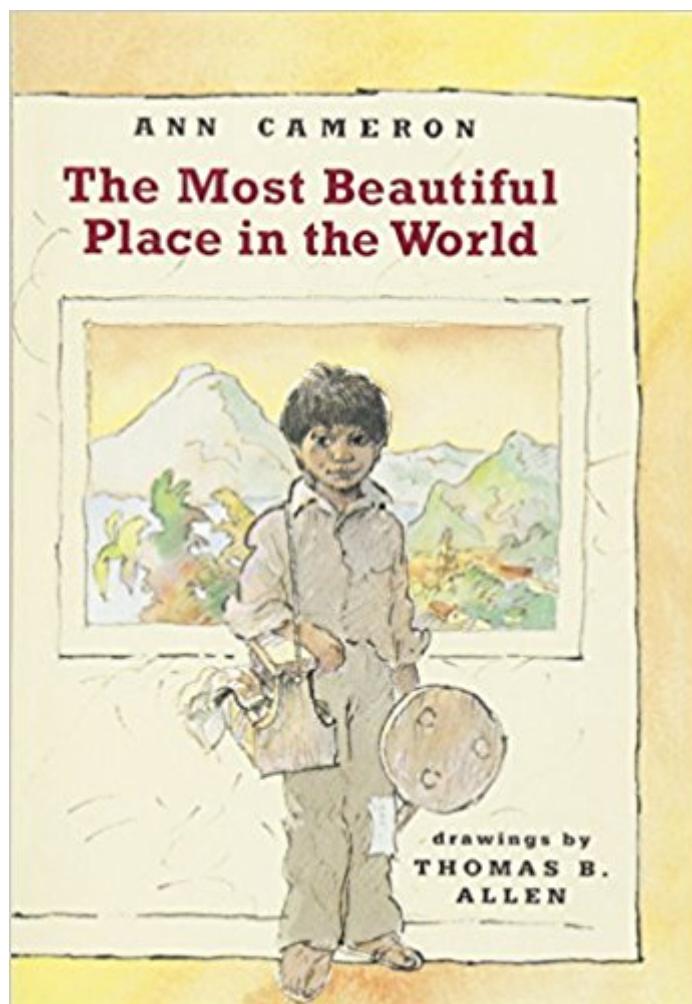


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# The Most Beautiful Place In The World



## Synopsis

"Seven-year-old Juan lives in Guatemala, a place of stunning beauty and grim economic reality. Abandoned by his mother, Juan lives with his grandmother and shines shoes. He passionately wants to attend school, but fears Grandmother will say no. Finally gathering his courage, he is surprised when she not only agrees to send him to school but also chides him about the importance of standing up for himself. Juan tells this bittersweet story, which reads smoothly and powerfully on several levels, with warmth and dignity."--Booklist.Ã  Ã  Ã 

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830L (What's this?)

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Reprint edition (May 25, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394804244

ISBN-13: 978-0394804248

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #143,644 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 inÃ  Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America #169 inÃ  Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino #197 inÃ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-5 Juan lives in a remote Guatemalan lake village, physically beautiful, yet desolate with the poverty that is matter-of-factly described by the young protagonist. When Juan's mother wants to remarry, the new man refuses to accept Juan, and he lives with his grandmother, who provides him with a shoeshine kit and puts him to work. Juan teaches himself to read some of the street signs by asking his customers to tell him what the letters are, and eventually asks his grandmother if he can go to school, knowing that she needs the money that he earns. All is well, however; Grandmother simply hasn't remembered that Juan is now old enough for school. Her own surprise is nothing

compared to readers', though, when they discover that this boy, virtually on his own for years, is only seven years old. Colorful descriptions of the tropical beauty of Guatemala almost gloss over the exigencies of poverty. Cameron's style has almost a fairy-tale quality in that she takes no positions as to the rights and wrongs of the characters' situations or behaviors. Juan accepts all with stoicism, regarding the loss of his bed as worse than the loss of mother and father. He reflects that he still has his grandmother ( even though her protection seems rather scanty). Their hand-to-mouth existence is redeemed by their attitudes about lifeGrandmother's that the most beautiful place in the world is "anyplace you can hold your head up," and Juan's that that place is "where you love somebody. . .and you know that person loves you." A small , first-chapter book that is a very satisfying example of human values; a serious book for serious moments. Ruth Semrau, Lovejoy School, McKinney, Tex.Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the School & Library Binding edition.

"Seven-year-old Juan lives in Guatemala, a place of stunning beauty and grim economic reality. Abandoned by his mother, Juan lives with his grandmother and shines shoes. He passionately wants to attend school, but fears Grandmother will say no. Finally gathering his courage, he is surprised when she not only agrees to send him to school but also chides him about the importance of standing up for himself. Juan tells this bittersweet story, which reads smoothly and powerfully on several levels, with warmth and dignity."--"Booklist.

Met Ann here in Guatemala and bought the book, just wonderful as is the author Anne.

Nice little story. Gift for next generation American-Guatemalan children

This is an exceedingly beautiful story of a young boy in Guatemala. I have used it many times with students I have tutored. It opens students' eyes to a part of the world most are not familiar with, and it details how dedicated Juan is to his family.

Read an excerpt of this book on a state test and decided to purchase it. Great for a read aloud for elementary students in grade 3-5.

all children in this country should be made to read. A gift for my sobrina(niece). It was a wake up call for her

beautiful images, touching story that we read while we were at Lake Atitlan. I can tell you the story helped us understand better the community we were visiting.

I read this to a student at school and he didn't think that he would like it but it turned out to be one of the BEST books that he has ever read. Love the book and the price. It was delivered right on time.

First of all been from Guatemala at first I was surprised by the story of the book. It's sad but it's so true, thank you for the book.

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