



## RECOMMENDED FOR

Pre-school/ Lower primary  
(ages 3+)

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- English: Literacy, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability
- Sustainability: The Environment, Biological Sciences; Geography, Geology, Living things
- Art: Visual Artworks and Design

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To discuss new vocabulary and respond to texts
- To share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts
- To learn more about our relationships with each other
- To use the text as a springboard for cross curricular teaching

## THEMES

- English – fables and traditional storytelling
- Relationships – family, independence
- Society – Change and development
- The environment and our impact

## PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9781760897048 (hardback)

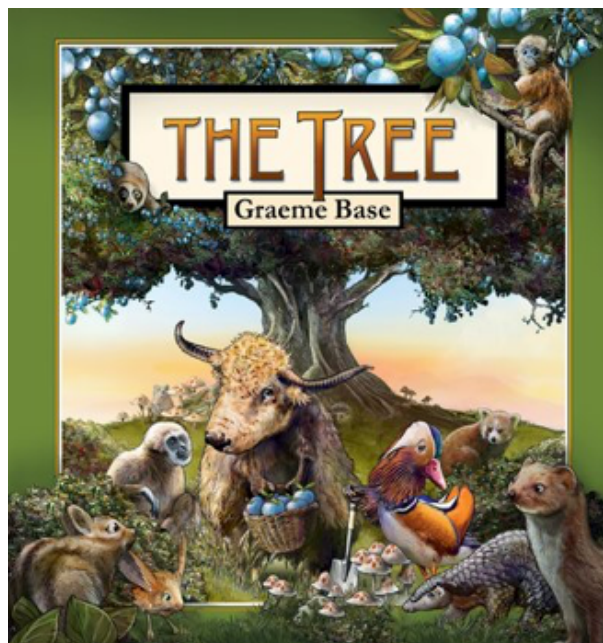
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## The Tree

Graeme Base



## PLOT SUMMARY

This is the story of a cow, a duck and a very big tree.

At first the cow and the duck are happy with their mooberries and mushquacks, living side-by-side without even noticing. But then a big storm came... Cow and Duck set out to protect their tree from one another and in doing so destroy everything they have.

Can they live together and work together to rebuild, and can they learn to share?

A sweet, heartfelt and funny read-a-loud with the feel of a classic and a positive message of peace and sharing.

Look for the charming little characters hidden on every page, and join Cow and Duck in this beautiful story.



## ABOUT THE CREATOR

Graeme Base is one of the world's leading creators of picture books. *Animalia* received international acclaim when it was first published in 1986 and has achieved classic status with worldwide sales of over three million copies.

Other favourites by Graeme Base include *The Eleventh Hour*, *The Waterhole*, *Jungle Drums*, *Uno's Garden*, *Enigma*, *The Legend of the Golden Snail*, *The Jewel Fish of Karnak*, *Little Elephants*, *The Last King of Angkor Wat*, the Little Bug Books, *Eye to Eye*, *The Amazing Monster Detectoscope* and *Moonfish*. Graeme lives in Melbourne, Australia, with his artist wife, Robyn.

## CREATORS' INSPIRATION

The idea for *The Tree* came to me a few years ago when I was walking through the famous Kew Gardens in London. A display about trees showed how in some cases the root system could be as large, and the same shape, as the canopy of branches above. The graphic showed a circle with the line of the ground dividing it into two equal halves, like the equator . . . and suddenly the tree was a little world of its own floating through space.

This charming image, combined with the knowledge that a single tree can be home to an extraordinary array of life, inspired me to write a story about the need for the dominant inhabitants, in this case a Cow and a Duck (chosen, I confess, purely for comic potential!) to take care of their world, not just for their own sake but for the sake of all the creatures who live there.

There is a lot of fear and xenophobia in the world today and we are too often taught to be afraid of difference. When Cow and Duck realise they are not alone in their little slice of paradise their instinctive response is suspicion, leading them to jealously guard what they see as theirs. The result, predictably, is not good for anyone.

I cannot pretend the moral to my little arboreal fable is subtle. But the times we find ourselves in demand a response and *The Tree* is offered, leavened with some humour, I hope, and perennial optimism, as a cautionary tale about the need to nurture and share our own precious sphere of existence.

## KEY STUDY TOPICS

### English

- Read the writing on the back of the book (the blurb). What do you expect the book will be about? Do you have any questions? Are those questions answered in the story?
- How many characters are in this story? Do you think things other than people can be powerful characters in a story? How? Can you think of other stories that have non-human characters?
- Find three words in the book that are new to you. Try to work out what they mean from the context (the way they are used and the words and pictures that surround them).

### Storytelling

- Have you ever had a fight with a friend about a toy or a thing you both wanted? Break into small groups and tell your classmates about it. How did you resolve the problem? What did you feel about it? How did it change you?
- Draw a comic of a scene in the book as if you and one of your friends were Cow and the Duck. What would you say to each other?
- Fables often have a 'message' or a 'moral'. What is the 'moral of the story' here?
- What are your favourite fables: where and when were they written? Are they still useful stories now in the modern world?
- Do you have any prior knowledge about the environment and environmental issues? Create a poster that illustrates three issues that you have heard of. Discuss with your teacher how people are coming together to try to solve those issues.
- Write a diary entry as if you were Duck or Cow. What are you feeling at each stage of the book? Can you make any real-life connection with those feelings?
- Have you heard of any wars between countries? Research what those countries might have been fighting over. How did the wars end? Did they end co-operatively like the end of the conflict between Cow and Duck?
- Do you ever have emotional interactions between you and your friends or siblings? In groups of two, roleplay a scene from *The Tree*.

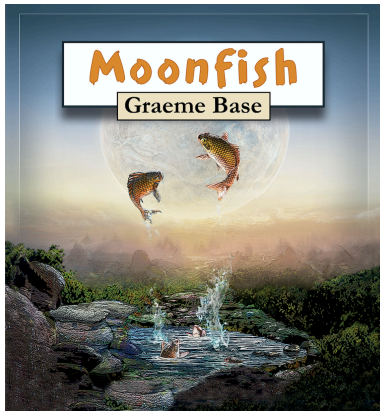


Roleplay what might have been a better way for them to react and resolve the issues between them.

- What does the cover tell you about the tone and content of the book?
- Look at the final image in the book. What do you think that image tells us about the key message of the book?



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

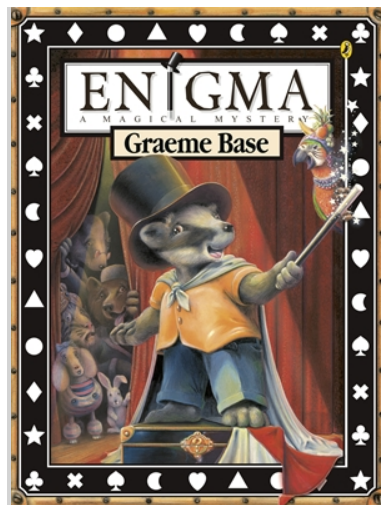


*Moonfish*

A stunning tale of magical, dream-like worlds hidden beneath the surface and wild and wonderful creatures above.

A moving, visually gorgeous fable about family, belonging, growing up to be more than you ever dreamed possible, and how an odd little fish became a powerful protector dragon.

Set in China and first published there.



*Enigma*

'Don't worry,' Bertie said at once. 'I'll solve this, have no fear, For magic things that vanish almost always reappear . . .'

Bertie loves to visit the Retirement Home for Elderly Magicians and watch his grandpa perform magic tricks. But one day all the magicians' props go missing, so Bertie sets off to investigate . . .

Can he solve the mystery in time to save the show?

You can help Bertie find all the missing things and reveal the mysteries of Enigma!



*Eye to Eye*

A child, brave and curious about the world, flies high over the mountains, goes out on a limb and dives into the deep. From here, he can see eye to eye with majestic and curious creatures, from the miniature to the enormous, the everyday to the fantastic.

From one of Australia's favourite picture book creators comes a remarkable look at the connection between the animals that inhabit our Earth – even the human ones. *Eye to Eye* will give you an amazing new perspective on the world!



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	AGE	RRP	QUANTITY	TOTAL
The Tree	Graeme Base	9781760897048	3+	\$24.99		
Moonfish	Graeme Base	9780143791409	3+	\$24.99		
Enigma	Graeme Base	9780143782964	3+	\$16.99		
Eye to Eye	Graeme Base	9780670078592	3+	\$26.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

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