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## The Pear Violin by B. Zhao

**Sean Borle**

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.20361/G2360N>

### Abstract

Zhao, Bingbo. *The Pear Violin*, illustrated by Gumi. Starfish Bay Children's Books, 2016.

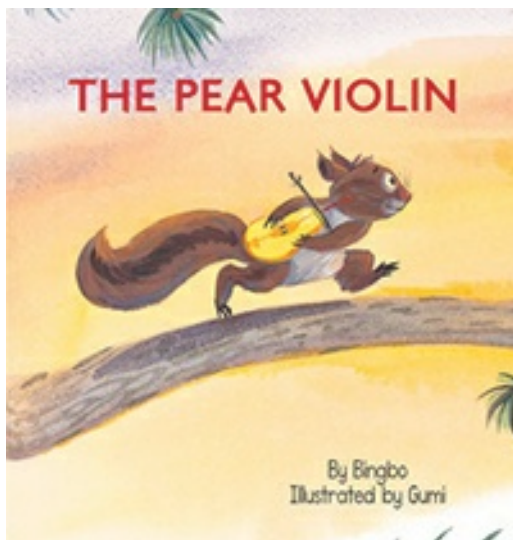
Bingbo Zhao, who publishes under his first name, Bingbo, has published more than 370 children's books and won more than 50 awards. *The Pear Violin* is an imaginative picture book which starts from the idea that pears and violins are shaped alike. In Bingbo's fantasy world, a squirrel cuts a pear in half, uses a twig and some of his whiskers to make a bow, and begins playing. In this world foxes, elephants, bears, lions and a variety of other animals all inhabit the same forest. The music of the violin is so powerful that it can make the fox stop chasing the chicken and the lion "let the rabbit lie in his arms, so that the rabbit would feel warmer when listening to the music." The music also has the power to make a small pear seed grow quickly into a tree and grow many pears. All the animals make the pears into cellos, violins and

violins and all play beautiful music together. Throughout the book Gumi (no last name given) illustrates the motion and emotion of the animals. The animals' faces show curiosity when the seed starts to grow and excitement when they play together in the concert. A suspension of disbelief is required for the enjoyment of this book. Some children will ask, "Why don't the pears rot?" and "Why are bears and elephants in the same forest?" However, for most, it will just be a fun book which carries the message that music brings people together. This book would be good for public libraries and school libraries.

Recommended: 3 stars out of 4

Reviewer: Sean Borle

Sean Borle is a University of Alberta undergraduate student who is an advocate for child health and safety



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