

Ilias' Mountain by Lilian Kars and Steffie Padmos

5 stars

"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see" Henry David Thoreau

Ilias lives in a beautiful village at the bottommost edge of a mountain. His dad, the local doctor, always seems to be laden down with worries and problems and this affects his mother, young sister Ella and himself.

There is a tradition in the village that when someone reaches twelve, they may climb the path up the mountain to deposit the stones collected for each problem they have had to face and by discarding it after carrying it all the way to the top. This is supposed to help them to return from the walk knowing that they have left their worries and cares behind them. Ilias is allowed to take his first long walk on the day of his twelfth birthday (the village deems that's the age when the children may begin this tradition. He returns feeling that nothing has changed in his life. Because his father always seems to be too busy or too irritable, his mother so wrapped up in keeping Ilias and Ella quiet when their father is around, that Ilias finds it easier to talk to Thomas, owner of Bradley's Bread, Pies and Pastries.

It is thanks to Thomas that Ilias learns the very important lesson we all need to be cognisant of; look up and see the beauty around you and use whatever the rocks represent to create something else, something meaningful.

This is a beautifully illustrated book which helps explain to children that problems in life can be shared to find answers for them and instead of only looking inwardly at a problem because it's never going to solve it, look towards the beauty of (in this instance) the mountain, any worries or cares, sadness or sorrow can be lifted and in doing so, help can be given to those around you.

Treebeard

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.