

THE SEEKERS

THE LEGEND OF THE SILVER FOX
AND THE FIRE WOLF

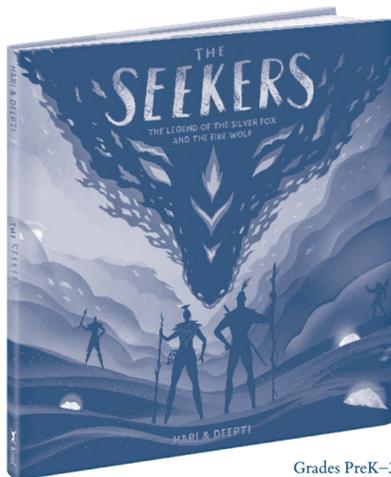


HARI & DEEPTI

THE SEEKERS

THE LEGEND OF THE SILVER FOX AND THE FIRE WOLF

EDUCATORS' GUIDE



Grades PreK–3
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ABOUT THE BOOK

A small band of brave adventurers journey to save their village in this stunning debut picture book from papercut artists Hari & Deepti. Perfect for fans of Aaron Becker's *Journey*.

Mio and Nao live in the valley of Krum, above a great river that provides everything their village needs to survive. Their grandparents told them tales of the Silver Fox and the Fire Wolf, tales everyone believed were only legends—everyone, that is, but Mio.

When the life-giving river that flows through their village mysteriously disappears, Mio and Nao set out beyond their valley to find what has gone wrong. As they get farther from home, they find lifeless trees and skies filled with smoke. The villagers who joined Mio and Nao grow weary of their mission—until they are confronted with their tribe's legends come to vivid life and have to risk everything to save their home.

Depicted through intricate cut-paper art, this memorable tale will remind readers of the importance of home, while encouraging them to strive to discover the unknown.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Hari & Deepti are a husband-and-wife duo based in Mumbai. Their work has been featured on books covers, and *The Seekers* is their first picture book. Visit them at harianddeepti.com or on Instagram at [@harianddeepti](https://www.instagram.com/harianddeepti).



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PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Lead a short discussion on what it means to seek something. Give students time to share examples from their personal experiences. Next, lead students in a scavenger hunt in which they have to seek something of mythical value. (Perhaps it is a magic key or a scroll that imparts wisdom.) Construct the hunt so that students will eventually find success, but also make it enough of a challenge that the experience will be meaningful and connect to the action of the text.

Correlates to Common Core Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.4

MYTHICAL LEGENDS & LEGENDARY MYTHS

The Seekers is a myth that begins by introducing the legend of the spirits of Ice and Fire, the Silver Fox and the Fire Wolf, known to the people of Krum as guardians of the land. Explain to students that a myth “is a story based on tradition or legend, which has a deep symbolic meaning” and that myths “are often used to explain universal and local beginnings and involve supernatural beings.” (source: myths.e2bn.org) Before reading the story, present to students the common elements of myths: contain supernatural characters as well as humans, attempt to explain natural phenomena, teach a lesson, and often contain elements of magic. After reading the text, place students into small groups and have them identify these elements in the story. Working independently, in pairs, or in small groups, challenge students to create an original myth, making sure to incorporate the mythical elements found in *The Seekers*.

Correlates to Common Core Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3.A

TWO HALVES OF A WHOLE

In the opening pages of *The Seekers*, readers learn that the Silver Fox and the Fire Wolf, the spirits of Ice and Fire, “were two halves of a whole.” Discuss what each animal represents and how the authors portray the spirits in both words and pictures. Beyond the mathematical relationship of halves and wholes, have students brainstorm additional examples of natural halves, such as land and sea or earth and sky. Create a list of all contributions. Then have each student

illustrate one pair from the list by choosing an animal to represent each half. Give students time to share their work with the class. As a literacy extension, students can write a short paragraph describing their illustration.

Correlates to Common Core Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.4

THE LIFE OF A RIVER

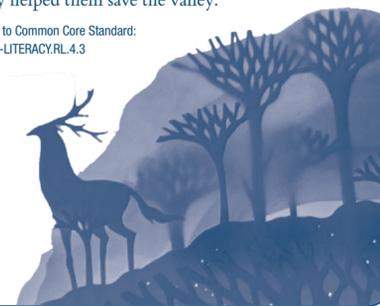
Central to the environmental themes found in *The Seekers* is the river that flows through the valley, bringing sustenance to the people. When the river dries up completely, Mio and Nao begin their quest to save the people of Krum from certain death. Discuss the importance of rivers to Earth's ecosystems. Have students identify on a state map the major rivers and waterways in their community. Take students on a field trip to a nearby river, or partner with a local environmental organization to delve more deeply into the characteristics of rivers and how they can be protected. To learn more about rivers, visit: americanrivers.org/threats-solutions/protecting-rivers/the-value-of-wild-river.

Correlates to Common Core Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.7

THE STORYTELLER AND THE DREAMER

Discuss the characters Mio and Nao. How are they alike? How are they different? In what ways are they like the Silver Fox and the Fire Wolf? How are their differences a source of strength? Divide the class into two groups: Team Mio and Team Nao. Have students discuss each character in-depth, including their strengths and weaknesses, their actions, and their decisions. Next, stage a debate in which students try to show how their character is superior. Finally, lead a discussion about how their combined qualities ultimately helped them save the valley.

Correlates to Common Core Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3



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SOUP'S ON!

The people of Krum gather food by foraging the forest floor for crown-shell snails, “the key ingredient in their delicious soup.” Have students go on a virtual foraging expedition to discover the edible plants in their community. (In addition, students can research the diet of the native people of their region.) Purchase some of these ingredients and lead a lesson on how to make a simple vegetable soup. (Make sure to only include ingredients that all students can consume.) When the soup is ready, encourage each student to try the finished product. To conclude, have students write a one-page description of the experience.

Correlates to Common Core Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.8

ICY BLUE, MEET FIERY RED

From the first page of *The Seekers*, color plays a key role in the story. Cool blues and purples and intense reds and oranges leap off the page, providing a vivid backdrop to the cut-paper forms. As a class, brainstorm a list of adjectives to describe the colors in the book. Discuss how the artists used color in symbolic ways and how the colors represent the action of the story. Then have students begin an art project inspired by the book's pictures. To begin, have students use tempera or watercolor paints to make a backdrop for cut-paper figures. Students can choose warm colors, cool colors, or a combination of both. Next, using white pencils, have students draw outlines of trees, figures, plants, and other images onto black construction paper, and cut them out. After the backdrops are dry, have students arrange and glue their cutouts in a composition. Allow time for students to present their work.

Correlates to Common Core Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.3.A

GUARDIANS OF THE EARTH

Mio, Nao, and the other members of their band discover a ravaged environment consumed by fire. One villager tells Nao, “We were foolish. We cut down and burned trees to fuel our greed.” Lead a discussion about the many human-caused environmental perils facing the planet today. As a class, identify an environmental issue in your local community. Work with the science and art teachers as well as local environmental groups to create a student action plan to help combat the environmental degradation. For ideas on what kids can do to help the environment, visit: earth911.com/home/family/how-kids-are-saving-the-planet.

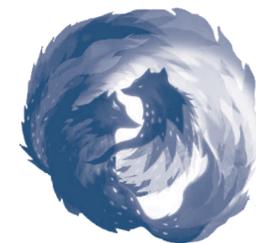
Correlates to Common Core Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.7



Name _____

BALANCING YOUR WORLD

In *The Seekers*, the Silver Fox and the Fire Wolf are two halves of a whole and, together, bring balance to the valley of Krum. What makes up your world? In the boxes below, draw two things that combine to create your world and include an explanation of each drawing below. These could include family, school, friends, hobbies, or anything else that is part of your world!





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EDUCATORS: Reproduce this activity sheet for your students.

Correlates to Common Core Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2.D

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