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Review of *Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks* by Suzanne Slade

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Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks

Slade, Suzanne

Illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera

New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2020

9781419734113

Suzanne Slade writes her own kind of poetry in *Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks*. She chronicles the famous Pulitzer Prize poetic aspirations through life with an air that is truly, well, exquisite. Little Gwendolyn Brooks has a passion for poetry, and even as she struggles through the hardships of the Great Depression, can't seem to fit in in high school, and faces poverty all through her adult life, she keeps writing. *Exquisite* incorporates real life quotes from Brooks and others, which provide elementary students with their first exposure to citations. The historical note and timeline the author includes give students a glimpse at historical context. Illustrator Cozbi A. Cabrera depicts stunning and imaginative scenes that pair superbly with the poetic narrative Ms. Slade writes. **Highly Recommended** Grace Kohler, Centennial Library Intern, Cedarville University