

Blackbird Fly

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Blackbird Fly is a story about a middle school girl whose nickname is Apple. Apple and her mother moved from the Philippines to the United States when she was young after her father's death. Apple is trying to find her place in middle school, her current friends are changing and she doesn't seem to fit in with them anymore. Music is her outlet. She wants to learn to play the guitar and become a songwriter but her mother is against it. Apple and her mother aren't getting along because she won't support Apple's music interests. Her favorite band is the Beatles and she knows all the songs from a cassette tape she brought with her from the Philippines that she thinks belonged to her father.

She finds herself without any real friends until she meets Evan, who is the new student that just moved from California. Evan is different, although the students tease him, it doesn't seem to bother him like it bothers Apple when they tease her. He is content with himself and he shows Apple that she can be content with herself too. Apple makes friends with Heleena, they both have something in common, they are not popular with the other students. She also likes music and she is the best singer in school.

The music teacher provides Apple a guitar to practice with, and she is pretty good at it. She has to keep the guitar hidden from her mother. Evan, Apple, and Heelenna become close friends. Apple gets Hellena to learn some of the Beatle songs so she can sing while Apple plays guitar. When Apple's mother finds out she plays the guitar, Apple learns some things about her mother that brings them closer.

My favorite thing about this book is that it shows that it's okay to be different. I like that the story encourages young people to embrace their talents and be comfortable being themselves. I think this book would make a great gift for ages 11-14

Recommended Titles

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus, by Dusti bowling

A Long Walk to Water, by Linda Sue Park

Booked, by Kwame Alexander