Camille and the Sunflowers by Laurence Anholt

Great Book!

Where Camille lived, the sunflowers grew so high they looked like real suns. . . . So begins this fascinating tale of Camille, a little boy who meets a man with a yellow beard. This man is Vincent van Gogh, and they become best friends. The story, based on a true-life incident, is beautifully illustrated in full-color, including reproductions of some of van Gogh's paintings.

Features:

This is a beautiful picture book with a very important and heartwarming message - that of friendship and acceptance of someone despite being perceived as different. Young Camille and his father, the village postman, welcome a stranger to their little hamlet. The stranger, Vincent (Van Gogh) loves to paint, and as Camille and his father help Vincent settle in, they end up being chosen as subjects for Vincent's paintings. Camille loves Vincent's paintings, yet the villagers look upon Vincent with derision and suspicion. Camille is sad that his friend is not accepted, but Camille's father sagely tells his son that someday Vincent's painting will be appreciated, and that sometimes people find it difficult to accept others that are not like them.

This is a beautiful picture book filled with glorious color, and a poignant story that conveys a message of acceptance, friendship and empathy. Highly recommended for ages 4-8.

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