

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

Author

Baker, Jeannie

Illustrator

Illustrated by the author

Reviewer

Martinez, Shan

Pages

Unpaged

Price

\$18.99

ISBN

978-1-5362-2577-8

Publisher & Date

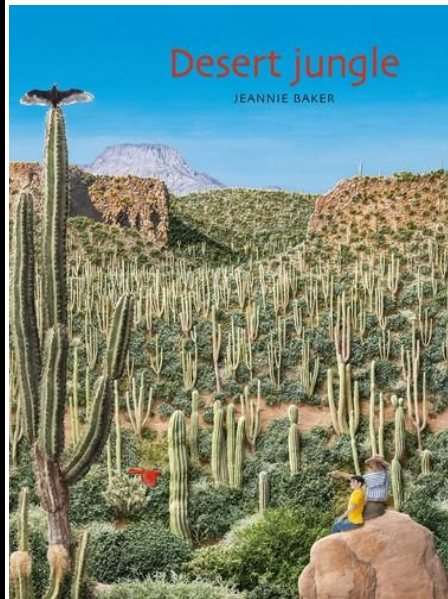
Candlewick, 2023

Classification

Fiction

Grade Level

K-5



Book Review: DESERT JUNGLE

DESERT JUNGLE combines a very current story with a particular biome: the Sonoran Desert in Mexico. A young boy visits his grandfather who lives in this beautiful desert with unique plant life, extraordinary animals, and a whole new world to explore. What does he do? He sits in a chair on the porch and plays with his tablet. He has no interest in finding out anything about this magical place. When he leaves his bag with all of his electronics outside near the porch, a coyote takes off with the bag. The boy is desperate to get his bag back, so he sets out to try and find it.

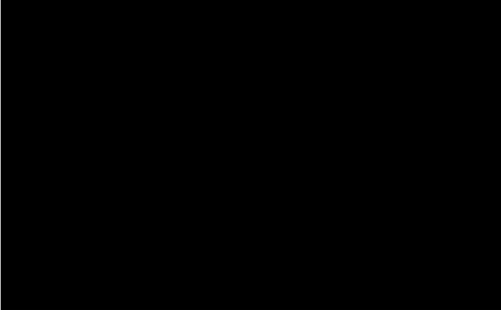
The desert is very scary to him. He hears sounds and sees lots of cacti everywhere he turns. He finally makes his way back to his grandfather's house without the bag. The next day, his grandfather goes with him and tells him the names of plants and animals. He provides a new perspective on this environment, and the boy begins to explore on his own.

According to the author's note, many children experience a condition known as "nature-deficit disorder." Many children are growing up without a connection to nature, and are often unfamiliar with the common names of



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Book Review: DESERT JUNGLE



the plants and animals around them. This book is beautifully illustrated with a collage technique. The Sonoran Desert of Mexico comes alive with these illustrations. This timely story would be enjoyed by a wide range of readers. Well done!



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