

HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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Red

by **Laura Vaccaro Seeger**

★ “Lush illustrations, sensitive interconnections, and subtle visual clues.”—Starred Review, *Kirkus Reviews*

ABOUT THE BOOK

From two-time Caldecott Honor Award winning author/illustrator of *Green* and *Blue* comes *Red*, the story of a lone fox separated from his pack that deals with emotions like fear, anger, and love through color.

In this simple, sumptuously illustrated companion book, Laura Vaccaro Seeger once again turns her attention to the ways in which color evokes emotion, in this case, anger, fear, hostility, and ultimately love in a story of a fox trying to return to its family.

Lost and alone, he makes his way through a dark forest, injures his paw, has glancing encounters with humans, and finds himself trapped in a cage, before an act of kindness returns him to the wilderness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The mood of a painting or story is the feelings that are expressed. Explain the look on the fox's face in the first double-page spread. Why do you think he looks so alone? How do the dark colors contribute to the mood of the spread? Point out the dark reds in the illustration. Explain how the light shining into the forest suggests that a mood change is about to occur. How does the direction the fox is walking and the cut-out on the right side of the spread entice the reader to turn the page?
- Study the “light red” double-page spread. What is the mood of this illustration? Discuss how the cut-out becomes part of the illustration. Name the colors in the sky. Draw a connection between the sky in this illustration to the light shining in the forest in the previous spread.



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- “Lost red” brings another switch in mood. Describe the landscape. Texture in illustration refers to how something might feel to the touch. Identify the various textures in this illustration. How do the textures contribute to the mood of “lost red”? Composition indicates the placement of the subject matter in a painting. What is the role of the cut-out in this illustration to the overall composition of the spread?
- Study the “bright red” illustration. How far has the fox wandered from the beginning of his journey? How does “bright red” indicate a warning? Explain how the headlights of the car contribute to the composition of the painting. What is the overall mood of this illustration?
- Discuss the term “rose red.” Explain the stark mood change from the previous illustration. How do the flowers symbolize a happier mood? Discuss the eye contact between the fox and the girl. How do they appear curious about one another? What is the role of the girl in the fox’s journey?
- Study the illustration of “trick red.” How does the fox look tired and hungry? What is the trick? Make note of the blue truck. Debate whether this is the same truck the fox encountered at the railroad crossing. Turn the page to “caged red.” How does the girl set the mood of this illustration? What emotions does “caged” cause?
- Describe “rage red.” What does rage mean? How do you know that the fox is angry in this illustration? Study the background. How does it contribute to the feeling of anger? Discuss the meaning of trust. What does the girl do to let the fox know he can trust her?
- Turn the page to the spread with no words. How do the three illustrations on the left and the one on the right indicate that the fox is continuing his journey? Point to the clue that he is reversing his journey. He spots his family. How is this an indication that his journey is coming to an end? Explain how “just red” symbolizes love.
- Study the cover art. Point out the fox.

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Photo credit Dylan Seeger

Laura Vaccaro Seeger is the *New York Times* best-selling author and illustrator of nearly two dozen acclaimed picture books, including *Why?*, the recipient of four starred reviews, and the popular Dog and Bear series, the first of which won the *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Award. She has been awarded a Caldecott Honor twice, for *First the Egg* and again for *Green*, and a Geisel Honor twice, for *First the Egg* and *One Boy*. *Red* is the companion to *Blue* and *Green*. Laura and her husband, Chris, live on Long Island in New York.

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