



# JUST BECAUSE

Mac  
Barnett

*illustrated by*  
**Isabelle  
Arsenault**





To Ramona Margaret Wheeler Korn  
M. B.

To my highly creative dad  
I. A.

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**Why is the  
ocean blue?**





Every night,  
when you  
go to sleep,

the fish  
take out  
guitars.

They sing sad  
songs and cry  
blue tears.

**What is  
the rain?**






The tears  
of flying fish.

**Why do the  
leaves change  
color?**





An illustration depicting the transition from autumn to winter. The left side shows a tree with vibrant orange and red leaves, some of which are shaped like flames. Several blue birds with black caps are perched on a branch. The right side shows the same tree with bare, dark branches against a lighter orange background, with a large flock of birds flying away. Two white circular callouts contain text explaining the process.

In autumn,  
when the world  
gets colder,

the trees keep  
warm by setting  
quiet little fires  
in their leaves.

By winter,  
their branches have  
all burned up.

**Why do birds  
fly south for  
the winter?**






To fetch  
new leaves  
for trees.

**What happened  
to the dinosaurs?**






Millions of years ago,  
thousands of asteroids  
fell on the earth.

But the dinosaurs  
had planned for this.  
They fastened themselves  
to big balloons,  
floated up to space,  
and stayed there.

**What are  
black holes?**



A surreal illustration of a blue and white T-Rex with its mouth open in space. The dinosaur is the central focus, with its mouth wide open, revealing sharp teeth and a dark interior. The background is a vibrant purple and pink space with various celestial bodies, including a large ringed planet, a yellow car, and a superhero figure. A white speech bubble is positioned above the dinosaur's head.

The mouths  
of dinosaurs.

**What is  
a volcano?**

**How do  
you tame  
a horse?**

**What is  
a desert?**

**What is  
the moon?**

**What is  
a rainbow?**

**What  
is the  
wind?**

**Why do  
we sneeze?**

**How big  
was a woolly  
mammoth?**

**What are  
freckles?**

**How does  
an egg become  
a chicken?**

**How tall  
is the tallest  
mountain?**

**What is  
an echo?**

**How were  
the pyramids  
built?**

**What is  
quicksand?**

**What is  
thunder?**

**What is  
lightning?**





It is time to go to sleep.

**Why do we  
have to sleep?**





Because there are some things we can only see with our eyes closed.

