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The Theory Of Hummingbirds
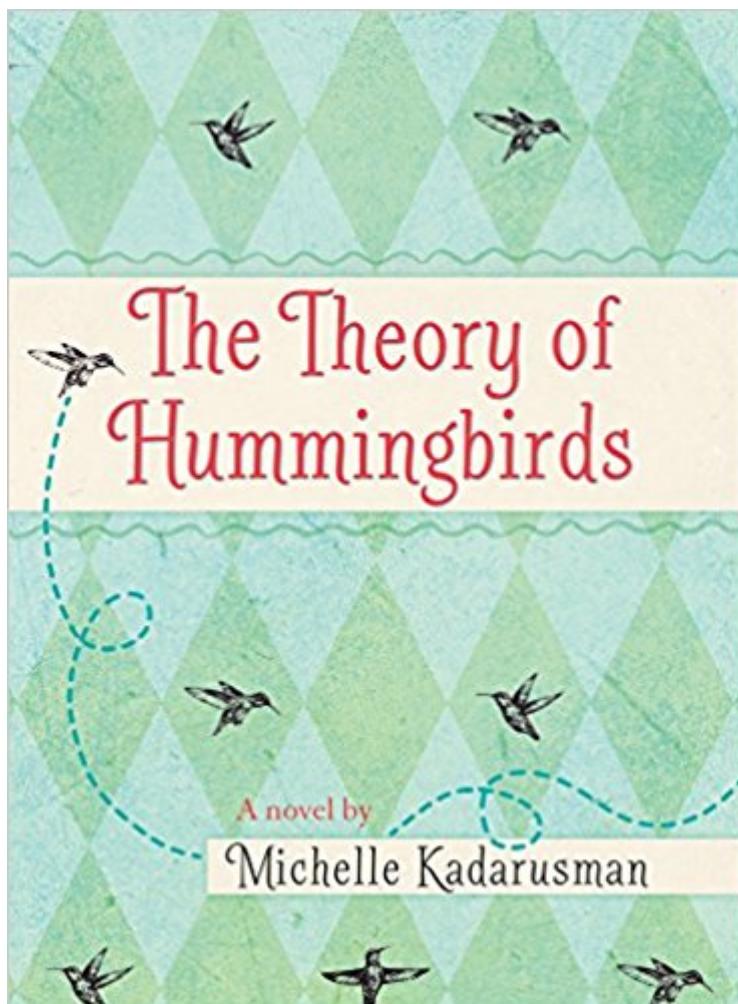
Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å"Hummingbirds and angels donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t need two good feet. They have wings.Ã¢â ¬Å• ThatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s what AlbaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s mother always says. Of course, Alba doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t have wings or two good feet: she has Cleo. Cleo is the name Alba has given to her left foot, which was born twisted in the wrong direction. When she points this out, though, her mother just smiles like the world has some surprise in store she doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know about yet. Well, Alba has her own surprise planned. After one final surgery and one final cast, Cleo is almost ready to meet the world straight onÃ¢â ¬â ¢just in time to run in the sixth grade cross-country race. Unfortunately, AlbaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s best friend Levi thinks thereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s no way she can pull it off. And she thinks thereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s no way heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s right about the school librarian hiding a wormhole in her office. Tempers flare. Sharp words fly faster than hummingbirds. And soon it looks like both friends will be stuck proving their theories on their own. (Publisher)

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

The Theory of Hummingbirds is a gentle, hopeful, and wholly innocent portrayal of a sixth-grade girl dealing with being different....Alba uses several coping techniques to deal with her physical challenges. She is deeply invested in hummingbirds and sees them as a metaphor for her own life. Ã¢â ¬ËœœHummingbirds donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t sit around moaning about their tiny feet and the fact that they canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t walk,Ã¢â ¬â ¢ she says. Alba calls her clubfood Cleo, viewing it with

compassion and kindness rather than resentment and self-pity. Support comes from her best friend Levi, who spends recess indoors with her because of his serious asthma....In the mode of Jeanne Birdsall and Natalie Lloyd, Kadarusman makes some narrative choices that favour poeticism and poignancy over realism....The negativity is fleeting and the trajectory of Alba's journey is onward and upward. (Quill & Quire)A story about best friends, hummingbirds and wormholes makes for a great story....Above all I love the message of this story, "Love who you are and LOVE what you can do." (Sarah Pickles Goodreads)It was easy to fall in league with these two characters, as different and challenged as they each were as the story unfolds. Alba was remarkable for her perseverance and her drive, and Levi equally solid in his knowledge and conviction that space-time continuum and scientific discovery need not be left to the adults and titled scientists. This is a great book to share with students in discussion of friendship, resilience, perseverance, and goal-setting. (Amy Shaw Goodreads)Fascinating hummingbird facts flit throughout this contemporary realistic story and a glossary helps readers know more about the birds....Kadarusman's writing has a light touch, and the story will resonate with a wide audience. VERDICT Readers learn that a group of hummingbirds is called a 'charm' - and are sure to be charmed by this heartfelt tale. (School Library Journal)[Alba's] goals occur in small steps, easing her into the difference between her dream and the reality without diminishing her accomplishments. Alba's relationship with her single mother is touching...Alba's narration is dotted with hummingbird facts, which Kadarusman - who had a club foot herself - explains in a glossary. A quick, sweet read. (Kirkus Reviews)

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