



Circle written and illustrated by Jeannie Baker

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$29.99 Hardback

This picture book features the astonishing life of the bar-tailed godwit. Every winter this bird makes the longest unbroken journey of any animal in the world, travelling from Alaska to New Zealand or Australia. The godwit is the star of the book, but it also features other migrating animals. Readers will enjoy spotting these in the illustrations. *Circle* shows the impact of human beings on the ecosystems that sustain the godwit as it makes its dangerous journey across the world.

Jeannie Baker's trade mark mixed media collages are stunning. They create depth and interest, and carry a certain naivety that is appealing. The expansive earth, sea, and sky landscapes suit the migration theme. The text is poetic and beautifully tells the story of the life of the godwit. A boy who observes the godwits depart and return adds human interest.

Circle is well designed, with thoughtful placement of text and illustrations. I loved the page where the tips of the godwit's beak peak into the white space where the text is placed.

Jeannie Baker is a master of collage. Her previous books, including *Where the Forest Meets the Sea* and *Window*, are well-loved classics. *Circle* further affirms her mastery, as well as her enduring passion and care for the environment. It is the perfect way to learn about the life of this incredible bird. A good read aloud for children 4 years and above, or for independent readers of all ages.

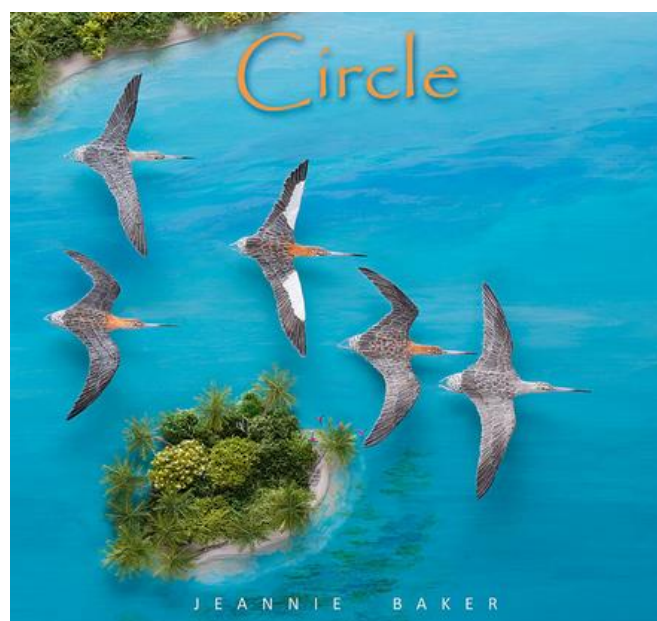
Author / illustrator's website:

www.jeanniebaker.com/book/circle/

Publisher's website:

www.walkerbooks.com.au/Books/Circle-9781406338010

Reviewed by Lee Rowe, Librarian



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