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# Imagine A Place



words by SARAH L. THOMSON  
paintings by ROB GONSALVES



## Synopsis

If you can imagine a place, you can go there. Imagine a place that makes you feel as free as a bird. Imagine a place where getting there is worth whatever it takes. Imagine a place that makes you feel like it's always been your destination. Imagine a place made out of pure imagination. *Imagine a Place* is a gorgeous companion to the critically acclaimed *Imagine a Night* and *Imagine a Day*, and reminds us that imagination is powerful enough to take us anywhere we want to go. And Rob Gonsalves's exquisitely conceived paintings leave you in awe...of his imagination.

## Book Information

Series: *Imagine a...*

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #123,380 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Mystery & Wonders #457 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art #795 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-6 •The creators of *Imagine a Night* (2003) and *Imagine a Day* (2005, both S & S) offer another book to ponder and pore over. Readers are again encouraged to stretch their imaginations and question perspective and perception. Painterly acrylic panoramas, supported by lyrical text, are packed with skewed realities. On the title page, an image of a cathedral's interior transmutes into a city skyline as the pointed arches become silhouetted skyscrapers and the mottled stonework of ancient walls, buttressed ceilings, and floor become the rippled surface of the surrounding harbor and stratocumulus clouds. On another spread, the text reads, "Imagine a place where water is solid,/light is liquid,/sky a frozen river/flowing under your feet," and the

illustration shows skaters gliding across a nighttime river, their lanterns reflecting the moonlight, and snow banks that mirror the clouds above. The sometimes esoteric text and sophisticated art play with literality: houseboats are depicted as brick-and-stone manors in giant skiffs, their verdant lawns enclosed by bow-and-stern-curved fences. This is not magical realism, but shifting realism—magical, to be sure, but not in the high-falutin', metaphysical sense. This is the magic of positive and negative space, of expectation and experimentation, of creativity and conversion. Readers will want to look, look again, discuss, and imagine. —Kathy Krasniewicz, Perrot Library, Old Greenwich, CT Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Sarah L. Thomson's other books include *The Dragon's Son*, which was named one of the best science fiction, fantasy, and horror books of 2001 by Voice of Youth Advocates; *Stars and Stripes*; and *Imagine a Night*. She lives in Maine. Rob Gonsalves grew up drawing images from his imagination. Before becoming a full-time artist, Mr. Gonsalves worked as an architect. He began exhibiting paintings in Toronto in 1990, and his work is now shown throughout North America and beyond. His picture books are *Imagine a Place*, *Imagine a Night*, and *Imagine a Day*, which was the recipient of the Governor General's Literary award. He currently lives in Ontario, Canada.

Rob Gonsalves art work is just exquisite. He is a creative master of the surreal landscape. This is his third book and again the story line like the other books is entertaining. My kids enjoyed his earlier books and my youngest has had the benefit of enjoying all three. Even if not purchasing for a child, the art work is so wonderful anyone would enjoy these books which are a compilation of Gonsalves work.

I LOVE this artist and the prose attached to each painting by Sarah Thomson. I already had the other two books "Imagine a Day" and "Imagine a Night" and felt compelled to add to this collection with "Imagine a Place". We have seen some of the original paintings by Rob Gonsalves in a South Lake Tahoe gallery and marvel at his imagination and talent. I show these books to all my artist friends and they, too, are taken with his creativity and style. As we can't afford one of his paintings, we are happy to look at the books! The prose in the book is very thought-provoking and appropriate to each painting. These two talents combined make for a beautiful, universal gift.

The artwork of Rob Gonsalves in the books *Imagine a Place*, *Imagine a Day* and *Imagine a Night* is

genius. Adults and children alike will spend hours looking at his pictures. Most of his art is a beautiful but impossible image - very imaginative. For example, you might find a picture of a hiker setting out across stones on a foggy creek. Gradually the stones turn into castle spires and hikers are hopping from tower to tower. If you ever as an adult looked back at a picture book from your childhood and found that the words were very few but your memories of that book were very detailed and vivid due to the artwork, these books will be among the best of those. I bought an extra copy of a Rob Gonsalves book and cut it up and had the pictures laminated and hung in my high school math classroom. Every student and teacher loves them. Everyone who has ever been in the room has a favorite picture that he finds amazing.

These are gorgeous books that I bought for my kids. They are pretty enough to be on the coffee table in the living room.

Imagine Just a Place takes you on a magically journey to a place that is found only in your mind's imagination and dreams. It is a wonderfully escape route to a place that is not found in reality; but is based on the dreams and imagination of the artist. The words of the story connects well to the beautiful and magical landscape found in this enchanting book. It is my perfect escape into the world of what ifs and dreams. I plan to use this book in my dream journal workshop this summer to encourage my students and to stimulate and motivate them to use the creativity found in their imagination as a source for their writing.

It is a magical book! Not just for kids.

Always love Rob's artwork and visionary imagination!

This is a beautiful, imaginative picture book.

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