

“Return to the magic
Return to the wonder
Return to The Journey”
a book by Caldecott Honor
winner Aaron Becker.

Welcome to Aaron Becker's wordless trilogy- a spectacular, emotionally satisfying story that brings its adventurer home.

What is the book about?

A lonely girl who fails to get attention from her father chooses to return to a fantasy world where friendship and adventure take place. Using her magical crayon, it's her third journey into the tempting realm of kings and emperors, canals and castles, enchanting landscapes, and exotic creatures. It is needed something powerfully to convince her this time to return home, as an exciting backstory is revealed.

Addressed to: 4-9 years old
children



When we can use the book?



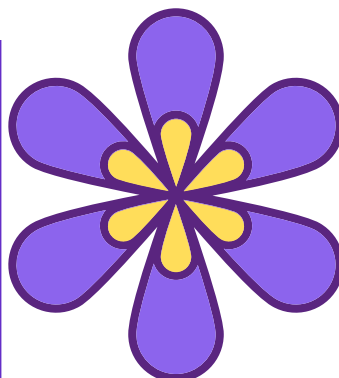
While most books' characters are male, and background characters are sometimes agender, Aaron Becker promotes gender diversity and equality. The book reflects on societal issues, where we meet, many times, a father figure who is absent or not engaged. Thus, Becker's trilogy can easily be used as a tool to address fatherhood, especially the relationship between daughter and father.



We can use this book to flourish imagination among children. The book becomes a facilitator for kids to enter an imaginary world where they can talk about their emotions, such as loneliness and lack of attention. The book will help in building the relationship between parents and kids.

Which skills we make flourish?

- imagination
- fantasy
- gender diversity
- cooperation



Which Method we use?

- Collective reading
- Meaning making
discussion and reflection
- Creative expression

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Activity - let's put it into practice!

Visual narratives in picture books can be seen as small-scale worlds that welcome and take us through the complex dynamic of reading and interpreting cultural, natural and inner images that we see.

Duration: 45 min

Structure

1

Collective reading

The educator/facilitator is presenting herself/himself and the book. Pages of the book are projected or physically shown to children. The facilitator makes some introductory questions:

- What do you think the book is about?
- What may happen to this character in the story?

Remember, there are no wrong or right answers. :)

2

Meaning making discussion and reflection

We go through the book together and stop to hear and exchange reflections.

After reading it, we can ask more focused questions:

- What emotions do you think the girl has?
- Can you tell me or show me? (This question will allow the kids to show emotions with body language. Younger children might want to show you physically by copying the girl's body language and showing the expression they imagine on her face.)

3

Creative expression

The magic crayons. Give the children some paper and crayons and ask them to create their own story of a magical world by choosing their favorite color to follow. Invite them to reflect: what is the message they want to give their parents?



Do you know that...

The Caldecott Medal "shall be awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American Picture Book for Children published in the United States during the preceding year.

Practical Tip

The book *Return* is the last chapter of a trilogy that Aaron Becker started. *Journey*, *Quest*, and *Return*.

You can watch the book *Return* available on [YouTube](#).

