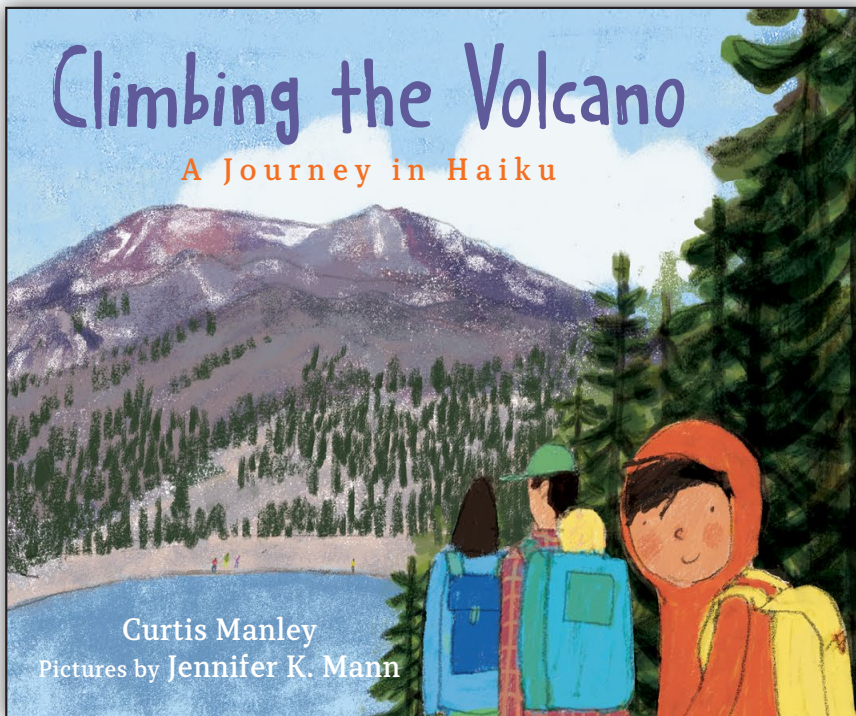


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



NEAL PORTER BOOKS / HC: 9780823451661 · e-book: 9780823457458



Climbing the Volcano *A Journey in Haiku*

by **Curtis Manley**

illustrated by **Jennifer K. Mann**

★ “A great read-aloud or prelude to a family adventure.” —*Booklist*, Starred Review

★ “Each stage of the [day-long] hike is described in a rich, telegraphic three-line haiku poem.”

—*The Horn Book*, Starred Review

A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection

ABOUT THE BOOK

Through haiku, a young boy narrates his family's invigorating hike to the peak of Oregon's South Sister volcano.

For centuries, haiku has offered meditation on the grace and majesty of nature. In *Climbing the Volcano*, old meets new as a young protagonist uses the poetic form to voice his wonder. Trekking uphill, the family encounters tiny toads, colorful butterflies, soaring birds of prey, and so much more to see, do, and feel.

*dormant volcano—
but at sunrise each day
it blazes*

Climbing the Volcano is a call to adventure in the natural world and a wonderful introduction to poetic forms. Young readers will be inspired to summit their own peaks and to find their own voices to share what they discover there. Whether one lives in the shadow of a volcano, amid sprawling flatlands, or anywhere in between, *Climbing the Volcano* invites readers to get out there and explore.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Study the cover of the book. Point out the volcano. Who are the climbers? How does the illustrator reveal their destination? The illustrator uses digital paint and digital collage. Explain what that means. What part of the cover art is collage?
- Read “A little bit about a little poem (haiku)” at the end of the book. Why is haiku called “a little poem”? Discuss the difference in Japanese and English versions of haiku. Make note of the rules of haiku as you read the book. Count the number of syllables in each line of every poem. How do the poems connect to form a story?
- Haiku are often about nature and the seasons. In what season is the book set? Explain why the family is dressed in warm clothing. Haiku call upon at least one of the five senses. Review the five senses, and discuss the use of the senses in this book.
- Explain how the illustrations reflect the images created by the words in haiku. For example, the second spread states, “campground cloudy with our breath.” Point out the cloudy breath. Discuss the purpose of the smaller frames. How do they provide a close-up view of the climb?
- Read “More about Climbing a Mountain” at the end of the book. Discuss the three ecosystems of the mountain range. Point out these ecosystems as the family climbs to the summit of the mountain. Name the hint or clue that the family will climb another mountain at some point.

ABOUT THE CREATORS



Curtis Manley's first book with Holiday House is *Climbing the Volcano: A Journey in Haiku*. His previous picture books include *The Rescuer of Tiny Creatures*, *Just Right: Searching for the Goldilocks Planet*, *Shawn Loves Sharks*, and *The Crane Girl*. His work has received a number of awards, among them a Nautilus Book Award, an SCBWI Golden Kite Honor, and a Science Communication Award from the American Institute of Physics. Curtis lives near Seattle with his wife, daughter, and cat. Visit him at CurtisManley.com.



Jennifer K. Mann is a prolific author and illustrator of books for children. Her book *The Camping Trip* received four starred reviews and was named an ALSC Notable Book, a Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year, and an SCBWI Golden Kite Award finalist, among many other honors; she is also the illustrator of Alison James's *Maple and Rosemary*. She resides on Puget Sound's Bainbridge Island with her husband, two children, six chickens, cat, and dog. Visit her at JenniferKMann.com.

