



Danitra Brown Leaves Town

By Nikki Grimes

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It's summer vacation, but Zuri Jackson isn't happy. What will she do all summer long in the city when her best friend, Danitra. Brown, the most splendiferous girl in town, is off to visit her family in the country? Write, of course!

Through a series of letters, these two friends share with readers what childhood summers are made of. fireflies, Fourth of July, skies like a thick overcoat buttoned up with stars, family reunions, block parties, handball games...and coming back home, where true friendship always remains.

We met these two unforgettable best friends in the Coretta Scott King Honor Book *Meet Danitra Brown*. Now Nikki Grimes brings Danitra and Zuri back, in thirteen more spirited poems matched with Floyd Cooper's exuberant paintings.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Zuri describes in verse the summer that she and her best friend Danitra are separated in *Danitra Brown Leaves Town* by Nikki Grimes, a follow-up to *Meet Danitra Brown*. Floyd Cooper's luminescent pastels chronicle the long days and Zuri's many moods.

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From School Library Journal

Grades 3-5--Grimes and Cooper return with another story told through poems about Danitra Brown and Zuri Jackson. This time, the friends exchange letters all summer long while Danitra is visiting relatives. Zuri starts out feeling angry and disappointed that Danitra is leaving her behind and doesn't seem to care, but eventually both girls make new friends while they look forward to being together again. Some vignettes may leave readers with perplexing questions; for example, Danitra describes a stubborn dragonfly that she's sure would like to eat her, but the accompanying image depicts her smiling at it benignly. All in all, however, Cooper's photo-realist artwork in soft hues against glowing backdrops is a lovely complement to the girls' many moods.

Catherine Threadgill, Charleston County Public Library, SC

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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 4-8. The best friends from *Meet Danitra Brown* (1994) celebrate summer apart and together in this warm story, told in simple free verse with big, joyful oil-wash paintings. The girls' friendship frames the story. At first Zuri is hurt that Danitra leaves to go to her family in the country, but then Danitra writes "I wish that you were here" and shares her delight in camping out under the stars, climbing trees, and discovering "a different Danitra." Meanwhile Zuri finds lots of fun and a new friend in her city neighborhood. The surprise is in the details: on one page Zuri writes to Danitra about a hip-swinging, head-bobbling, foot-stomping block party, and the bouncy painting shows Cooper at his best. Just as vital are the words and pictures of Danitra swinging in the country garden. Kids will see that both friends travel far and welcome each other home. *Hazel Rochman*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gina Gregg:

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Dorinda Kling:

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Randy Johnson:

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