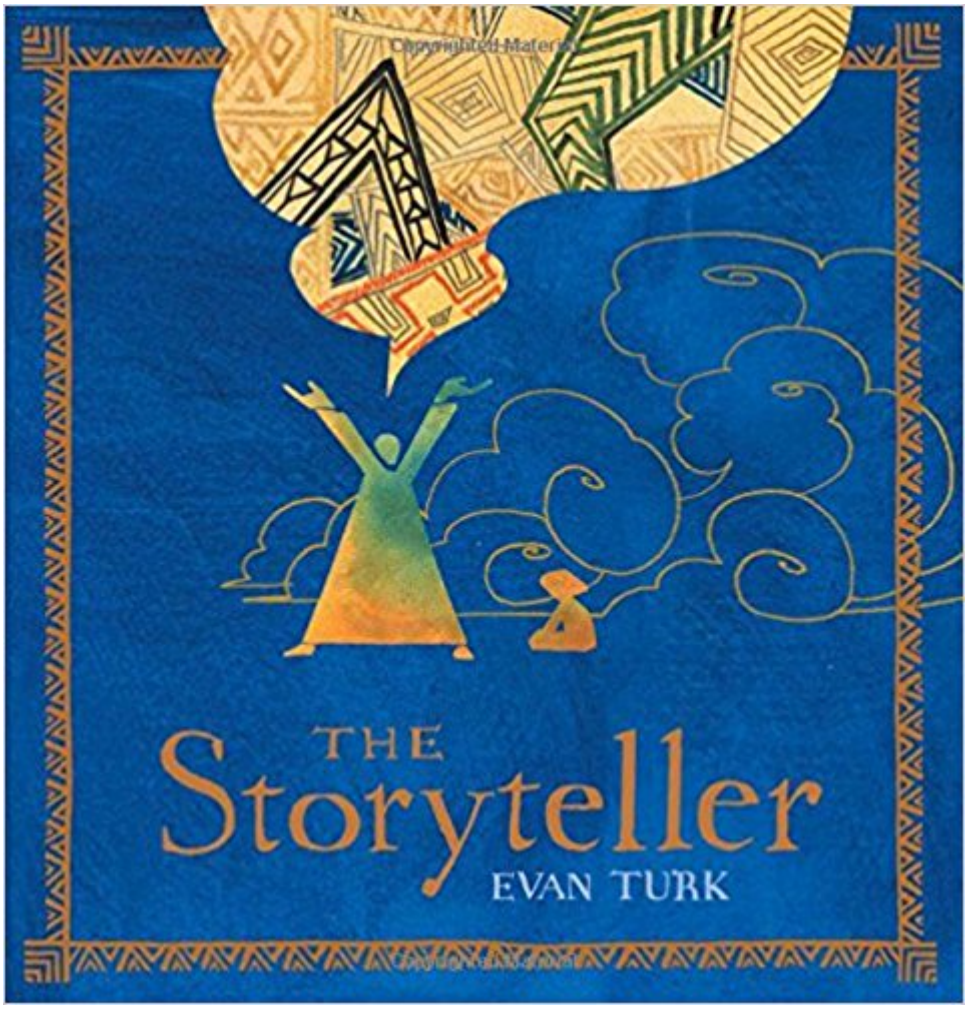
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The Storyteller



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Synopsis

From Ezra Jack Keats 2015 New Illustrator Honor recipient Evan Turk comes his debut work as author-illustrator: an original folktale that celebrates the power of stories and storytelling.Long, long ago, like a pearl around a grain of sand, the Kingdom of Morocco formed at the edge of the great, dry Sahara. It had fountains of cool, refreshing water to quench the thirst of the desert, and storytellers to bring the people together. But as the kingdom grew, the people forgot the dangers of the desert, and they forgot about the storytellers, too. All but one young boy, who came to the Great Square for a drink and found something that quenched his thirst even better: wonderful stories. As he listened to the last storyteller recount the Endless Drought, and the Glorious Blue Water Bird, he discovered the power of a tale well told. Acclaimed illustrator Evan Turk has created a stunning multidimensional story within a story that will captivate the imagination and inspire a new generation of young storytellers.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers (June 28, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481435183

ISBN-13: 978-1481435185

Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #34,137 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African #28 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #34 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Gr 1Ã¢â ¬â œ4Ã¢â ¬â •Folktales involving water abound in all cultures, but this tale is unusual in using water as a metaphor for story: just as we need water to nourish our physical selves, we need stories to feed our spirits. In Turk's fable, a lone storyteller remains in a Moroccan city where the

water sources have all dried up. When a young boy seeks water, the water-seller has only a bowl to give him, but the storyteller tells him a tale that miraculously fills the bowl. In a series of nested stories, the boy's thirst is quenched, and by retelling the stories Scheherazade-style to a sandstorm in the form of a djinn, he is able to save the city and also replenish its water supply. In predominant hues of brown and blue, Turk's bold, semiabstract mixed-media illustrations conjure up swirls of sand and waves of water, evoking the environment and its people. The spreads contain concentric borders representing each of the stories as it is told. Using age-old literary elements and a loose, contemporary art style filled with symbolism, Turk successfully melds two equally important concerns of our timeÃ¢â ¬â •the need to keep storytelling alive and the need to protect and conserve our drinking water. VERDICT This lush and lovely title is highly recommended for its aesthetic qualities as well as its multiple curricular tie-ins, including geography, environmental studies, language arts, and art education.Ã¢â ¬â •Susan Stan, Professor Emerita of English, Central Michigan University

* Ã¢â ¬Å“The art of storytelling is celebrated as a life-giving force in this enthralling picture book. . . .Original storytelling with the feel of the best folklore.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews, starred review)Ã¢â ¬Å“Visually stunning with a storyline to match, Turk is beginning to make good on his talents. This is a man with storytelling in his blood and bones. Our children reap the rewards. A canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t miss book.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Betsy Bird, Fuse #8 blog)* Ã¢â ¬Å“Turk combines primitive sketches and simple patterns to create sophisticated multimedia spreads. Fountains of blue pour from the mouths of storytellers, cementing the message that stories,like water, are life sustaining. The revelation of the final narrator brings this multifaceted tale to satisfying closure.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly, starred review)* Ã¢â ¬Å“Using age-old literary elements and a loose, contemporary art style filled with symbolism, Turk successfully melds two equally important concerns of our timeÃ¢â ¬â •the need to keep storytelling alive and the need to protect and conserve our drinking water. . . . This lush and lovely title is highly recommended.Ã¢â ¬Â• (School Library Journal, starred review)*Ã¢â ¬Å“Rich illustrations rendered in watercolor, ink, and pencil engulf the pages with desert golds and deep indigo, blending folk-art and contemporary styles. .. TurkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s layered ode to storytellingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s magic begs to be shared aloud with a group . . . [in] this beautiful, original folktale.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Booklist, starred review)Ã¢â ¬Å“A veritable nesting doll of a narrative . . . this story about the power of story is a call for reconnection with tradition, oral and otherwise. TurkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s illustrations transport the reader to a Morocco of the past and present, capturing the timelessness of the country juxtaposed against the cautionary message about

disappearing customs.Ã¢â ¬Â• (BCCB)

I cannot believe there are only 7 reviews of this amazing book. The illustrations are so, so beautiful, as in should-win-a-Caldecott beautiful. The entire story is well-written and engaging. My daughter and I poured over the pictures that are filled with the symbolism used in the story. It was moving to see the words pouring from the storytellers' mouths like oceans of water. This link between the stories, water, and life is woven throughout the book. We enjoyed the beauty of Turk's words as well as his illustrations. As we turned to the last page my daughter correctly quoted the ending, "...that is a story for another day."I also highly recommend watching Evan Turk's video on how he created these amazing pictures. My daughter wanted to watch it twice. She was so taken by Evan Turk's work that she wanted to try painting with a Kelani pen like he did. After she went to bed I ordered her a Kelani pen for Christmas! Thanks for the inspiration on so many levels Evan Turk!

The illustrations are absolutely gorgeous. The story is really lovely and flows well. The book says ages 4-8 but this book would also interest older children in classrooms and they would likely get more out of the meaning of the story. Some of the words, like brass, djinn, drought, are likely unclear to younger children and would need explanation.

Beautiful! Make sure you watch the video to learn about the interesting techniques he uses in the illustrations. The 1,001 nights style story is a tribute to the power of storytelling.

good story!

Wonderful book for everyone, young and old. Artwork amazing.

A nice book to read before bed for when you want to wind down.

My grandson enjoyed the story very much and so did I.

Beautiful story and illustrations.

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