

Letters in Charcoal

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Textured illustrations utilize rich colors and fine details to depict the transformative power of reading through the story of a little girl whose older sister receives frequent letters from a doctor who once visited their village. Neither girl, though, can read the letters' contents. Certain that they contain messages of love, the girl seeks reading lessons from the village shopkeeper in exchange for helping in the store; she then teaches others, including her older sister and, later, her son.

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (July / August 2023)

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