A House That Once Was
By: Julie Fogliano
Illustrated by: Lane Smith
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THE BOOK
Two children come across an abandoned house deep in the woods and imagine who could have lived there. A House That Once Was is a beautifully illustrated exploration of time, imagination and the nature of home that is sure to provoke discussion. Illustrated by the winner of the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2017, Lane Smith. Lane’s artwork is a riot of colour and rich texture that perfectly matches the poetic text written by the New York Times-bestselling author, Julie Fogliano. This evocative, rhyming story is perfect for reading out loud.

WHY WE CHOSE THIS BOOK
There is nothing quite like the lure of an abandoned house for igniting a child’s imagination. Many adult and children readers alike will relate to the experience of wondering what has gone on in a dwelling that shows no sign of recent human habitation. Cautiously two children find such a dwelling in the woods. Upon investigation they find evidence of a busy life and together they wonder about who might have lived here, what sort of lives did they lead, what happened to them? This is a gorgeous picture book that through Fogliano’s spare rhyming text conveys to children the passage of time while tapping into a child’s natural curiosity. Lane Smith’s vibrant illustrations, quite different in colour, line and texture in the pages representing present day to past day, bring to life the imagined stories of the previous occupants. We loved this book.