



Mirror

By Jeannie Baker

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Mirror By Jeannie Baker

An innovative, two-in-one picture book follows a parallel day in the life of two families: one in a Western city and one in a North African village.

Somewhere in Sydney, Australia, a boy and his family wake up, eat breakfast, and head out for a busy day of shopping. Meanwhile, in a small village in Morocco, a boy and his family go through their own morning routines and set out to a bustling market. In this ingenious, wordless picture book, readers are invited to compare, page by page, the activities and surroundings of children in two different cultures. Their lives may at first seem quite unlike, but a closer look reveals that there are many things, some unexpected, that connect them as well. Designed to be read side by side — one from the left and the other from the right — these intriguing stories are told entirely through richly detailed collage illustrations.

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Mirror By Jeannie Baker Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. PreSchool-Grade 4—In *Window* (1991) and *Home* (2004, both Greenwillow), Baker combined a concept, her signature collages, and a wordless format to underscore environmental issues. *Mirror* illuminates the common humanity beneath the surface of cultural differences. In a clever design, two sets of bound signatures face one another, the gatherings reversed from their normal location inside the spine; readers manipulate the two openings simultaneously. In parallel narratives, two boys awaken in the moonlight, accompany their fathers on an errand, and return home. In the story on the left, the destination is a hardware emporium in Sydney, Australia. Materials for an indoor fireplace are purchased and put in a van. The right side occurs in Morocco. Father and son mount a donkey and travel a long distance to sell a hand-woven rug and buy a computer at the market. After a family dinner, they turn it on and the Australians settle onto a fireside carpet matching the one in the other story. The size, shape, and number of the panels in one story are reflected in the other, a choice that assists with comparison. English and Arabic paragraphs introduce the visual narratives. A diagram indicates the right-to-left orientation of the Moroccan story. Baker's skill in orchestrating fabric, vegetation, clay, and other materials into scenes with the proper scale and convincing depth is a wonder to behold. The author's notes hint at her purpose and process. A fresh take on a timely and timeless message.—*Wendy Lukehart, Washington DC Public Library*

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From [Booklist](#)

This quiet, inventive, mostly wordless picture book follows two boys on opposite sides of the world through a single day, highlighting the differences and universalities in their lives. Meant to be read simultaneously, the stories appear side by side as separate mini-books bound within the same covers, while brief, introductory lines of text in English and Arabic introduce the boys, one in urban Australia and one in rural Morocco. The wordless accounts begin in strict parallel, with pages subdivided into symmetrical scenes of each boy's family life, from breakfast to daytime excursions and finally to supper. Baker allows her stories to unfold naturally, and the cultural connections never feel forced; the boys investigate a curiosity at the market or remember a younger sibling, each in his own way. That sense of verisimilitude gives a depth to the simple, common experiences, which resonate across pages and cultures. In disparate, detailed landscapes rendered in her trademark style of three-dimensional, mixed-media collage, Baker creates a moving reminder of what we all share. Preschool-Grade 3. --Thom Barthelmess

Review

An engaging and educational picture book...spectacularly detailed. Bookseller Buyer's Guide ...a fascinating, engaging and educational picture book exploring the themes of culture and identity. -- Jeannie Baker
Bookseller Stunning! How else to describe Jeannie Baker's astonishing new picture book *Mirror*. -- Marilyn Brocklehurst Bookseller ...this is an important book about diversity that makes a lasting impression. -- Jake Hope Bookseller A life-affirming work. The Bookseller *Mirror* is the seasons most remarkable book...original and brilliantly executed. -- Kate Kellaway The Observer Featured/recommended The Boston Globe Uses the mirror metaphor to wordlessly explore our actions Early Years Educator This is a book which demands to be shared and discussed. Books for Keeps

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Terry Palladino:

This Mirror book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is definitely information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This specific Mirror without we understand teach the one who studying it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't always be worry Mirror can bring whenever you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Mirror having good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Patricia Frazier:

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Adam Cuyler:

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