Interview with Diane Rappoport

Diane Rappoport is a renowned children's book author with over 350 titles to her name. She has been recognized with numerous awards, including the prestigious Caldecott Medal for her book "The Naked Mole-Rat's Wedding," which explores themes of gender and identity. Rappoport's work often tackles complex issues in a way that is accessible and engaging for young readers.

Rappoport's latest book, "The Secret Life of Bees," is a heartwarming story about a young girl named Lily who discovers her family's hidden past in a small southern town. The book has been praised for its vivid characters and poignant themes. When we spoke to Rappoport about her new work, she shared her inspirations and insights on writing for children.

Q: What inspired you to write "The Secret Life of Bees"?

A: The inspiration for "The Secret Life of Bees" came from my own experiences growing up in the South. I've always been fascinated by the rich history and culture of the region, and I wanted to explore those themes through the lens of a young girl's story.

Q: What do you hope readers will take away from the book?

A: I hope readers will come away with a deeper understanding of the importance of family, identity, and self-discovery. "The Secret Life of Bees" is a story about finding one's place in the world, and I hope it will inspire kids to explore their own identities with courage and curiosity.

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Poems and Talk That Make: A Conversation on the Arts with John Ashbery at the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The collection includes a dialogue between Ashbery and Rappoport about the art of poetry and its relationship to language and culture. The book is available now.

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