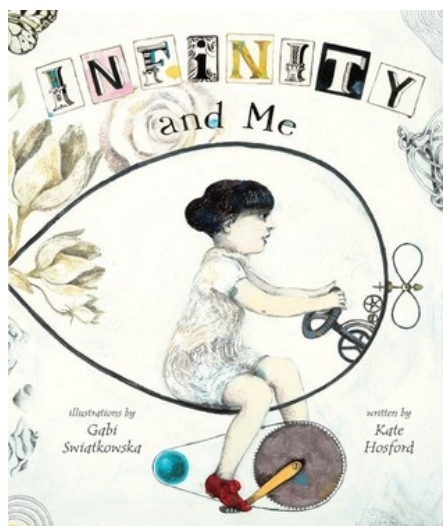




Infinity and Me

Kate Hosford , Gabi Swiatkowska (Illustrator)

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When I looked up, I shivered. How many stars were in the sky? A million? A billion? Maybe the number was as big as infinity. I started to feel very, very small. How could I even think about something as big as infinity?

Uma can't help feeling small when she peers up at the night sky. She begins to wonder about infinity. Is infinity a number that grows forever? Is it an endless racetrack? Could infinity be in an ice cream cone? Uma soon finds that the ways to think about this big idea may just be . . . infinite.

Infinity and Me Details

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Author : Kate Hosford , Gabi Swiatkowska (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Infinity and Me for online ebook

Megan says

A truly wonderful story book. Handling a subject like infinity is hard for even the most sophisticated adults to grapple with; and handling it with grace no less. This book created a feeling in my heart of childhood wonders and warmth. Plus kick-ass illustrations, no seriously, it was kinda mind-blowing. Read to your children, (even if they're imaginary). Then go back and read it again just for you. Awesome!

Lu Benke says

Okay, here's one of those books that really should be considered nonfiction. There is a very simple, unobtrusive narrative, but the book is much more about explaining the concept of infinity in several different ways. Yet, I would not put it in the 500's with the math or space books, but perhaps in the 400's because of its multiple ways of defining a concept. I'm also not sure that a child under third grade would easily conceptualize the examples given, nor the thoughts in the author's note at the end. Even the illustrations had the look and somber feel of more sophistication than a preschooler would typically enjoy. As for the ending, I couldn't help but contrast little Uma's realization that her love for her grandmother was as great as infinity with the mother's refrain in Munsch's book Love You Forever. This proclamation of undying love is much easier to take.

Paul Hankins says

This October 2012 release from Lerner Publishing Group is absolutely gorgeous. Gabi Swiatkowska's illustrations are vivid and mesmerizing. I didn't get Gabi's style with Kimberly Willis Holt's WAITING FOR GREGORY, but the style rings true in INFINITY AND ME. Caldecott short lists will shift for sure with this release.

Kate Hosford's character is a mentor character for approaching, embracing, and thinking through new ideas. Adult characters in the book are able to address inquiry with imagination and examples from their own experiences.

Ladder this one up with MATH CURSE, but keep it separate for its focus on grandmothers and their special brand of love.

Ladder it up in Transcendentalism units for discussions regarding how we find ourselves in the moment within an ever-changing universe.

Here is a link to Gabi's site: <http://chocolateforgabi.com/>

Jenny says

A fun exploration of ways to consider or visualize infinity...as the infinity symbol turned into a race track

with a race car driven around and around, or as a family that started with great, great...grandparents and continues to grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren and on and on. Or infinity is the number of stars in the sky.

Includes an author's note that briefly explains the importance of infinity and several children's comments about infinity as well as a challenge to find your own way to imagine infinity.

I love this book's concept as well as how it was carried out. And I love the illustrations.

Melissa says

A big-picture book that stays rooted in one particular voice & character. Quirky, beautiful illustrations are a good match for representing the process of imaginative thinking.

<http://unendliches.net/english/>

NYT Best Illustrated 2012

Kris says

This is really clever! I never really thought about how hard it is to explain the concept of "infinity" to kids, but it is. And this helped my 6-year old to understand. About 2/3rds of the way through he yelled, "It's like a circle. It never ends!" It was like a lightbulb went off in his head. So cool to see.

Marjorie Ingall says

The art slayed me. Old-fashioned but hip and not in an irksome Etsy-illustrator show-off way. As a child I was fascinated by the concept of infinity, and Maxie is at the "what is the highest number anyone could count to" developmental stage -- I think this book could hit a lot the sweet spot for a lot of readers. I also like that it's soothing rather than terrifying (ENDLESSNESS could be very scary to a kid, I suspect) without making infinity too cozy; vastness is not cuddly. The book swings beautifully between mystery and groundedness (literally --our narrator is really into her red shoes). So well done Words and pictures go SO well together, too.

Karen A. says

Just the right amount of philosophical inquiry. Beautiful illustrations nicely compliment the concepts. The illustrations also give the book a lovely atmosphere that has a perfect mix of childhood whimsy with accents of darker grown up ideas. I love that the author is able to demonstrate in a very meaningful way that the big scary universe is less scary when you are with someone you care about.

Lata says

Cute story about a girl musing on what infinity means, first by asking friends what they think of infinity, then realizing how the concept applies to her life. I like the squashy-flat style of the illustrations.

Andreea says

Minunat?. Infinitul celor mici

Robin says

What an unusual book! A little girl wonders about infinity. It's a big concept, but her thoughts and those of family, teachers, and friends who she asks about it do ring true (the author writes about asking k-2nd graders their thoughts, and it shows.) Hosford makes the subject approachable for young kids -- Uma is as concerned with someone noticing her new red shoes as she is with her questions about infinity. Includes the infinity symbol (a napping 8), thinking of infinity when looking at the stars, or a family tree.

Illustrator is from France, and very distinctive.

Laura Salas says

I was excited to see this book, since I have the bare beginnings of an infinity-related picture book manuscript in a drawer. I can't get anywhere with it! So I was eager to see how Hosford worked with it.

This is a lovely picture book in which a little girl, Uma, looks for a definition of infinity. It's a combination of metaphors (like music that goes in a circle) and momentous questions ("But if there's no school before recess, and no school after recess, is it really recess anymore?"). It's a combination of the vast and the specific (why hasn't anyone noticed Uma's shiny new red shoes?). Like kids, this book asks both profound and silly questions, and I think this will really strike a chord with readers.

An author's note at the end gives kids more background and encourages them to come up with new ways to imagine infinity.

Jim Erikson says

I wonder if this shouldn't be its own genre. Ever since Ruth Krauss did *A Hole is to Dig*, it seems like the book based on child interviews is a 'thing'. This could be called a concept book, but it's really more of an inquiry book. The main effort of the character is to learn more.

Gabi Swiatowska's illustrations make this book what it is. It's got a somewhat dark tone to it, because of the overall palette she chooses, which is unusual and interesting. Her figures seem like close studies of Dusan

Kallay's illustrations--there's even one page where the grandma's fingers close in a Buddhist iconic sign which is something I've seen Kallay do many times. Mostly it's the faces that hark to Kallay's work. Swiatowska tempers the dark palette with colorful elements that really stand out by contrast on each page.

Danielle says

Brilliantly executed. A pleasure to read and ponder.

This book imaginatively toys with the concept of infinity given different characters' proclivities. And then, there is Uma in her red shoes sussing it out for herself.

Love love love Gabi Swiatkowska's illustrations as always.

Charlotte says

Oh My Goodness this is adorable!

I'm in love with the illustrations as well as the story. This really made me think back about what it was like when you begin to think about abstract concepts. I clearly remember trying so hard to wrap my mind around infinity, and the idea of forever as well. Both seemed so vast, yet as a child you want to harness it and grasp it, make it tangible so it makes sense. Kate Hosford does a wonderful job of explaining this incredibly difficult idea while making it fun and beautiful along the way.

I giggled over the red shoes...(I think they were my favorite part of the story). When you read this you'll know why. They were so perfectly placed in the story, exactly the way a child's mind would work.

This is definitely one that I will be reading to my children when it's released, as well as suggesting for our school library.

A copy of this book was provided to me by the publisher through Net Galley.
