

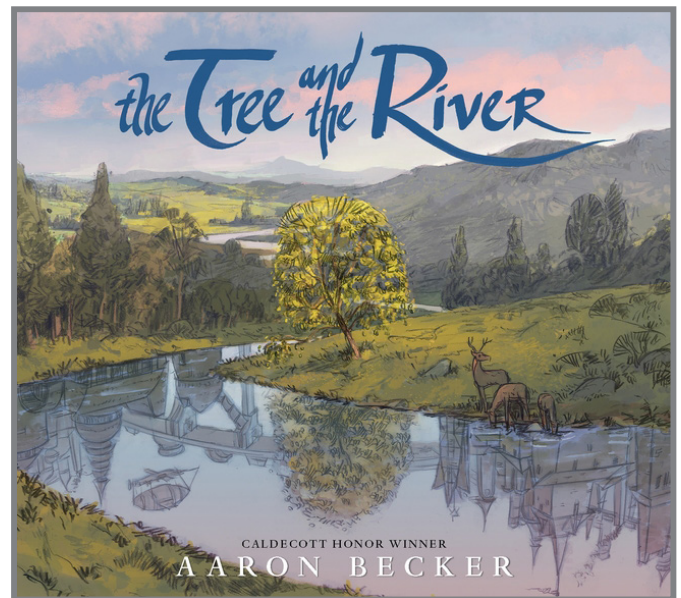
The Tree and the River

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
AARON BECKER

SCIS: 5445007

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

For his latest feat of visual storytelling, the acclaimed creator of the Journey trilogy invents, in staggering detail, a familiar world layered with imaginary civilisations. Borrowing from multiple cultures and architectural styles to craft astonishing new humanscapes, Aaron Becker tracks the evolution of our species—and its toll on the Earth—through the fates of a lone tree and an enduring river. River and tree bear silent witness over time as people arrive to harness water, wind and animals; devise technology and transportation; redirect rivers; and reshape the land. Timely and ultimately hopeful, this wordless epic invites readers to pore over spreads densely packed with visual drama.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Aaron Becker started drawing picture books at the age of eight. After many years of practice, he published his first wordless picture book, *Journey*, which was named a Caldecott Honor Book, and completed the trilogy with *Quest* and *Return*. He is also the author/illustrator of the wordless picture book, *A Stone for Sascha*. Aaron Becker lives in Massachusetts, USA, with his wife and daughter. Find him online at storybreathing.com and on Twitter as [@storybreathing](https://twitter.com/storybreathing).

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author/illustrator
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover?
- Write your own story using the title of the picture book.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attentions and give them some idea of what the book is about.
- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

- How do the illustrations add to the story? Do you think the illustrator has effectively told his story visually?
- Cover the text in the book and write your own story following the illustrations.
- Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following illustration decisions:
 - How do the illustrations add to the story?
 - How do you think the people are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
 - Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?
 - Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
 - Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
 - Are any of the words bigger on the page than the others? Why could that be?
- Discuss the medium used by the illustrator (watercolour, ink, acrylic, etc.) Draw or paint a picture in the style of the books illustrations. Do some research on the illustrator. Is this their usual style?