

Nature Inspires Writing for T.A. Barron

By Aluvian Nots, Age 13

What is writing? How does nature affect an author's story?

Nature is something man has tried to master. It's vast and strange with everyday phenomenon that never ceases to amaze. It captures the attention of famous authors who speak out to protect nature and let you know how its beauty and purifying effect can inspire you to write.

Authors like T.A. Barron feel very strongly about nature and write their stories about nature. Mr. Barron has written stories like *The Lost Years of Merlin*, *Merlin's Dragon* trilogy, *The Great Tree of Avalon* trilogy, *The Adventures of Kate*, and *Tree Girl*. Those are just a few you might know.

According to Mr. Barron, "My best ideas come from life. Especially being out in nature, observing the intricate wonders of wildflower meadows or rambling rivers, opens all my senses." His inspiring stories come from nature.

Nature is not only something to be preserved and protected. It creates symbols in literature that help you to really dive into a book and create your stories. It represents birth, maturity, declining, and death. It weaves stories into your head just by letting you taste a fresh apple or imagine the animals that left the paw prints on the muddy riverbank. It inspires literature which is what we all need.

Writing is just as important as nature. It allows you to communicate and become in tune with everything. Mr. Barron says, "Writing allows me to explore- wherever and whatever I choose." This is so true. With writing, there's no limit. "Best of all, though, writing is a way to explore the biggest questions of life. Not to find the answers, perhaps, but to do some thoughtful exploring of the questions," he also says.

T.A. Barron is mentioned a lot in this article, so I shall give you some background information on the best-selling author. He was born in Boston, MA, on March 26. He spent part of his childhood in New England "on a hilltop with lots of apple trees, Native

American lore, and views of Mount Monadnock.” He later moved to Colorado with “great views of Pike’s Peak.” He’s graduated from Air Academy Junior High and High School, Princeton University, Oxford University (as a Rhodes Scholar, which is something *very* hard to obtain), and Harvard University. He helps groups like The Wilderness Society, The Nature Conservancy, Alaska Conservation Foundation, and American Farmland Trust, Princeton University, the Denver children’s museum, and the Gloria Barron Touchable Nature Museum at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. He has three boys, two girls, two dogs, five cats, two goats, two hamsters, two birds, and one frisky rabbit.

To learn more about T.A. Barron, you can go to his website at www.tabarron.com.