some big ideas. Soyeon Kim's incredible diorama art enhances the poetic text, and her creative process is explored in full on the reverse side of the book's jacket, which features comments from the artist. Young readers will want to pore over each page of this book, exploring the detailed artwork and pondering the message of the text, excited to find out just how connected to the Earth they really are.

You Are Stardust Details

Date : Published September 11th 2012 by Owlkids Books (first published November 24th 2011)

ISBN : 9781926973357

Author : Elin Kelsey , Soyeon Kim (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Science, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review You Are Stardust for online ebook

Vivek Tejuja says

I read “You are Stardust” because it was the first book mentioned in “The Story Cure” by Ella Berthoud and Susan Elderkin. This book, The Story Cure that is, is like their earlier book “The Novel Cure” but for children, their parents and everyone who has ever wondered what should I gift a child or a teenager. It is also for adults, if you ask me, to relive their childhood by reading or re-reading these gems mentioned in the book.

So now back to the first book “You are Stardust” – authored by Elin Kelsey and beautifully illustrated by Soyeon Kim. I am of the firm belief that children’s books are not only for kids or teens. They are most importantly for adults – who have lost their child-like innocence, their ability to question, to wonder or to know how the world works.

This is what the book is about – life, universe and maybe everything (or not). This is the book to cure children of what’s the world all about (that’s what the book says). The book is lovely – when I say this, I don’t mean it loosely. It really is lovely. The illustrations by Soyeon Kim are gorgeous – with every turn of the page, I was only too happy or perhaps more than the last page. This book is perfect to teach kids about the universe, the Earth and in turn about humans.

Elin Kelsey is an environmental writer (I got to know of it after I read the book) and now I can clearly see the connection that the book is trying to bring out between kids and the natural world. “You are Stardust” is grounded in science, philosophy (most parts really) and stunning dioramas by Kim.

There is also an app about the book and its creation. I for one cannot wait to download it. Being a picture book, it doesn’t restrict itself to kids. It is most certainly for adults as well. Go pick it up. Read it to your child or nephew or niece and then read it yourself. Be enthralled by it.

I read this book as a part of the reading project (one of the reading projects) I have started: To read all books mentioned in ‘The Story Cure’. It is an ambitious project and I hope to see this through at least. The next book in line for this is: The Boy with the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne.

Caroline says

My favorite type of information (bats and whales get their friends to babysit! You exhale pollen every time you breathe,) presented in my favorite way-poetically! (your breath is alive with the promise of flowers. Each time you blow a kiss to the world, you spread pollen that might grow to be a new plant..)

Jess says

Part picture book, part science, part poetry. I can't decide if the words or pictures are more wonderful - they coexist perfectly. It somehow manages to incorporate the big picture and the enticing details without feeling

distracted. I'd recommend this to curious young minds and anyone who enjoys mesmerizing illustrations.

????? ?????? says

Poetry, pure and organic.

Catherine says

Hippie-dippie, sciency, earthy-crunchy goodness in a book with amazing multi-media artwork. Perfect!

It's hard for me to pick my favorite pages, but here's an attempt:

You drink the same water the dinosaurs drank.

Your head is like the weather.

You shed like a tree.

Animals have friends, too.

Now, let's all go sing "Kumbaya" around the fire.

Fiona Hill says

This gorgeous picture book is about how small we are in such a big world and how we are connected to the world too. The illustrations are beautiful and the writing style is poetic. I think KS1 children would find this book really fascinating and it would be a wonderful way to introduce them to the wonders of life.

Lizzie says

Can Neil deGrasse Tyson read this to me before bedtime? That's the only way this book could be better.

Kate says

A beautiful book with just the right mix of text/words. I will definitely add this book to my storytime repertoire. The book reminds me of the beginning of Bill Bryson's "A Short History of Nearly Everything" in

the way that it shows that we're all made up of particles. We're a small part of a big world. The concept could be frightening for children if explained poorly but, skillfully and sensitively explained, it comes across as magical. A lovely blend of poetry and science.

Elizabeth says

We are made of earth and water and air and stardust.

And so it goes in this beautiful picture book that explains the various connections between us all. The text is simple and paired with the amazing three-dimensional artwork of Soyeon Kim. Children will be enchanted by this book. LOVED.

Jae Sledge says

What an artsy and beautiful way to teach children the wonders of life! The art and wording is so amazing.

Megan says

Mmmm, whimsical science. A picture book so lovely I had to revisit it again.

April says

I really love the concept of this book. It's not easy to introduce evolution, ecology, the human connection to nature to young people and it is done very well here. But I especially love the illustrations. I re-read it immediately to savor them again.

Michael says

Teaches children the magic of nature by showing how connected we are to the earth and its inhabitants. More magical than preachy. Heartfelt and well-informed. Highly recommended.

Kristen says

This I love. It's science, but it reads like poetry, and the 3-dimensional art is exquisite. It presupposes a certain level of knowledge ("Every tiny atom in your body came from a star that exploded long before you were born" is not cluttered with a further explanation of what an atom is) but it's still very accessible for kids. It's full of all kinds of "who knew?" cool facts, like that you sneeze with the force of a tornado and in your every breath there is pollen that may grow to be a new plant.

The Owl Kids website has cool extension information for this book and - hooray! - an app is on its way!

Megan says

I've never seen anything like this eloquently expressed and beautifully illustrated book of cosmological thinking for children. Elin Kelsey has done an amazing job choosing details that all kids can connect with, such as hair falling out or the saltiness of tears, and linked them to the much bigger ideas of the cosmos. She claims that each example is backed by current science. The ideas are fascinating and many are new for me. This book will hold much appeal for big thinkers and is likely to inspire curiosity in many others.

So far, I only shared this book with my family and some teens who are not prime target audience, and they all spent time arguing definitions especially whether the electricity in your brain is stronger than lightning. 'In what way?' they wanted to know. They also weren't happy with the idea that the earth breathes. On a brighter note, one teen said he wished he knew about atomic structure in Year 2. I really like this book, but suggest some links to the science might help hush the skeptics.
