



Sky Tree: Seeing Science Through Art

Thomas Locker, Candace Christiansen

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“A fascinating, even glorious celebration of nature that will stir both children and adults to a finer appreciation of a wondrous, surprising world that’s right within their grasp.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

In this stunning book by Thomas Locker, exquisite paintings are paired with questions about nature, making science come alive through art.

In spring, a snapping turtle lays her eggs on the hillside beneath the tree. In autumn, leaves fall as squirrels scamper up the trunk carrying nuts. And on a winter night, a backdrop of twinkling stars shines through the branches. Each day, the tree changes with the purple and pink of a sunset or a nip of cold air. But the tree is more than a thing of beauty—its changes represent the passage of time in nature.

Sky Tree combines the artistic beauty and the scientific wonder of ever-changing nature into a satisfying experience for the soul *and* the mind.

Each page poses a discussion question, and at the back of the book is an explanation of how Thomas Locker created each beautiful oil painting.

Sky Tree: Seeing Science Through Art Details

Date : Published August 7th 2001 by HarperCollins (first published September 1st 1995)

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Author : Thomas Locker , Candace Christiansen

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Art, Science, Environment, Nature, Academic, School

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From Reader Review Sky Tree: Seeing Science Through Art for online ebook

Turrean says

A gorgeous series of pictures takes the reader through a year on what looks like a New England hillside. It's not a story; rather, it is a jumping-off-point to discuss the science of the changing seasons (plants! animals! weather! patterns!) as well as how the artist creates color, movement, mood, and change over time. Works as a read-aloud / read-along for elementary classrooms; even better when kids have a chance to examine Locker's illustrations up close.

Linda says

The beginning of a new author obsession! Thomas Locker books are perfect for my classroom!

Andrew Lovell says

A great way to not only help children understand the changes in nature but also the natural changes that take place in our lives. Birth,Life,Death, and the beauty that comes from every season of man's existence.

Kelly says

Very pretty paintings, but I was hoping for more science.

Sarah Middlestead says

Beautiful! Pictures the same tree through all seasons.

Faith says

It was my school's "Book of the Month". I liked it.

Cindi says

I'm really into these books by Thomas Locker lately. His paintings are a feast for the eyes. This book in particular pictures the seasons with changes in the sky and a tree on a hilltop. Not totally realistic and so it

allows imagination and of course, the beauty draws you in. Each page features a question about the artwork or the season to get kids (or adults) thinking.

Heather says

4 1/2 - This is a very cool book. Beautiful images of the tree in different weather and times of year. Great questions to get kids thinking. We can thank Kathy at O's school book share for giving us this book.

Leah says

I love Thomas Locker's artwork, and I have yet to find a book I don't like. This particular book focuses on art. He uses the same tree throughout the book and changes the seasons with his paintings. At the end of the book, there is a small summary beside each picture explaining a bit of science and art about the particular one.

Shaeley Santiago says

One interesting aspect of this book is that the paintings are all of the same tree just during different seasons and in different weather conditions. In addition to the text, there are questions to get you thinking about each of the paintings and then additional information about the artistic techniques at the back of the book.

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Amy says

I appreciated the detailed series of beautiful paintings of a tree through the seasons. I think Bea just heard this book as a simple book about how a deciduous tree changes over the course of the year. She wasn't (and neither was I) really into the questions that broke the rhythm of the book. So - overall - this didn't work real well for us.

Matthew says

I love Thomas Locker paintings. They are so wonderfully detailed. This year-long examination of a tree and the paintings it is built around inform about how a deciduous tree changes throughout the year to accommodate the changing seasons. The questions at the end are equally illuminating. It's a unusual and wonderful sort of story.

Kristin says

We read this to renew discussions on the seasons and prompt observations of the world around them. Although they loved this book, the nature walk that I intended to follow it has not happened yet are the trees taking especially long to leaf this year? It was still a great lead into our Spring studies, and the children were drawn into the beautiful illustrations. I will read it again when the trees actually leaf to prompt thinking before our long overdue nature walk!

Jimmy says

Some beautiful tree paintings.

Margaret Chind says

I already knew we'd enjoy another Thomas Locker book after our introduction to his poetic paintings with science details. This rings true again for Sky Tree. It's a library book that we just need to add to our wish list.
