

★ **Pencil**

Hye-Eun Kim

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This wordless picture book speaks volumes about conservation and the transformative power of art. Self-referential colored pencil illustrations follow the journey of a pencil from tree to pencil to tree again in the hands of an imaginative artist. As colorful trees are cut down, the animals who call them home are forced to flee; a girl's care and effort creates a haven for them once more, silently encouraging a more thoughtful approach to consumerism and the environment.

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (March / April 2025)

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