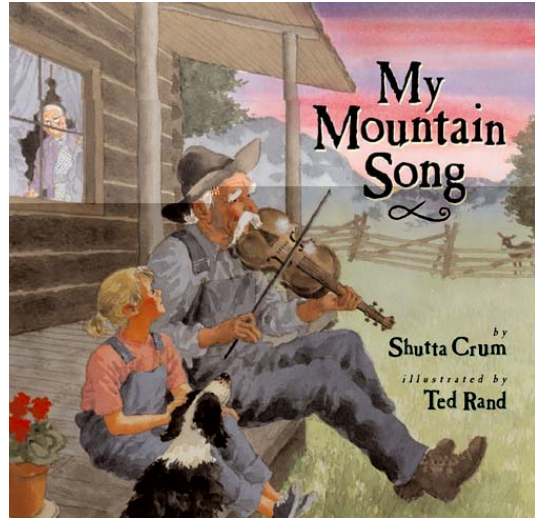


My Mountain Song

Gran Pap says everybody born in the mountains has a song inside them, made of good memories. That means Brenda Gail has one, too, “just waitin’ to come out.” She’s thinking about what memories she’ll put in her song when her pesky cousin Melvin shows up and starts making trouble. Brenda Gail doesn’t know how to get rid of Melvin. But she knows she’ll never ever put him in her mountain song! A tender, lyrical family story set in the Kentucky mountains.

Together, author and illustrator have created a delight for the senses that harmonizes the coziness of a close-knit family with the gentle ambience of old-fashioned farm life.

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Written by Shutta Crum
Illustrated by Ted Rand
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for ages 5-9

CLASSROOM EXTENSION IDEAS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Have students list all the things they enjoyed doing over summer vacation. Can they use any of those in a poem? At the end of the book, Brenda Gail wonders about getting smells into songs. Find some good poems/songs that talk about smells. Discuss whether the authors of the poems you are reading are successful in conveying the sense of smell. What about the other senses? In MY MOUNTAIN SONG the author opens up the story with the musical sounds of morning. Have your students close their eyes and recollect how different times of day sound in their homes.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

This story is very similar to the author’s childhood memories visiting relatives in Kentucky every summer. In fact, her family nickname was Shuck Beans!* Have your students read other autobiographical or biographical picture books and discuss the difference between autobiography and biography. Which do they prefer? Why? Can they write a story about themselves? Or a biography of a fellow student? (*Extra credit to any student who can find out what “shucked beans” are, and why families use to store beans that way.)