

**Title: *The Barren Grounds***  
**Author: David A. Robertson**  
**Genre: Adventure, Fiction**

**Reviewer's Name and Grade: Nitya M., 8th grade.**

**Date Reviewed: January 30, 2023**

This book takes place in Winnipeg, Manitoba in a fiction world, which is frozen, barren grounds. The main characters of this book are Morgan and Eli (Children in Foster care), Katie and James (Foster parents), Oчек (Fisher) and Arik (A Squirrel).

Morgan is a foster child and has been living in foster care from the age of three. She is now in her eighth foster care home where she meets Eli, her foster brother. They both were new to each other and trying to feel comfortable in the new home and with foster parents, Katie, and James. One day Morgan accidentally found a door in the attic that was painted shut. Eli also joins Morgan, and both decide to make a little room in this newly discovered area. In the middle of the night, Morgan freezes and realizes that Eli has reopened the attic door. Morgan enters the door to find Eli.

Morgan met Oчек, the fisher guy with Eli in this new world called as Aski and the village is Misewa, this land has been trapped in snow, "white time" since, man stole the summer birds. Morgan, Eli and Oчек decided to bring summer birds back to Misewa. In their journey, they met Arik, a Squirrel who can help them to reach to the "green time" where man is holding summer birds.

With so many twists and turns, the group finally get success to bring back green time in Misewa. Morgan and Eli go back home through the door from which they discovered Aski. Now they act as if nothing ever happened and live as a family happily once again.

***Did the plot keep me interested?*** This plot kept me interested. It reminds me of Narnia.

***Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow or just right?*** I think the pace of this book was just right. One after another chapter, kept me excited and increased my eagerness to know what was next.

***What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?*** This book is appropriate for grade 7 and up.

***What type of reader would you recommend this book to?*** - I would recommend this book to readers who like an adventure and fantasy books.

***What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?*** This book has a strong message about willpower and life lessons.

I would rate this book **4 stars** because the plot is too good. The story is a mix of adventure and drama.