**When Marnie Was There**

by Eleonora Konopka, 4H

When Marnie Was There is a 2014 Japanese anime film written and directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi, produced by Studio Ghibli and based on Joan G. Robinson's novel of the same name. It has been nominated for an Oscar Academy Award for the best Animated Feature Film.

The story follows Anna, a twelve year old introverted girl from Sapporo. Due to her asthma attacks,her doctor suggests that she moves somewhere more relaxing. Anna is then sent to stay with her relatives for the summer in a rural seaside town. After exploring the area she finds herself drawn to a seemingly abandoned mansion across a salt marsh where she meets and befriends a mysterious girl named Marnie. As their bond grows, Anna finds there is something unusual about her and even begins to wonder about her newfound friend.

The film was absolutely brilliant and I am very pleased to say it is a complete success. The story is really heartwarming and it has a supernatural element. I was completely wonderstruck by how stunning the animation was. Everything from the character's facial expressions to the enviorment and even the smallest decorations in the rooms were outstanding. I am also astonished by the fact that all of the animation in the film was hand-drawn.

Studio Ghibli has made some of the most memorable animated films of all time and *When Marnie Was There* is yet another triumph. I think the best part of this film is that it's suitable for both children and adults. It is really worth watching and I would recommend it to anyone.