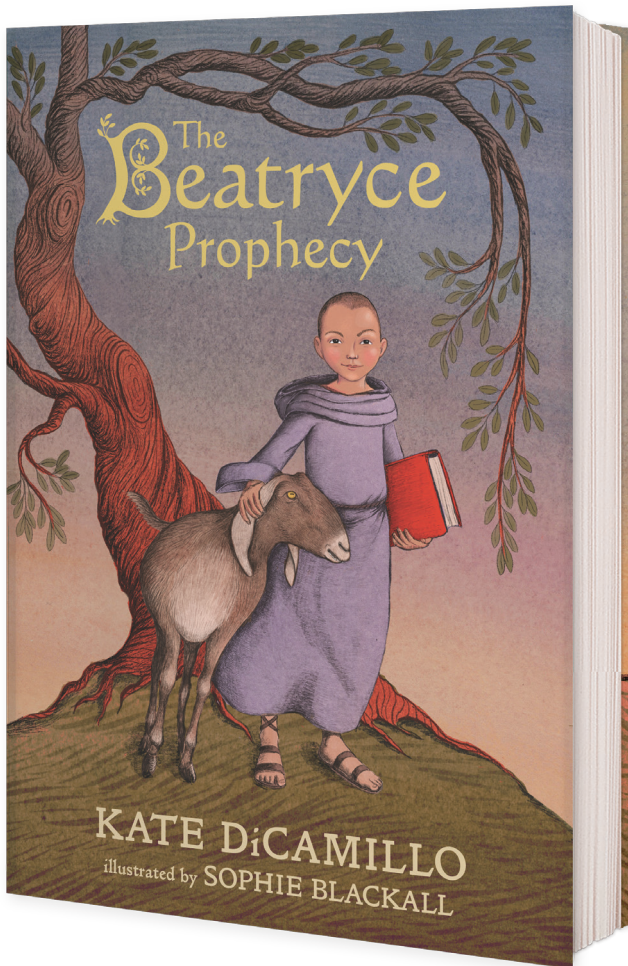




*We shall all, in the end, be led to where we belong.
We shall all, in the end, find our way home.*



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ABOUT THE BOOK

In a time of war, a mysterious child appears at the monastery of the Order of the Chronicles of Sorrowing. Gentle Brother Edik finds the girl, Beatryce, curled in a stall, wracked with fever, coated in dirt and blood, and holding fast to the ear of Answelica the goat. As the monk nurses Beatryce to health, he uncovers her dangerous secret, one that imperils them all—for the king of the land seeks just such a girl, and Brother Edik, who penned the prophecy himself, knows why.

From two-time Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo and two-time Caldecott Medalist Sophie Blackall comes a fantastical meditation on fate, love, and the power of words to spell the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kate DiCamillo is one of America's most revered storytellers. She is a former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and a two-time Newbery Medalist. Born in Philadelphia, she grew up in Florida and now lives in Minneapolis.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sophie Blackall is the acclaimed illustrator of more than forty-five books for young readers and a two-time Caldecott Medalist. Born and raised in Australia, she now lives in Brooklyn.

Common Core Connections

This discussion guide, which can be used with large or small groups, will help students meet several of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts. These include the reading literature standards for key ideas and details, craft and structure, and integration of knowledge and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL), as well as the speaking and listening standards for comprehension and collaboration and for presentation of knowledge and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL). Questions can also be used in writing prompts for independent work.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Based on the cover of the book, what do you predict the story will be about?
2. Looking back on the book, why did the author choose to start with Answelica? Would this indicate that the author thinks that the goat is the most important character? Who do you think is the most important character?
3. There are clues throughout the book that the counselor is evil, as Beatryce describes him on page 234. What are some of these clues?
4. Why is the counselor, and thus the king, so afraid of Beatryce?
5. The phrase “a time of war” is repeated several times in the book. Why do you think the author chose to include this phrase when the literal war was not actually too important to the plot of the story?
6. A prophecy is the basis for the plot and Beatryce’s journey. Do you think the prophecies were actually coming true? Use evidence from throughout the book to support your answer.
7. When Beatryce touches Answelica, it is like “an anchor for herself in a dark and fast-moving river” (page 85). Do you have a comfort object that helps settle you when you are feeling conflict?
8. Throughout the book, the author includes descriptions of sounds and smells, such as “He heard the buzz of a bee” (page 93). Why would the author want to include these elements?
9. Jack believes that Granny Bibspeak may have come back to life as a bee (page 93). If you could come back as an animal in a new life, what animal would you choose and why?
10. Cannoc has a tendency to find songs everywhere. Look at his songs on pages 108, 208, and 219–220. How do you think the songs sound?
11. On page 112, Jack Dory decides to lie to Cannoc because he “felt this was a situation for lying.” Do you ever think it is OK to lie? Why or why not?
12. On page 118, Beatryce lists some reasons why she trusts her companions. What are some indications to you that you can trust someone?
13. On page 123, the innkeeper’s wife says she knows nothing, but she also helps Brother Edik. Why does she act the way she does?
14. Cannoc decided to leave his spot as king. While many people strive to be famous and in power, he left it all behind. Why would he make this choice?



15. What are the differences between the two tutors described on pages 150–151, and how did their differences affect Beatryce?
16. On pages 157–158, Beatryce dreams a different dream than she has during the rest of the book. Why did her dream change?
17. How is the mermaid story (pages 205–207, 212–215, 222–224, 230–232, and 245) similar to Beatryce’s story?
18. Beatryce chooses her mom to be queen. Do you think her mom was the best choice?
19. What do you believe the theme of *The Beatryce Prophecy* is?

CONSIDER AND DISCUSS

There are many questions posed throughout the book for the reader to think about.

Page 76: How could people send their children away? How did anybody say goodbye to someone they loved?

Page 99: Is it better to be the king or to be the man behind the king? That is, is it better to be the puppet or the puppet master?

Page 172: Do you think that people on this other world are standing and looking through a magic glass at us? Could it be that they are wondering about us even as we are wondering about them?

Page 191: What does it mean to be brave?

Page 247: What does, then, change the world?

These questions were prepared by Kellee Moye, a middle school teacher-librarian in Orlando, Florida, with a master of arts in elementary education with ESOL endorsement and a reading graduate certificate from the University of Central Florida. She is the author of various teaching guides for all levels, the coauthor of the blog *Unleashing Readers*, and an active member of NCTE, ALAN, and ALA.

