



di Rosa

## Preparing for your Art Lit Visit

Thank you for enrolling your students in Art Lit, an art and literacy tour, at di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art. To make the most of your visit, please read this book to your class in advance of your scheduled field trip. Use the guided reading questions to assist student learning and consider extending learning through one of the ideas proposed in the “extend and engage” section.

**Reminder:** Please return your book when you visit di Rosa.

### *Journey* by Aaron Becker

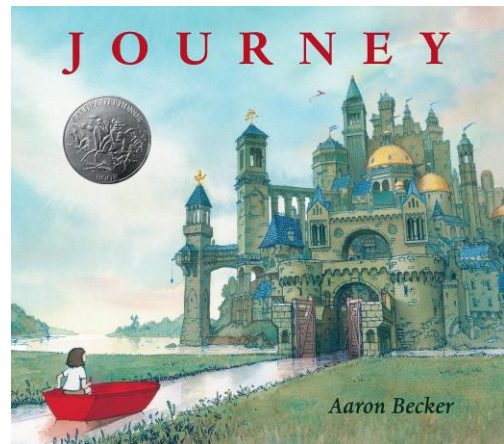
#### About the Author<sup>1</sup>

Born in Baltimore, Aaron Becker moved to California to attend Pomona College where he scored his first illustration job designing t-shirts for his water polo team. Since then, he's traveled to Kenya, Japan, Sweden, and Tahiti backpacking around while looking for good things to eat and feeding his imagination. He now lives with his family in Amherst, MA where he's busy at work on his next book project.

#### Summary<sup>2</sup>

A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound. Red marker in hand, she creates a boat, a balloon, and a flying carpet that carry her on a spectacular journey toward an uncertain destiny.

When she is captured by a sinister emperor, only an act of tremendous courage and kindness can set her free. Can it also lead her home and to her heart's desire? With supple line, luminous color, and nimble flights of fancy, author-illustrator Aaron Becker launches an ordinary child on an extraordinary journey toward her greatest and most exciting adventure of all.



#### Why we selected *Journey*

In addition to appreciating the author's exceptional illustrations, the remarkable story of *Journey* includes lessons in problem solving, perseverance, and friendship—topics that align with di Rosa's social and emotional learning goals for school age visitors.

#### Questions to Ask Students

- What problems does the main character encounter?
- How does the main character solve her problems? Are there other solutions that you can imagine?
- How do you think the main character feels at the beginning/ middle/ end of the book?
- Have you ever experienced something similar to what the main character experienced? Describe.

#### Resources

<https://www.storybreathing.com/>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.amazon.com/Journey-Aaron-Beckers-Wordless-Trilogy/dp/0763660531>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

**Extend and Engage**

- Create a doorway in your classroom and ask students to imagine what they might find on the other side; create a class story together.
- Invite students to draw pictures of a journey they would like to take. Encourage them to think about what different locations look like (city, desert, mountains). Would they go alone like the girl in the story, or would they adventure with a friend?