



# BOOK RESUME: THE BABY TREE

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

Cleverly revealing the basics of reproduction in an age-appropriate way, award-winning Sophie Blackall has created a beautiful picture book full of playful details to amuse and engage readers.

Sooner or later, every child will ask, *Where do babies come from?* Answering this question has never been this easy or entertaining! Join a curious little boy who asks everyone from his babysitter to the mailman, getting all sorts of funny answers along the way, before his parents gently set him straight.

**Title:** The Baby Tree

**Author and Illustrator:**

Sophie Blackall

**Imprint:** Nancy Paulsen Books

**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers

**On sale date:** May 1, 2014

**ISBN:** 9780399257186

**Format:** Hardcover

**Age Range\*:** 5-8

**Grade Range:** K-Gr 2

(Recommended by School Library Journal)

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★“A delightfully age-appropriate way to give young children the facts about conception and birth. . . . Illustrations are beautifully crafted. . . . Each page is adorned with soft colors and crisp, clear pictures that enhance the story.”

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★“Blackall once again excels at portraying a thoughtful child with a rich inner life, as her hero/narrator finds his world upended when his parents announce the arrival of a new baby. . . . Gently evasive half-answers enable Blackall to unleash her special brand of elegant, pokerfaced surrealism. . . . Blackall also admires her hero’s inquisitiveness, and the way he squares his parents’ eventual, more scientific explanation with what he’s heard throughout the day makes for a lovely tribute to the blossoming mind. An afterword offers helpful narratives for grownups facing a similar line of inquiry.” —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★“Blackall’s text is straightforward, calm, and reassuring without being clinical. . . . Watercolor illustrations make the most of the narrator’s imaginative flights of fancy, and the cherubic, rosy-cheeked babies of different ethnicities are cute as a button. . . . An appended page provides suggestions for adults about addressing the ‘where do babies come from?’ question.” —*The Horn Book*, starred review

“Engaging illustrations. . . . Each response to the question stimulates the boy’s imagination as revealed in the pictures. . . . ‘Answering the Question “Where Do Babies Come From?”’ concludes the book and contains age-appropriate responses. An appealing book for children preparing to welcome a new baby or who are simply curious.” —*Booklist*

Updated 3.28.2024

Penguin Random House

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\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

“Honest and accurate language combines with a rueful acknowledgment of the varied takes on the topic to make this a sound introduction to the “Where do babies come from?” question. The text remains kid-focused; the tone is steadily inquisitive, never pedantic, and the boy is particularly endearing in his curiosity. Blackall’s line and watercolor illustrations are winsome without being saccharine, and there’s considerable humor in their depiction of the various evasive explanations. . . . Effectively finds the sweet spot between practical and pleasant in this lovely new addition to the sex education shelf.” —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

#### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- An ALA ALSC Notable
- A Cooperative Children’s Book Center selection
- A Golden Kite Award winner
- A *New York Times* Notable Book
- A *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book
- A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year selection
- A *Horn Book* Fan Fare selection

#### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [TeachingBooks.net Resources](#)
- [Censorship and \*The Baby Tree\* by Sophie Blackall](#)

#### **RESPONES TO CHALLENGES**

- [ALCU Wisconsin Confronting Book Bans and Restricted Speech in Wisconsin Schools](#)

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