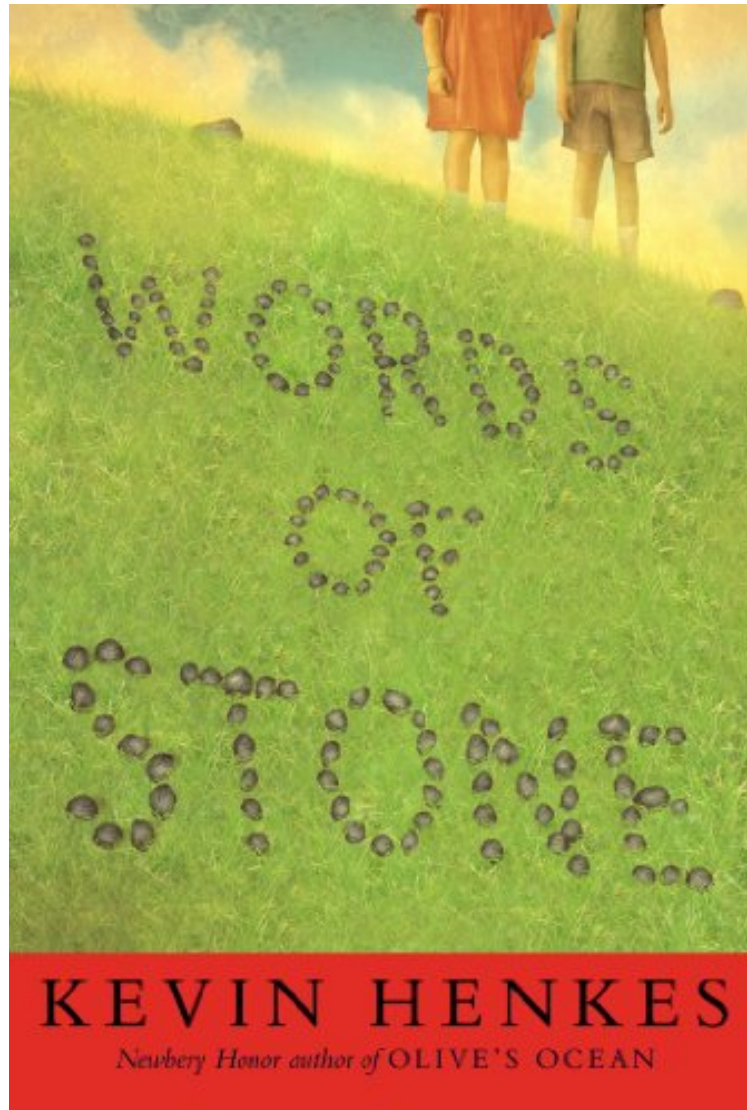


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Words of Stone

Von Kevin Henkes

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Von Kevin Henkes : Words of Stone before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Words of Stone:

KurzbeschreibungBlaze Werla is having a typical summer. He lives in the country with his father and grandmother.

He spends his days alone, wandering around the hill beside his home. Then the message appears on the side of the hill. And Blaze's summer suddenly takes a turn toward the mysterious. By the time Blaze meets Joselle Stark, the unexpected seems almost normal. Every year for the past five years since his mother's death, 10-year-old Blaze has buried an imaginary friend beneath a stone marker on a hill near his house. Every July he creates a new friend, hoping that this time his make-believe companion will help him overcome his phobias--fears that have plagued him since he lost his mother to cancer. One day Blaze discovers that someone has used his stone grave markers to spell out his mother's name, "Reena." Feeling frightened and spooked, he cannot fathom who or what could have written this tormenting word. Unbeknownst to Blaze, young Joselle Stark has recently moved into her grandmother's nearby farmhouse after being abandoned by her self-centered mother. When Joselle hears about Reena's death, she feels darkly compelled to write disturbing messages to Blaze, using the stones she finds on the hill between them. In this book, as in his others, Kevin Henkes eloquently builds sympathy for the perpetrator as well as the victim, helping young readers understand the traumas and insecurities that cause people to lie and hurt others. When Joselle and Blaze eventually meet and become friends, Joselle hides the truth about the words she once wrote in stone. But when the lie is revealed, Henkes does not create a swift or easy resolution. Instead he becomes more graceful and paced in his writing--allowing the reader to savor the intricacies of betrayal, rejection, and reconciliation. ALA Notable Book, School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, Publishers Weekly Best Book, Horn Book Fanfare Honor List. (Ages 10 and older) --Gail Hudson

Pressestimmen Vivid characterizations and profound symbolism are sure to linger in readers' minds. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) [Henkes] characters live, lingering in the memory. An outstanding book. (Kirkus (pointer)) A challenging and skillful book. (Times Educational Supplement) If you know Henkes only as a writer/illustrator for younger children, this book will be a pleasant surprise. (Chicago Tribune Books) What readers will love about this book is the friendship between these two very different loners. (ALA Booklist)