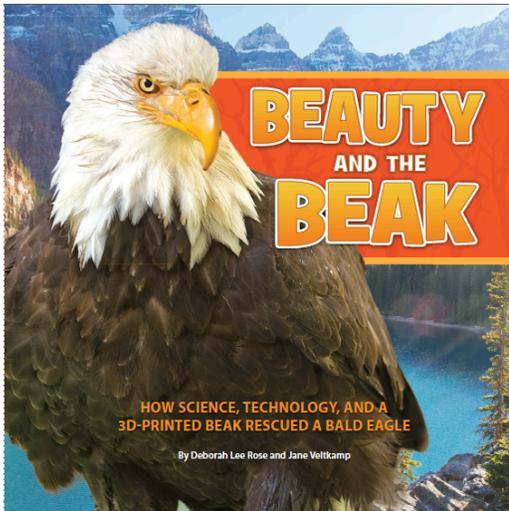


	<b>An Interview with Deborah Lee Rose</b>
	<i>Beauty and the Beak</i>
	<b>Source: Reading Is Fundamental</b>
	<b>Description:</b> We recently caught up with Deborah Lee Rose about her new book, which is the story of an eagle whose damaged beak was restored through 3D technology.



**1. Tell us what your new book is about.**

*Beauty and the Beak* is the true and heart-lifting story of the Bald Eagle who was illegally shot in the beak, rescued, and received a pioneering, 3D-printed prosthetic beak. The book captures the inspiring work by the team that included a raptor biologist, engineer, and dentist to engineer and attach Beauty's new beak. Coauthored with Jane Veltkamp, the raptor biologist who led the team and who has lifetime care of Beauty, the book is illustrated with spectacular photos of Beauty and Bald Eagles, and has extensive information about conservation of Bald Eagles in the wild. The book is published by Persnickety Press, with special content from Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

**2. What's the recommended age and grade range of your book?**

The book is being used with children ages 5-13 in grades K-7.

### 3. What inspired you to write it?

Beauty's extraordinary story of survival, and the human compassion and technological innovation that helped her, are so moving—and so clearly show the power of STEM—that I knew I had to write this book. From my very first conversation with Jane Veltkamp, renowned raptor biologist/educator and Beauty's champion, I was certain that I wanted to coauthor the book with Jane.

### 4. What do you want kids to come away with after reading your book?

I want Beauty's story to inspire kids' factual learning and their imagination, to make them feel confident in exploring STEM and coming up with creative ideas of their own. Also, even though the Bald Eagle is the U.S. national symbol, most kids know almost nothing about Bald Eagles as a species, including the fact that they almost went extinct in the U.S. mainland, but are now thriving nationwide. So I hope after reading *Beauty and the Beak*, both kids and adults will want to read and learn more about these extraordinary animals, and care about and protect wildlife and the environment.

### 5. What advice do you have for students who may be struggling readers?

One thing that helped me become a better reader, and truly fall in love with reading, was the dictionary. Kids may think that sounds boring, but as I discovered more and more about what words meant, the books I read seemed to come alive. The other advice I would give is to go to the library as much as you can, because it is a place where people come together for reading and discovering.

### 6. What advice do you have for teachers and parents about how to get kids to read more?

My kids read a lot growing up. Other parents would ask me, "Is that because you're a writer?" and my answer was, "It's because I'm a reader." So read to and with and in front of kids, and give them books not just as assignments but as gifts, in every sense of the word. One favorite book can change a child's entire life.

### 7. What does the term 21st-century literacy mean to you?

Technology is rapidly increasing the amount of information we use to live our daily lives. I think 21st-century literacy will mean being empowered by the ability to read and understand for enjoyment and vital information, and being able to harness what we read and learn to improve our own lives and the lives of others.

---

## About Deborah Rose

Deborah Lee Rose is an internationally published, award winning author of both fiction and nonfiction for children. Her book *Beauty and the Beak: How Science, Technology, and a 3D-Printed Beak Rescued a Bald Eagle*, coauthored with renowned raptor biologist Jane Veltkamp, won the 2018 AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books. The book is a semifinalist for the Bank Street College Cook Prize for Best STEM Picture Book and won the Eureka! Gold Award for Nonfiction from the California Reading Association. Her book *Jimmy the Joey: The True Story of an Amazing Koala Rescue* was named to the RIF/Macy's Multicultural Collection, and *Into the A, B, Sea: An Ocean Alphabet* has sold a quarter million copies. A graduate of Cornell University, Deborah directed communications for the ALA/AASL award winning, NSF/Oracle funded STEM education website [howtosmile.org](http://howtosmile.org). At UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science, she helped create groundbreaking STEM exhibits and a suite of free STEM activity apps downloaded nearly 1.5 million times. She speaks at professional conferences, book events, schools and libraries nationwide. Visit her website at [deborahleerose.com](http://deborahleerose.com).