

School Library Connection – March/April 2018

Cervantes, Angela

Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring

2018. 240pp. \$16.99 hc. Scholastic Press. 9781338159318. Grades 3-7

Paloma Marquez and her mom travel to Mexico the summer after she turns 12. Paloma feels bored, confused, and unsure of herself, much like other tweens. Reading young adult detective stories and cell phone entertainment serve as her escapes. In Mexico, she meets two kids her age, Lizzie and Gael, who immediately ask her for help in solving a mystery about Frida Kahlo's peacock ring. As Frida Kahlo was her father's favorite artist, Paloma is eager to join the search, hoping to find some emotional connection to her father. This story will certainly hold the interest of readers. The chapters are short, yet filled with sensory details and suspense, and the artwork is magnificent. Readers will see how finding purpose, expressing feelings, and making connections outside of technology can vastly improve their outlook. This book could accompany a history lesson where students could choose an artist that they would like to solve a mystery about. Students could also do a character trait lesson in which they recognize their strengths while stressing the benefit of believing in yourself and in the good of others. **Melissa Van Dusen, Retired Librarian, Wamego, Kansas**

Recommended