

Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas  
BOOK REVIEW

*Isabella's Peppermint Flowers*

Authored by Susan Leopold, with illustrations by Nicky Staunton. 2014.  
(ISBN 978-0-692-33302-0)

(Orders: [www.FloraForKids.org](http://www.FloraForKids.org)).

\$18.00 US, 36 pp., watercolor drawings, glossary, epilogue.

For the young aspiring botanist, this book will be a treasure. The story of two girls who go flower-hunting with their mother becomes an introduction to the basics of botany, augmented by the excellent illustrations. The author incorporates the historical context of botanical pioneers including an introduction to Linneaus, John Clayton, and John Gronovius in the State of Virginia. Terms and names used in the context of the story are clarified in the definitions at the end. This book is an excellent teaching text for beginning botanists.—  
*Pamela Edmondson, Volunteer, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*

What a fantastic and unique resource for both children and their caretakers! Author Susan Leopold uses the story of two sisters and a mother walking in the woods to introduce the basics of taxonomy, floristics, and plant collecting, all while dropping in asides about binomial nomenclature, rare and endangered species, and botanical history. True, the story focuses in part on the history of the flora of Virginia, but the overall message is universal: inspiring a sense of place and an appreciation of the natural world. For the sake of encouraging a new generation of botanists, it would be a wonderful thing to see books like this for all 50 states.

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