



institute for
multi-sensory
education

The IMSE Inclusive Summer Family Reading List

This interactive literacy tool for families includes a summer reading list highlighting diverse characters, covering themes like kindness, family, the environment, growth mindset, imagination, self confidence, and friendship. Use this tool as a guide to find a few new books to enjoy with your family or use as a summer reading schedule and book journal. Access the schedule and journal reflection features on the calendar slides.

If your local library does not currently have some of these titles, use the letter linked below to put in a request for this list. To purchase any of these books, click on the link in the bottom right corner on each book recommendation slide.

[Request a diverse book list from
your library with this letter.](#)





About IMSE

For 25 years, the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education has been a leader in training educators on the value of Structured Literacy for all students, founded on the Science of Reading.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, IMSE has committed to supporting children with free, engaging literacy resources. IMSE continues to support teachers and parents with training and resources. We encourage you to use and share these tools to bring effective literacy instruction and exciting reading engagement into your schools and homes.

To learn more about the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education, go to IMSE.com.



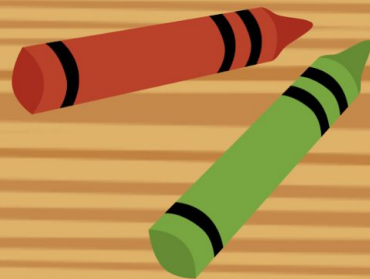
IMSE Orton-Gillingham



imse_og



imse_og





The IMSE Inclusive Summer Family Reading List

The Institute for Multi-Sensory Education partnered with Children's Book Expert, Lauren Bercuson, who specializes in diverse and inclusive book recommendations and reviews. This resource was designed as a summer reading resource tool, bringing engaging literacy recommendations as well as culturally relevant and important discussion and reflection opportunities into the homes of young students. Lauren's website, blog, and social media channels are wonderful tools for parents navigating diverse and inclusive children's literacy.



www.happilyeverelephants.com



@happily.ever.elephants



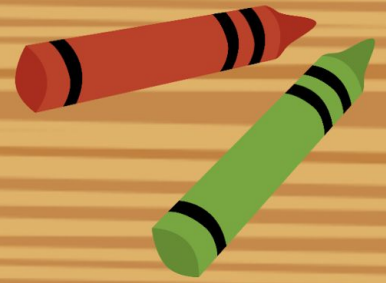
Happily Ever Elephants





My Summer Reading Journal

Name _____





SUMMER BOOK LIST FOR CARING CRITICAL THINKERS



Empathy



Family



Environment



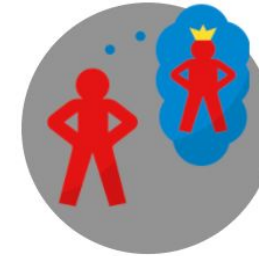
Growth Mindset



Biographies



Imagination



Self Confidence



Friendship

JUNE

*** FOR CARING CRITICAL THINKERS**

Week 4: Growth Mindset



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 	8 	9 	10 	11 	12
ALL ABOUT KINDNESS & EMPATHY						
13	14 	15 	16 	17 	18 	19
ALL ABOUT FAMILY						
20	21 	22 	23 	24 	25 	26
ALL ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT						
27	28 	29 	30 			
ALL ABOUT GROWTH MINDSET						

JULY

***FOR CARING CRITICAL THINKERS**

Week 8: Citizenship/Friendship

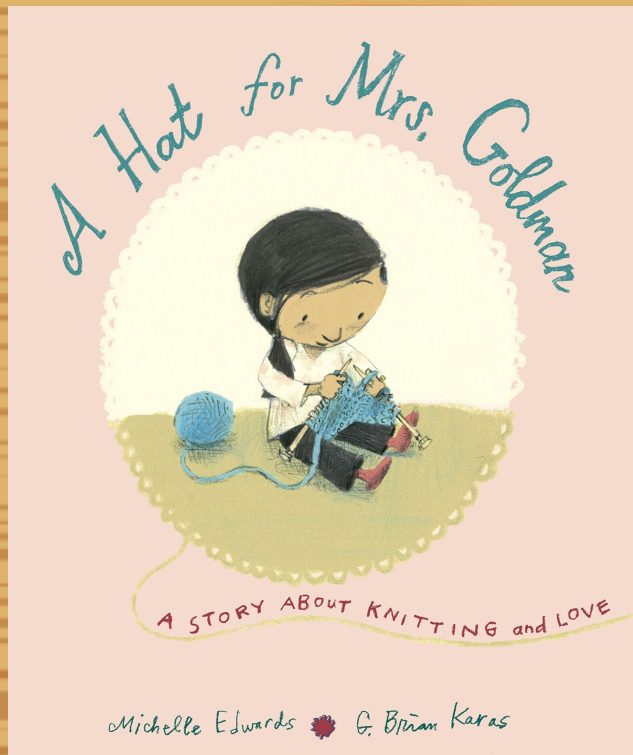


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
ALL ABOUT GROWTH MINDSET						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
BIOGRAPHIES						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ALL ABOUT IMAGINATION & STEM						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
ALL ABOUT SELF CONFIDENCE						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
ALL ABOUT CITIZENSHIP & FRIENDSHIP						

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Empathy

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Mrs. Goldman always knits hats for everyone in the neighborhood, and Sophia, who thinks knitting is too hard, helps by making the pom-poms. But now winter is here, and Mrs. Goldman herself doesn't have a hat-she's too busy making hats for everyone else! It's up to Sophia to buckle down and knit a hat for Mrs. Goldman. But try as Sophia might, the hat turns out lumpy, the stitches aren't even, and there are holes where there shouldn't be holes. Sophia is devastated until she gets an idea that will make Mrs. Goldman's hat the most wonderful of all. Readers both young and old will relate to Sophia's frustrations, as well as her delight in making something special for someone she loves.

 See
More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Kindness & Empathy

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

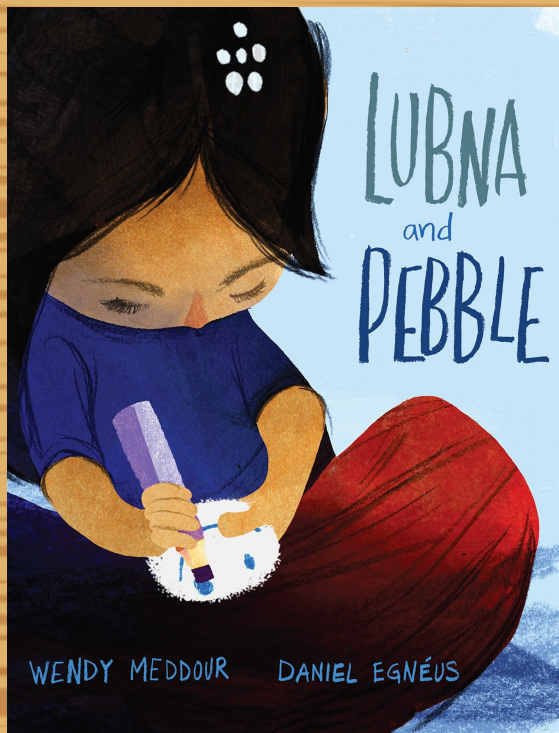
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Empathy

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Lubna's best friend is a pebble. Pebble always listens to her stories. Pebble always smiles when she feels scared. But when a lost little boy arrives in the World of Tents, Lubna realizes that he needs Pebble even more than she does.

This emotionally stirring and stunningly illustrated picture book explores one girl's powerful act of friendship in the midst of an unknown situation.

 See
More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Kindness & Empathy

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

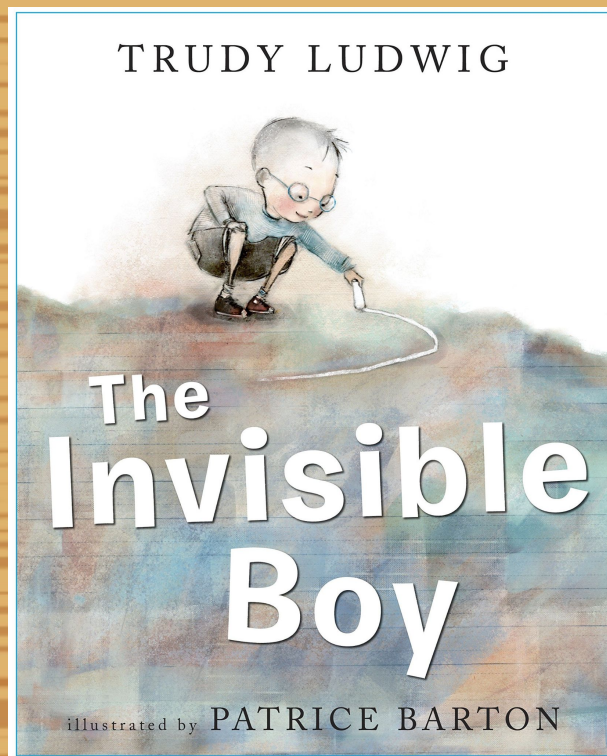
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Empathy

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

A simple act of kindness can transform an invisible boy into a friend...

Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody in class ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party... until, that is, a new kid comes to class.

When Justin, the new boy, arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome. And when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine.

Any parent, teacher, or counselor looking for material that sensitively addresses the needs of quieter children will find *The Invisible Boy* a valuable and important resource. Includes a discussion guide and resources for further reading.



BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Kindness & Empathy

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

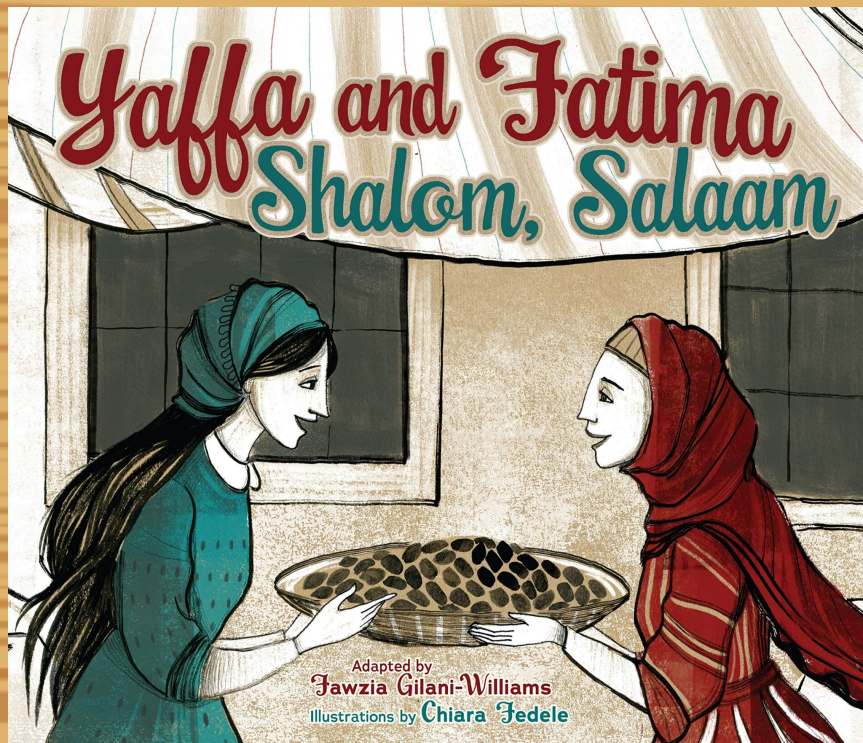
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Empathy

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Two neighbors—one Jewish, one Muslim—have always been best friends. When they both fall on hard times, can they find a way to help each other? In Fawzia Gilani's retelling of this folktale—which has both Jewish and Arab origins—differences are not always causes for conflict and friendship can overcome any obstacle.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Kindness & Empathy

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

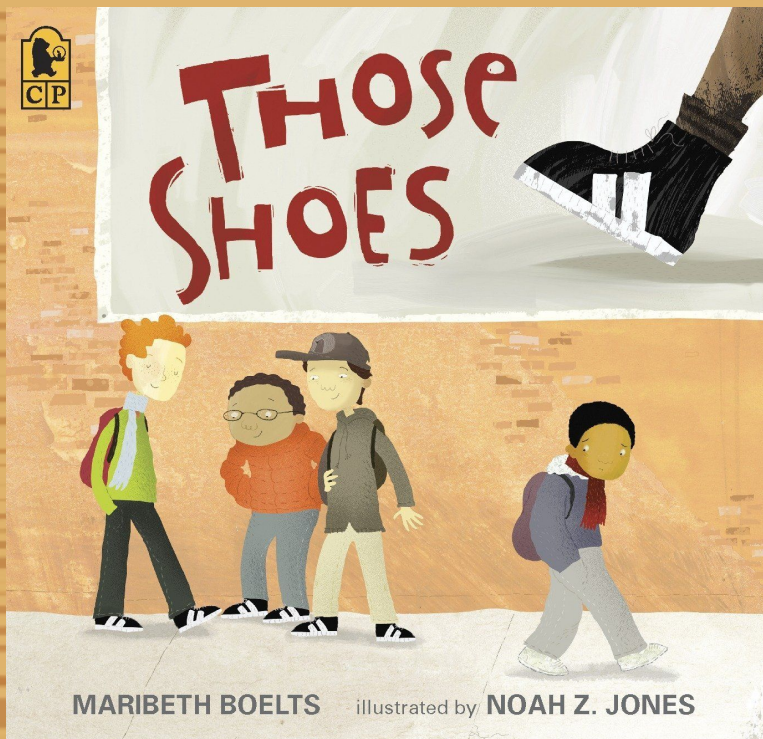
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Empathy

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. Though Jeremy's grandma says they don't have room for "want," just "need," when his old shoes fall apart at school, he is more determined than ever to have those shoes, even a thrift-shop pair that are much too small. But sore feet aren't much fun, and Jeremy soon sees that the things he has – warm boots, a loving grandma, and the chance to help a friend – are worth more than the things he wants.



BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Kindness & Empathy

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

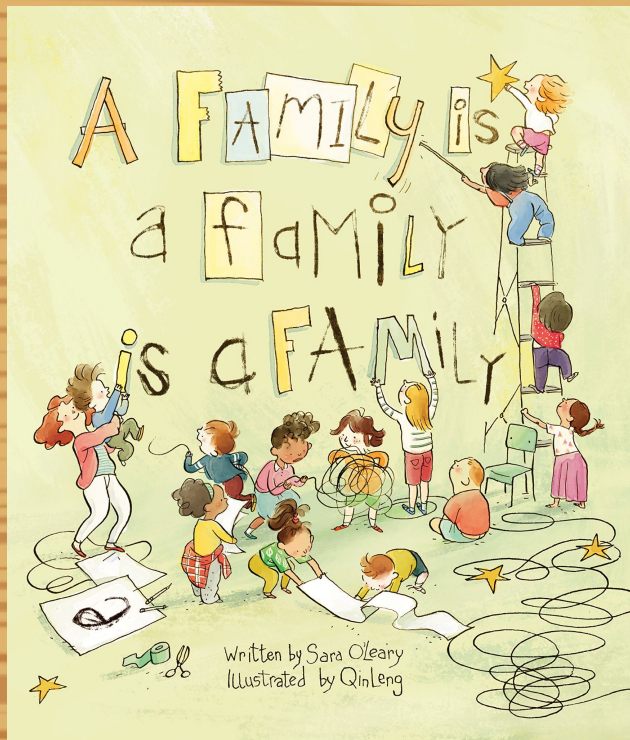
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Family

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

When a teacher asks the children in her class to think about what makes their families special, the answers are all different in many ways – but the same in the one way that matters most of all.

One child is worried that her family is just too different to explain, but listens as her classmates talk about what makes their families special. One is raised by a grandmother, and another has two dads. One is full of stepsiblings, and another has a new baby.

As one by one, her classmates describe who they live with and who loves them – family of every shape, size and every kind of relation – the child realizes that as long as her family is full of caring people, her family is special.

A warm and whimsical look at many types of families written by award-winning author Sara O'Leary, *A Family is a Family* springs to life with quirky and sweet illustrations by Qin Leng.



BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Family

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

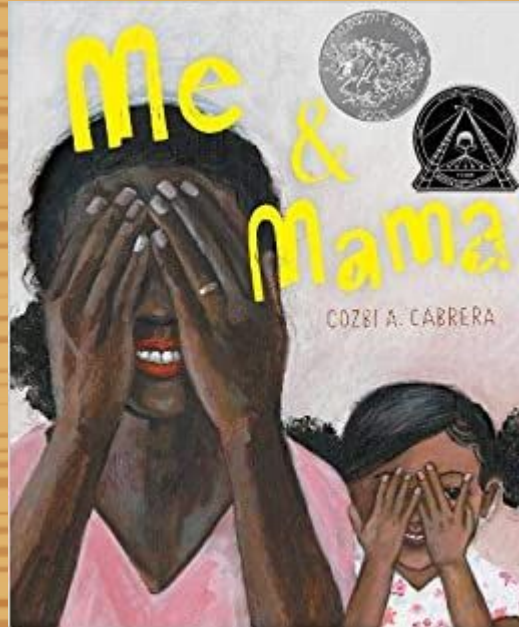
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Family

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

On a rainy day when the house smells like cinnamon and Papa and Luca are still asleep, when the clouds are wearing shadows and the wind paints the window with beads of water, I want to be everywhere Mama is.

With lyrical prose and a tender touch, the Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Honor Book *Mama and Me* is an ode to the strength of the bond between a mother and a daughter as they spend a rainy day together.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Family

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

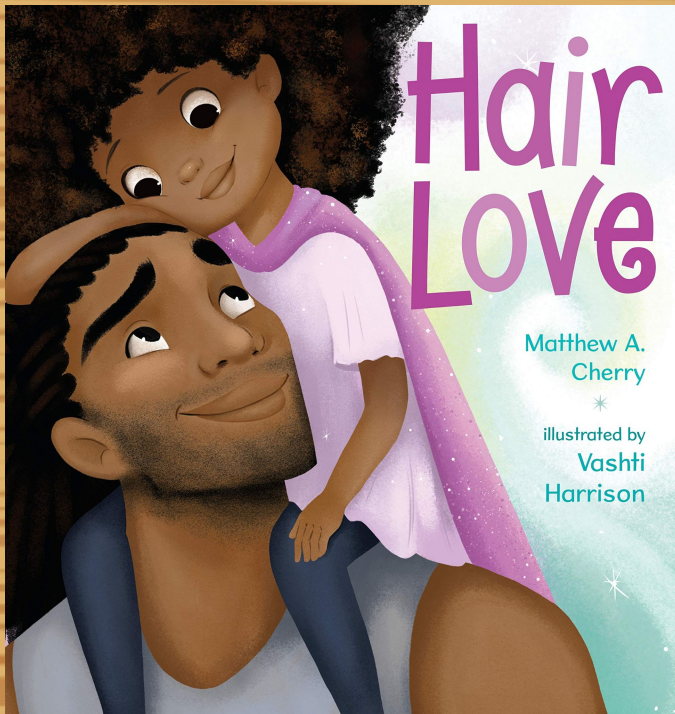
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Family

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Zuri's hair has a mind of its own. It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Zuri knows it's beautiful. When Daddy steps in to style it for an extra special occasion, he has a lot to learn. But he LOVES his Zuri, and he'll do anything to make her -- and her hair -- happy.

Tender and empowering, *Hair Love* is an ode to loving your natural hair -- and a celebration of daddies and daughters everywhere. A perfect gift for special occasions including Father's Day, birthdays, baby showers, and more!

 See
More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Family

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Family

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

When the babysitter is unable to come, Daniel is woken out of bed and joins his parents as they head downtown for their jobs as night time office cleaners. But the story is about more than brooms, mops, and vacuums. Mama and Papa turn the deserted office building into a magnificent kingdom filled with paper. Then they weave a fantasy of dragons and kings to further engage their reluctant companion--and even encourage him to one day be the king of a paper kingdom.

The Paper Kingdom expresses the joy and spirit of a loving family who turn a routine and ordinary experience into something much grander. Magical art by Pascal Campion shows both the real world and the fantasy through the eyes of the young narrator.

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Family

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

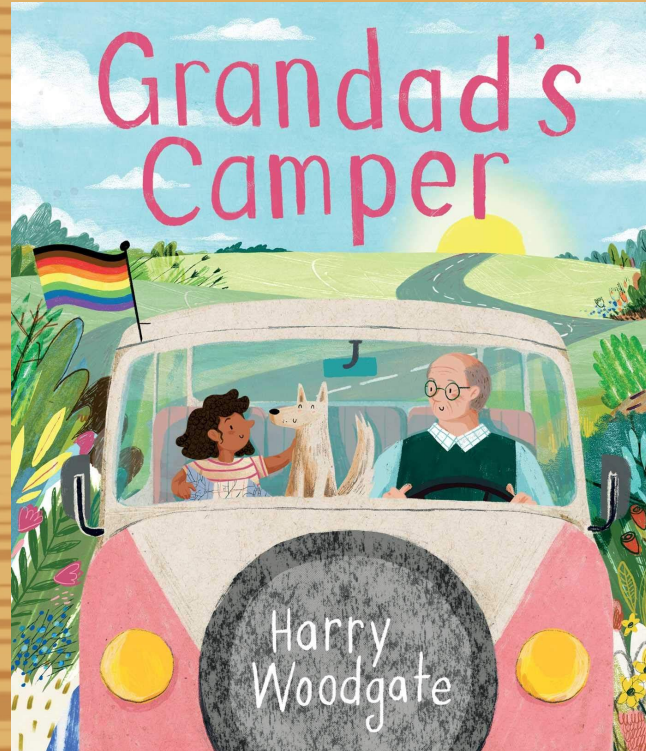
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Family

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Gramps and Grandad were adventurers. They would surf, climb mountains, and tour the country in their amazing camper. Gramps just made everything extra special. But after Gramps died, granddad hasn't felt like traveling anymore. So, their amazing granddaughter comes up with a clever plan to fix up the old camper and get Grandad excited to explore again.

This beautiful picture book honors love and reminds us not only to remember those we have lost, but to celebrate them.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Family

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

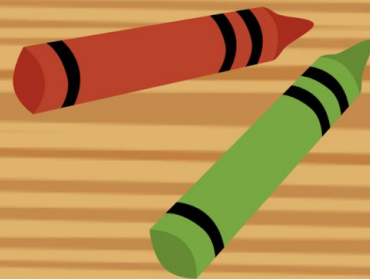
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Environment

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Our friend Earth does so many wonderful things! She tends to animals large and small. She pours down summer rain and autumn leaves. She sprinkles whisper-white snow and protects the tiny seeds waiting for spring.

Readers of all ages will pore over the pages of this spectacular book. Its enticing die-cut pages encourage exploration as its poetic text celebrates everything Earth does for us, all the while reminding us to be a good friend in return.

- Interactive format and kid-friendly art will engage both toddlers and young readers.
- A celebration of the natural world and rallying cry for positive action for Planet Earth
- Great opportunities to share life science concepts and amazing facts about the environment with children



BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Environment

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

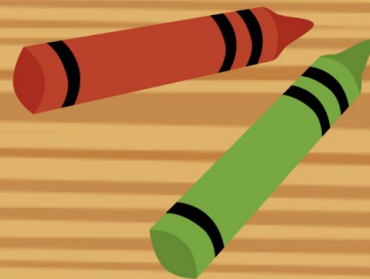
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Environment

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Zonia's home is the Amazon rainforest, where it is always green and full of life. Every morning, the rainforest calls to Zonia, and every morning, she answers. She visits the sloth family, greets the giant anteater, and runs with the speedy jaguar. But one morning, the rainforest calls to her in a troubled voice. How will Zonia answer?

Acclaimed author-illustrator Juana Martinez-Neal explores the wonders of the rain forest with Zonia, an Asháninka girl, in her joyful outdoor adventures. The engaging text emphasizes Zonia's empowering bond with her home, while the illustrations—created on paper made from banana bark—burst with luxuriant greens and delicate details. Illuminating back matter includes a translation of the story in Asháninka, information on the Asháninka community, and resources on the Amazon rainforest and its wildlife.



BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Environment

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

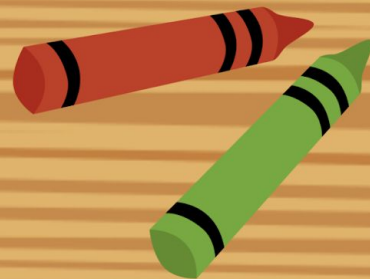
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Environment

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

*Water is the first medicine.
It affects and connects us all . . .*

When a black snake threatens to
destroy the Earth
And poison her people's water, one
young water protector
Takes a stand to defend Earth's most
sacred resource.

 See
More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Environment

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

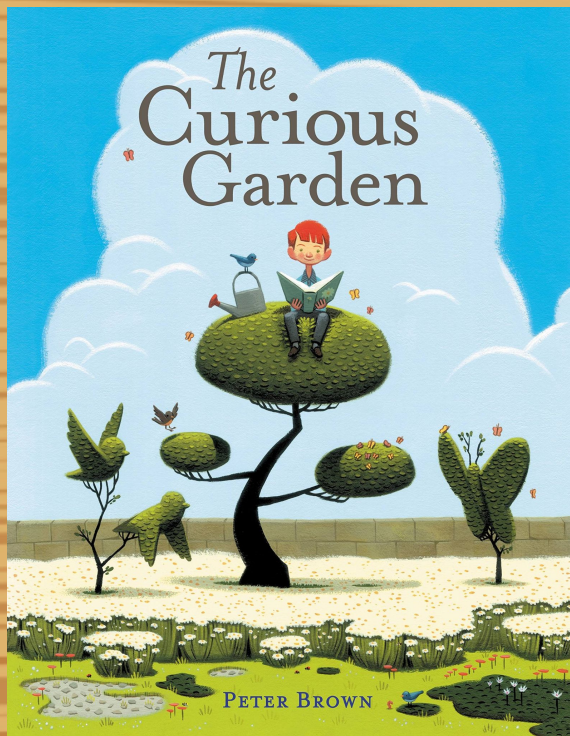
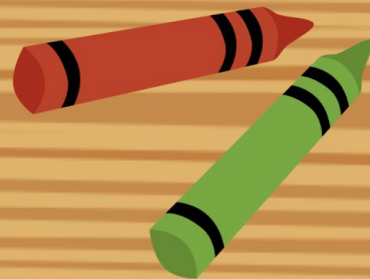
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Environment

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

One boy's quest for a greener world... one garden at a time.

While out exploring one day, a little boy named Liam discovers a struggling garden and decides to take care of it. As time passes, the garden spreads throughout the dark, gray city, transforming it into a lush, green world.

This is an enchanting tale with environmental themes and breathtaking illustrations that become more vibrant as the garden blooms. Red-headed Liam can also be spotted on every page, adding a clever seek-and-find element to this captivating picture book.



See
More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Environment

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Environment

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

The world is facing a climate crisis like we've never seen before. And kids around the world are stepping up to raise awareness and try to save the planet. As people saw in the youth climate strike in September 2019, kids will not stay silent about this subject—they're going to make a change. Meet 12 young activists from around the world who are speaking out and taking action against climate change. Learn about the work they do and the challenges they face, and discover how the future of our planet starts with each and every one of us.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Environment

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

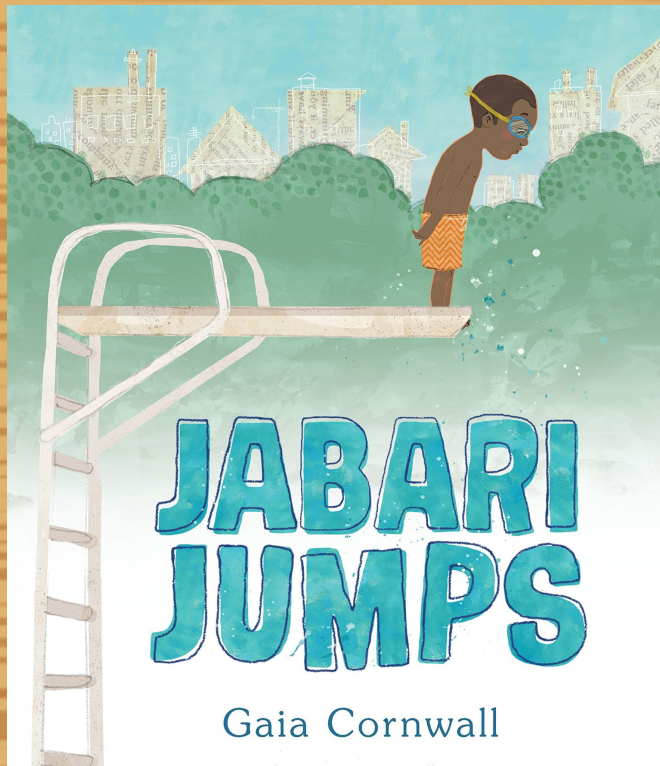
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Growth Mindset

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Jabari is definitely ready to jump off the diving board. He's finished his swimming lessons and passed his swim test, and he's a great jumper, so he's not scared at all. "Looks easy," says Jabari, watching the other kids take their turns. But when his dad squeezes his hand, Jabari squeezes back. He needs to figure out what kind of special jump to do anyway, and he should probably do some stretches before climbing up onto the diving board. In a sweetly appealing tale of overcoming your fears, newcomer Gaia Cornwall captures a moment between a patient and encouraging father and a determined little boy you can't help but root for.

 See
More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Growth Mindset

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

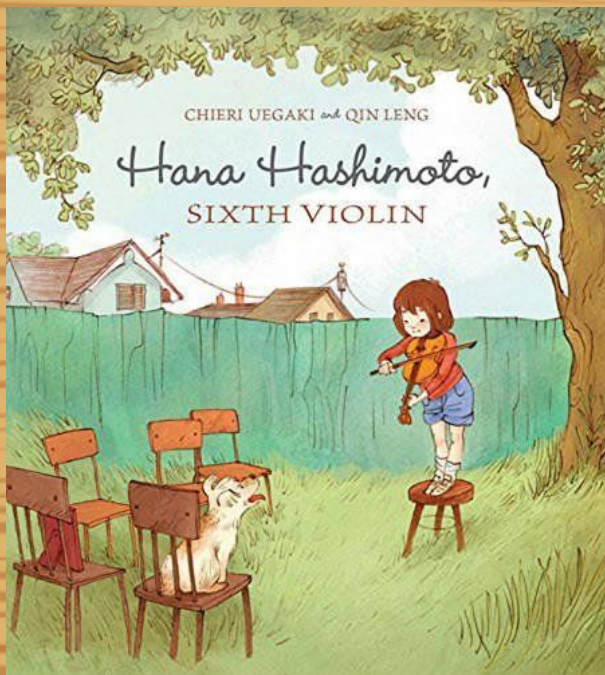
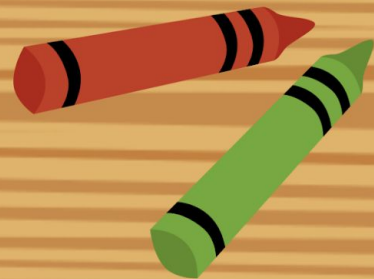
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Growth Mindset

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

In this beautifully written picture book, Hana Hashimoto has signed up to play her violin at her school's talent show. The trouble is, she's only a beginner, and she's had only three lessons. Her brothers insist she isn't good enough. "It's a talent show, Hana," they tell her. "You'll be a disaster!" Hana remembers how wonderfully her talented grandfather, or Ojii-chan, played his violin when she was visiting him in Japan. So, just like Ojii-chan, Hana practices every day. She is determined to play her best. When Hana's confidence wavers on the night of the show, however, she begins to wonder if her brothers were right. But then Hana surprises everyone once it's her turn to perform --- even herself! The Asian American female protagonist in this story offers a unique perspective, and bestselling author Chieri Uegaki has woven in lyrical scenes from Japan that add depth and resonance. The details in the artwork by Qin Leng connect the two places and contain a feeling of melody throughout. In the classroom, this book could serve as a celebration of music and performing arts, multicultural studies or the importance of intergenerational relationships. It is also a fabulous character education tie-in for discussing courage and perseverance. This terrifically inspiring book offers hope and confidence to all children who are yearning to master something difficult. Perhaps even more important, it allows children to see that there is more than one way to be successful at a task.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Growth Mindset

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

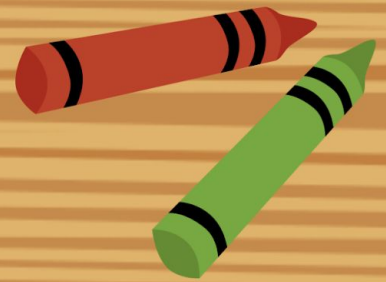
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Growth Mindset

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Everyone knows that when Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. But what happened *after*?

Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat's poignant tale follows Humpty Dumpty, an avid bird watcher whose favorite place to be is high up on the city wall—that is, until *after* his famous fall. Now terrified of heights, Humpty can no longer do many of the things he loves most.

Will he summon the courage to face his fear?



BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Growth Mindset

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

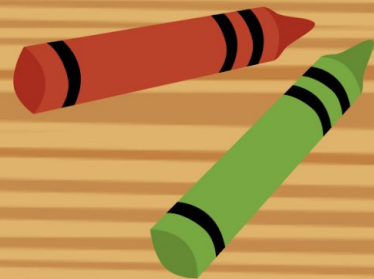
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Growth Mindset

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Award-winning author and illustrator Ashley Spires has created a charming picture book about an unnamed girl and her very best friend, who happens to be a dog. The girl has a wonderful idea. "She is going to make the most MAGNIFICENT thing! She knows just how it will look. She knows just how it will work. All she has to do is make it, and she makes things all the time. Easy-peasy!" But making her magnificent thing is anything but easy, and the girl tries and fails, repeatedly. Eventually, the girl gets really, really mad. She is so mad, in fact, that she quits. But after her dog convinces her to take a walk, she comes back to her project with renewed enthusiasm and manages to get it just right. For the early grades' exploration of character education, this funny book offers a perfect example of the rewards of perseverance and creativity. The girl's frustration and anger are vividly depicted in the detailed art, and the story offers good options for dealing honestly with these feelings, while at the same time reassuring children that it's okay to make mistakes. The clever use of verbs in groups of threes is both fun and functional, offering opportunities for wonderful vocabulary enrichment. The girl doesn't just "make" her magnificent thing --- she "tinkers and hammers and measures," she "smooths and wrenches and fiddles," she "twists and tweaks and fastens." These precise action words are likely to fire up the imaginations of youngsters eager to create their own inventions and is a great tie-in to learning about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Growth Mindset

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

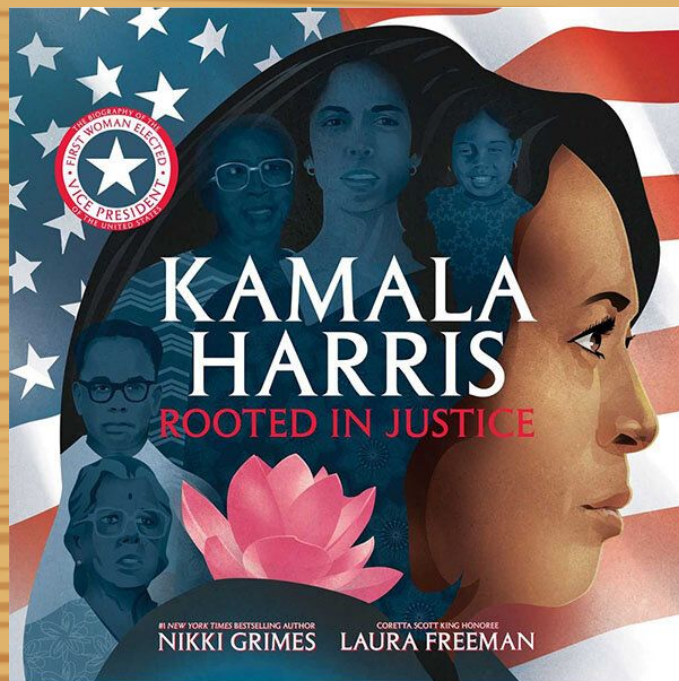
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Biographies

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

When Kamala Harris was young, she often accompanied her parents to civil rights marches—so many, in fact, that when her mother asked a frustrated Kamala what she wanted, the young girl responded with: “Freedom!”

As Kamala grew from a small girl in Oakland to a senator running for president, it was this long-fostered belief in freedom and justice for all people that shaped her into the inspiring figure she is today. From fighting for the use of a soccer field in middle school to fighting for the people of her home state in Congress, Senator Harris used her voice to speak up for what she believed in and for those who were otherwise unheard. And now this dedication has led her all the way to being elected Vice President of the United States.

Told in Nikki Grimes's stunning verse and featuring gorgeous illustrations by Laura Freeman, this picture book biography brings to life a story that shows all young people that the American dream can belong to all of us if we fight for one another.

 See
More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Biography

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

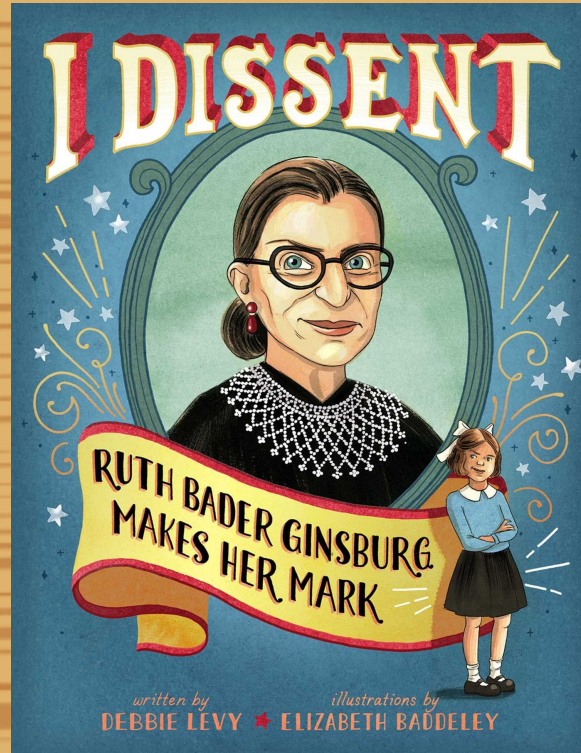
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Biographies

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has spent a lifetime disagreeing: disagreeing with inequality, arguing against unfair treatment, and standing up for what's right for people everywhere. This biographical picture book about the Notorious RBG, tells the justice's story through the lens of her many famous dissents, or disagreements.

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Biography

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

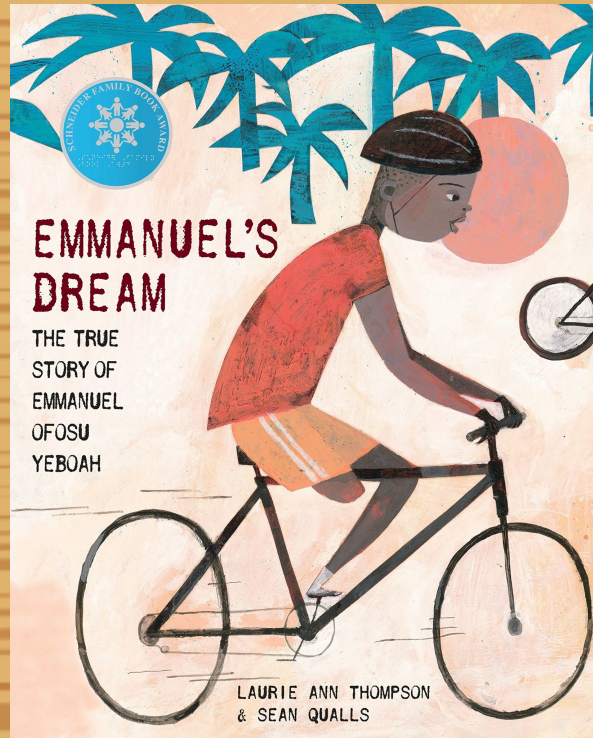
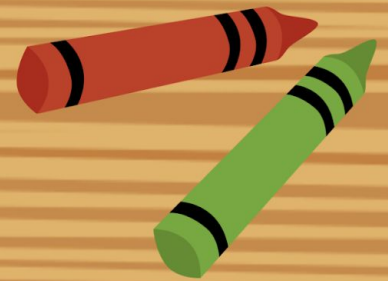
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Biographies

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Born in Ghana, West Africa, with one deformed leg, he was dismissed by most people—but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. As a boy, Emmanuel hopped to school more than two miles each way, learned to play soccer, left home at age thirteen to provide for his family, and, eventually, became a cyclist. He rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message: disability is not inability. Today, Emmanuel continues to work on behalf of the disabled.

Thompson's lyrical prose and Qualls's bold collage illustrations offer a powerful celebration of triumphing over adversity.

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Biography

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

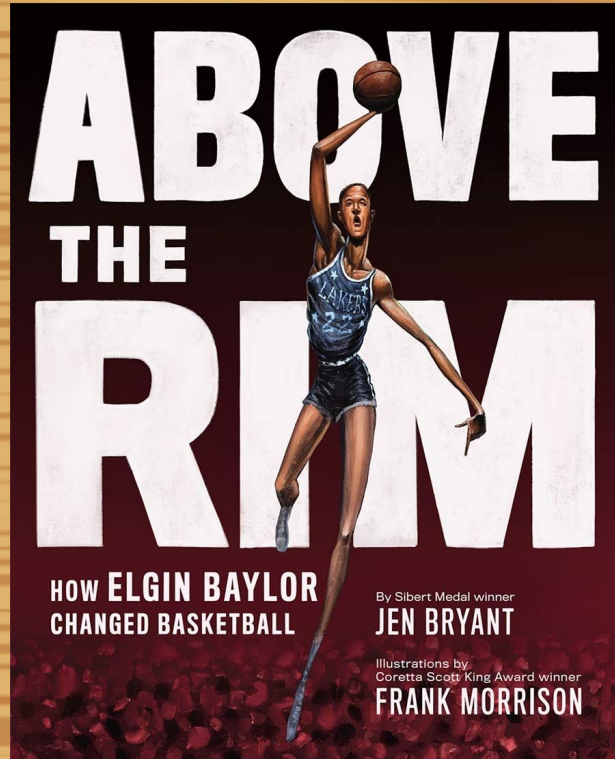
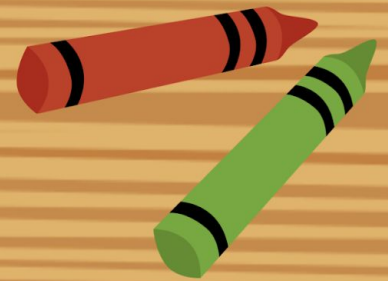
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Biographies

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

The story of Elgin Baylor, basketball icon and civil rights advocate, from an all-star team

Hall-of-famer Elgin Baylor was one of basketball's all-time-greatest players—an innovative athlete, team player, and quiet force for change. One of the first professional African-American players, he inspired others on and off the court. But when traveling for away games, many hotels and restaurants turned Elgin away because he was black. One night, Elgin had enough and staged a one-man protest that captured the attention of the press, the public, and the NBA.

Above the Rim is a poetic, exquisitely illustrated telling of the life of an underrecognized athlete and a celebration of standing up for what is right.



BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Biography

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Biographies

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Brenda Berkman was often told that she couldn't do certain things because she was a girl. When she grew up, she longed for a job that was challenging, different every day, and required physical and mental strength. In 1977 when the New York City Fire Department finally complied with the Civil Rights Act (from 1964) by allowing women to take the FDNY exam, Brenda jumped at the chance.

But the FDNY changed the rules of the exam so women wouldn't be able to pass it. Even a lot of men couldn't pass this new exam.

So Brenda Berkman took the FDNY to court. In 1982, they finally made a fair test, and Brenda and 40 other women passed. She then founded the United Women Firefighters, an organization that helps train and prepare women to be firefighters. Brenda went on to serve in the FDNY for 25 years, reaching the positions of Lieutenant and Captain, and was a first responder during the attacks on the Twin Towers on 9/11. *Send a Girl!* is Brenda Berkman's inspiring story.

 See
More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Biography

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

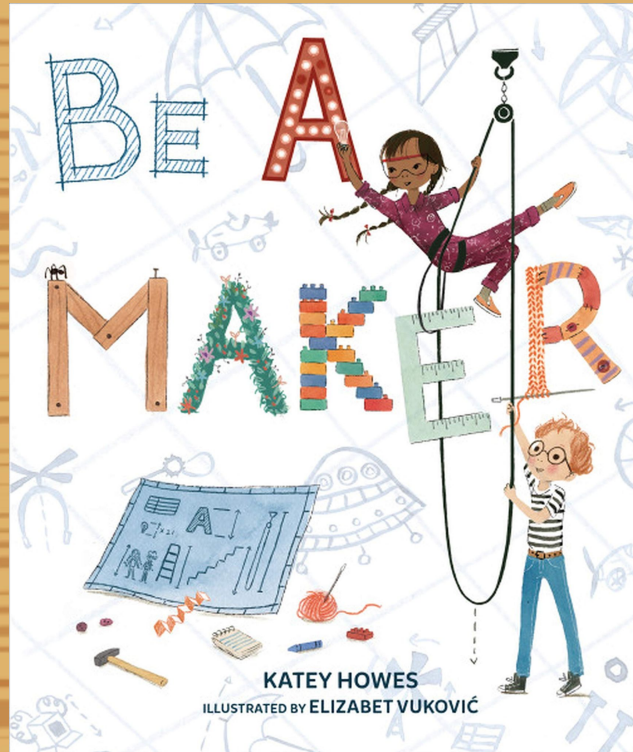
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Imagination/STEM

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

How many things can you make in a day? A tower, a friend, a change? Rhyme, repetition, and a few seemingly straightforward questions engage young readers in a discussion about the many things we make—and the ways we can make a difference in the world. This simple, layered story celebrates creativity through beautiful rhyming verse and vibrant illustrations with a timely message.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Imagination/STEM

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

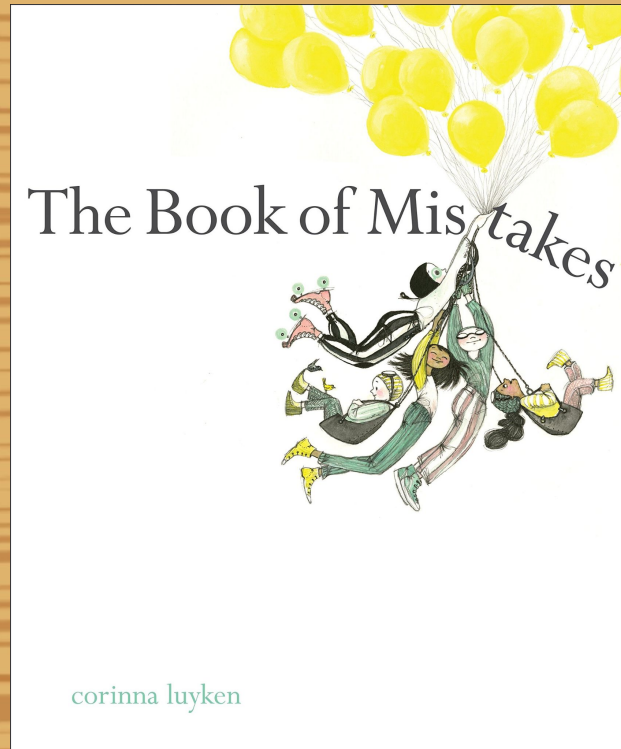
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Imagination/STEM

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

As one artist incorporates accidental splotches, spots, and misshapen things into her art, she transforms her piece in quirky and unexpected ways, taking readers on a journey through her process. Told in minimal, playful text, this story shows readers that even the biggest "mistakes" can be the source of the brightest ideas—and that, at the end of the day, we are all works in progress, too.

Fans of Peter Reynolds's *Ish* and Patrick McDonnell's *A Perfectly Messed-Up Story* will love the funny, poignant, completely unique storytelling of *The Book of Mistakes*. And, like *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*, it makes the perfect graduation gift, encouraging readers to have a positive outlook as they learn to face life's obstacles.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Imagination/STEM

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

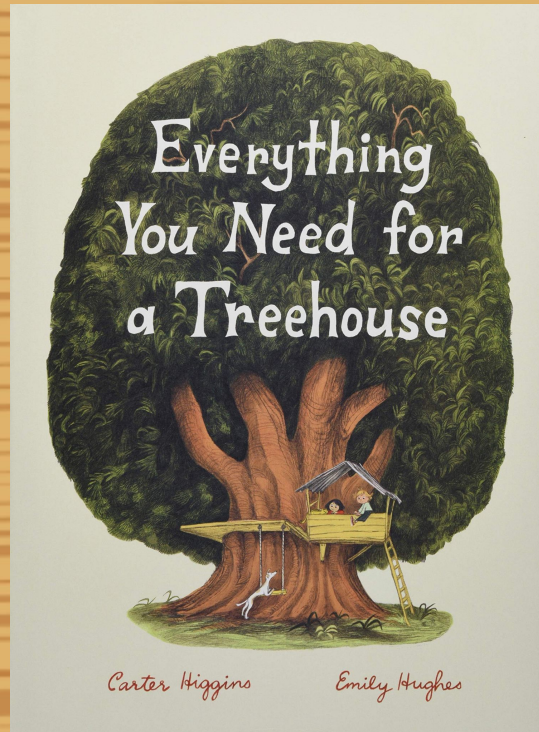
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Imagination/STEM

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Treehouses are for wonder.
Treehouses are for snacks.
Treehouses are for whispers and
snickers and echoes.
Treehouses are for everyone.
This magical work of art from
acclaimed picture book creators
Carter Higgins and Emily Hughes
celebrates the universal wonder of
treehouses and all the adventure
that live among branches.



BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Imagination/STEM

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

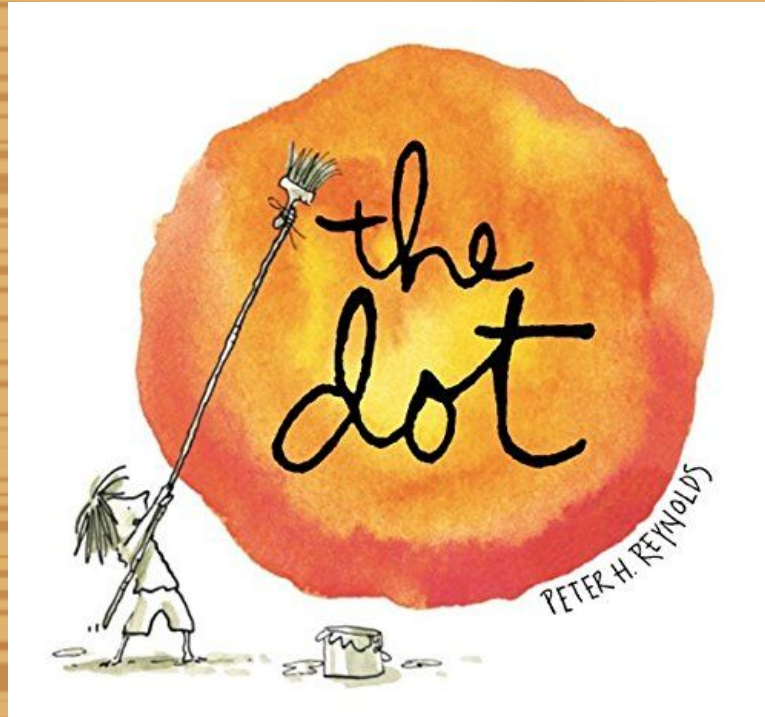
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Imagination/STEM

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Art class is over, but Vashti is sitting glued to her chair in front of a blank piece of paper. The words of her teacher are a gentle invitation to express herself. But Vashti can't draw - she's no artist. To prove her point, Vashti jabs at a blank sheet of paper to make an unremarkable and angry mark. "There!" she says.

That one little dot marks the beginning of Vashti's journey of surprise and self-discovery. That special moment is the core of Peter H. Reynolds's delicate fable about the creative spirit in all of us.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Imagination/STEM

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

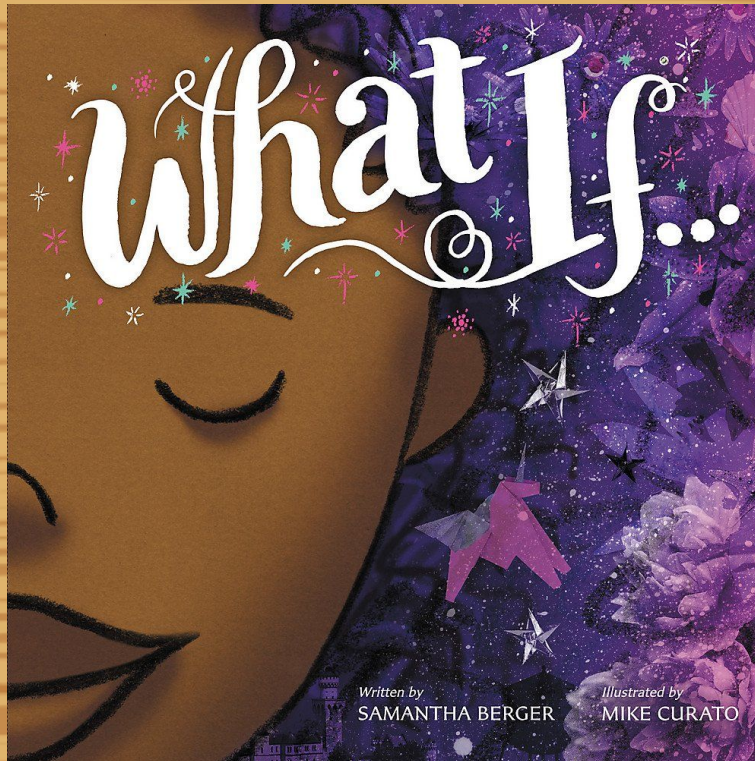
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Imagination/STEM

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

This girl is determined to express herself! If she can't draw her dreams, she'll sculpt or build, carve or collage. If she can't do that, she'll turn her world into a canvas. And if everything around her is taken away, she'll sing, dance, and dream...

Stunning mixed media illustrations, lyrical text, and a breathtaking gatefold conjure powerful magic in this heartfelt affirmation of art, imagination, and the resilience of the human spirit.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Imagination/STEM

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

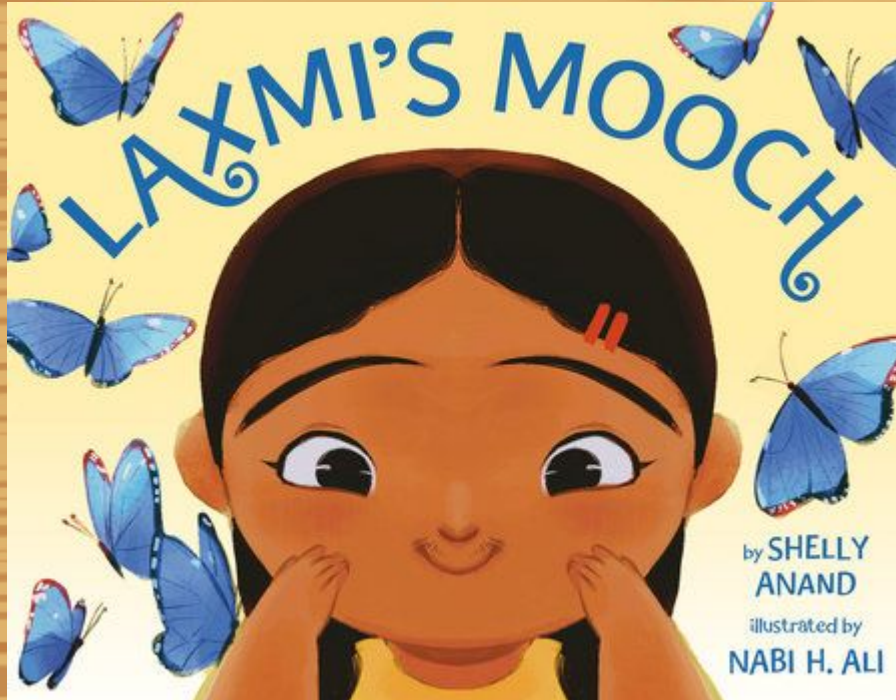
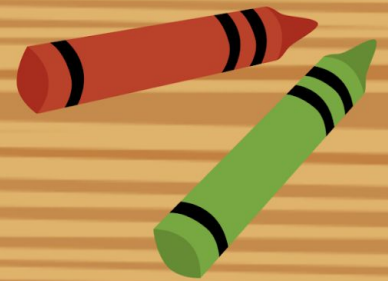
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Self Confidence & Courage

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Laxmi never paid much attention to the tiny hairs above her lip. But one day while playing farm animals at recess, her friends point out that her whiskers would make her the perfect cat. She starts to notice body hair all over--on her arms, legs, and even between her eyebrows.

With her parents' help, Laxmi learns that hair isn't just for heads, but that it grows everywhere, regardless of gender. Featuring affirming text by Shelly Anand and exuberant, endearing illustrations by Nabi H. Ali, *Laxmi's Mooch* is a celebration of our bodies and our body hair, in whichever way they grow.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Self Confidence & Courage

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

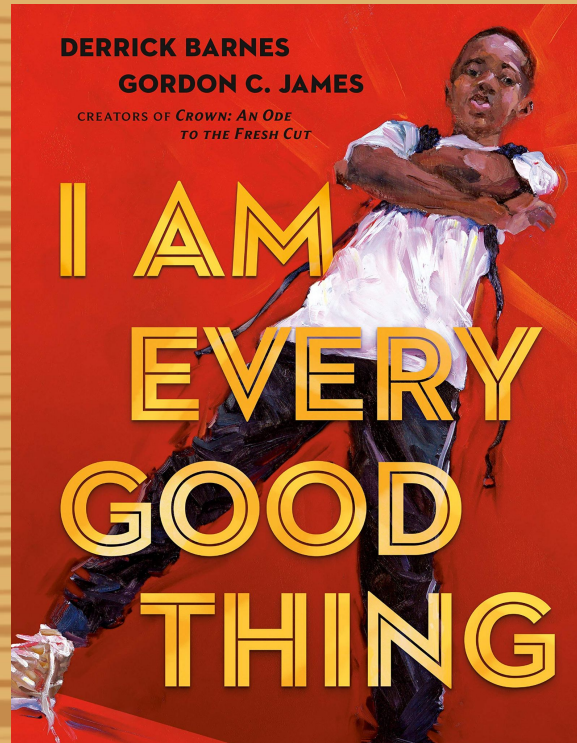
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Self Confidence & Courage

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

The confident Black narrator of this book is proud of everything that makes him who he is. He's got big plans, and no doubt he'll see them through--as he's creative, adventurous, smart, funny, and a good friend. Sometimes he falls, but he always gets back up. And other times he's afraid, because he's so often misunderstood and called what he is not. So slow down and really look and listen, when somebody tells you--and shows you--who they are. There are superheroes in our midst!

 See
More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Self Confidence & Courage

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

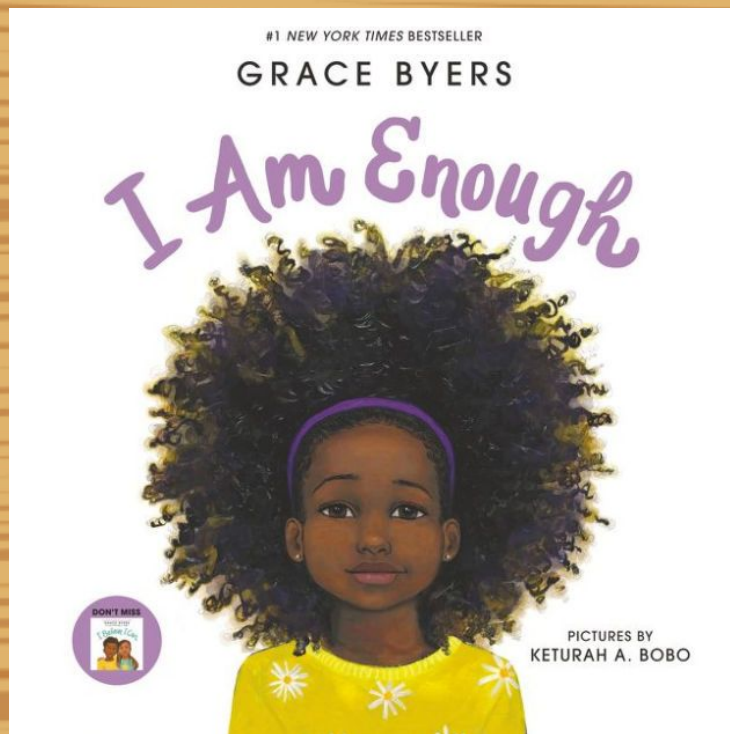
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Self Confidence & Courage

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

This gorgeous, lyrical ode to loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to one another comes from Empire actor and activist Grace Byers and talented newcomer artist Keturah A. Bobo.

We are all here for a purpose. We are more than enough. We just need to believe it.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Self Confidence & Courage

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill

What was your favorite part
of this story?:

What lesson did you learn
from this story?:

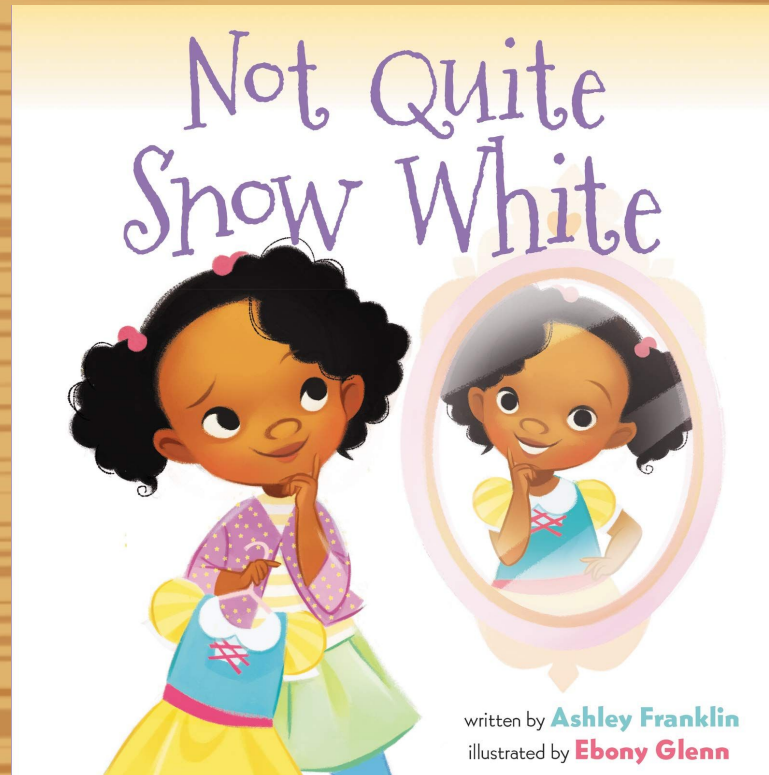
The lesson I learned from this story was



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Self Confidence & Courage

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Tameika is a girl who belongs on the stage. She loves to act, sing, and dance—and she's pretty good at it, too. So when her school announces their Snow White musical, Tameika auditions for the lead princess role.

But the other kids think she's "not quite" right to play the role.



BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Self Confidence & Courage

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

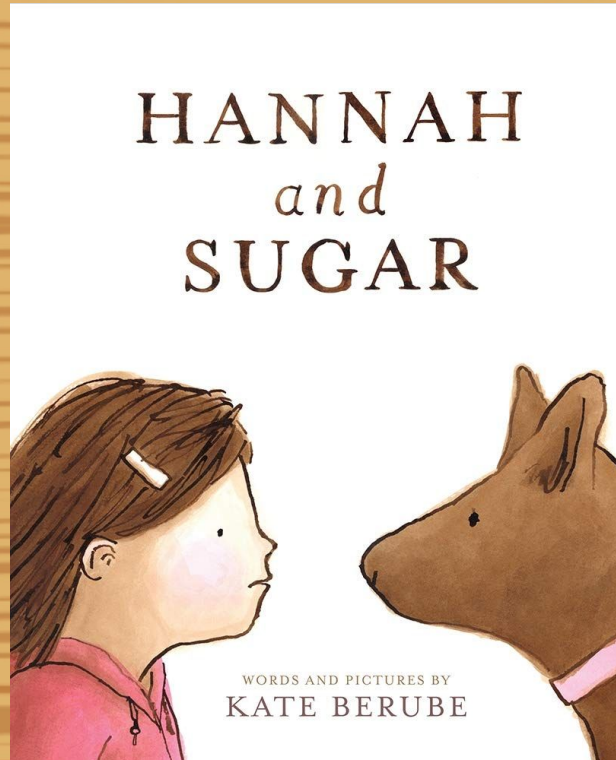
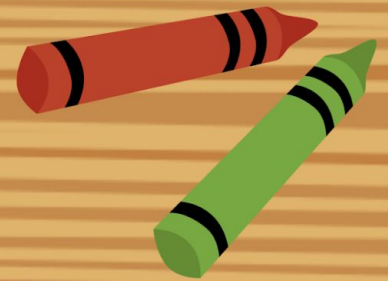
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Self Confidence & Courage

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Every day after school, Hannah's school bus is greeted by her classmate's dog, Sugar. All of the other kids love Sugar, but Hannah just can't conquer her fear of dogs. Then, one day, Sugar goes missing, so Hannah joins the search with her classmates. Will Hannah find a way to be brave, and make a new friend in the process?



BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Self Confidence & Courage

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

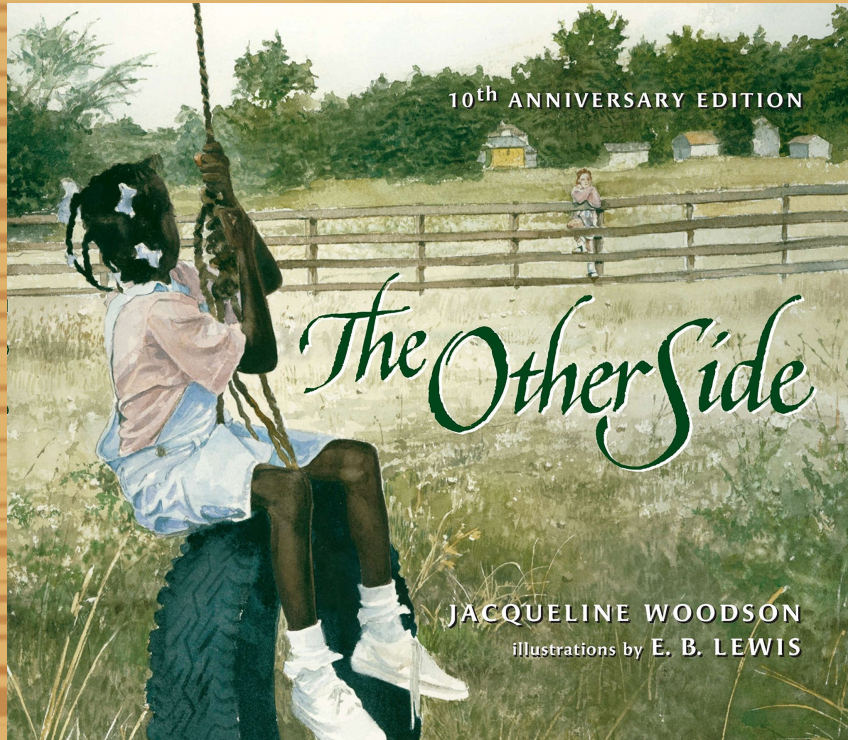
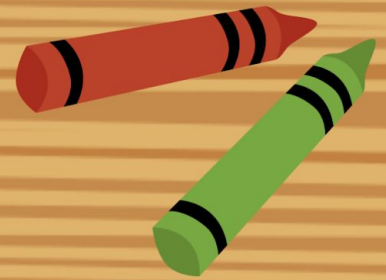
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Friendship & Citizenship

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Clover's mom says it isn't safe to cross the fence that segregates their African-American side of town from the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls strike up a friendship, and get around the grown-ups' rules by sitting on top of the fence together.

With the addition of a brand-new author's note, this special edition celebrates the tenth anniversary of this classic book. As always, Woodson moves readers with her lyrical narrative, and E. B. Lewis's amazing talent shines in his gorgeous watercolor illustrations.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Friendship & Citizenship

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

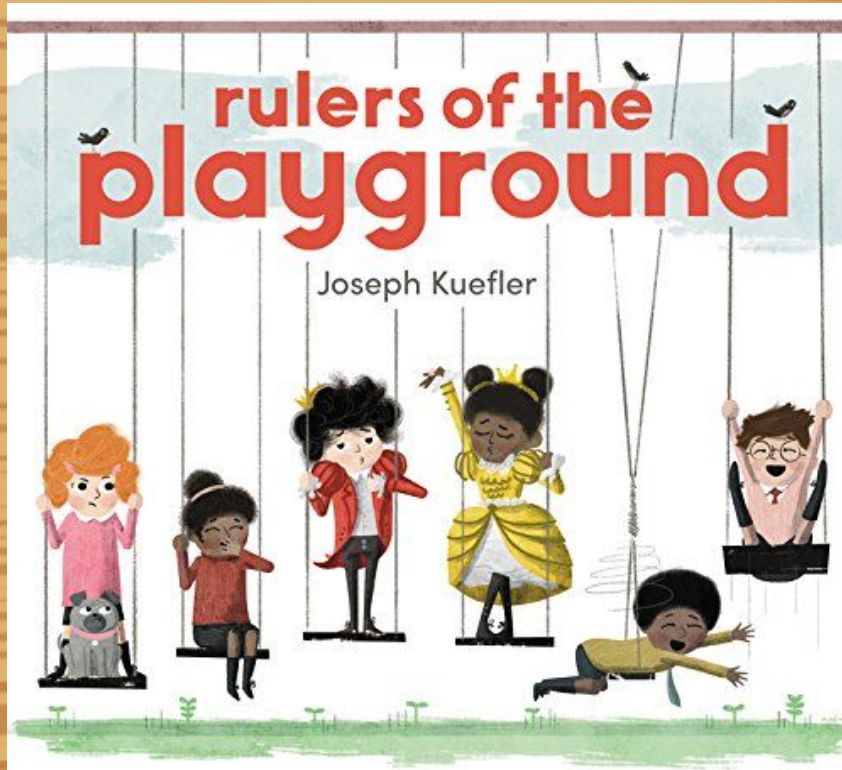
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Friendship & Citizenship

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

This picture book about sharing, friendship, and kindness in a playground setting will remind you of favorites such as *This Is Not My Hat* from Jon Klassen and *The Day the Crayons Quit* from Drew Daywalt.

One morning, Jonah decided to become ruler of the playground. Everyone agreed to obey his rules to play in King Jonah's kingdom. Everyone except for Lennox... because she wanted to rule the playground, too.

A gloriously rendered, hilariously deadpan tale of playground politics. Will hold the attention of preschool through second grade kids—whether they're leaders or followers, all kids navigate the world of the playground and will relate to the dynamics at play in *Rulers of the Playground*.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Friendship & Citizenship

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

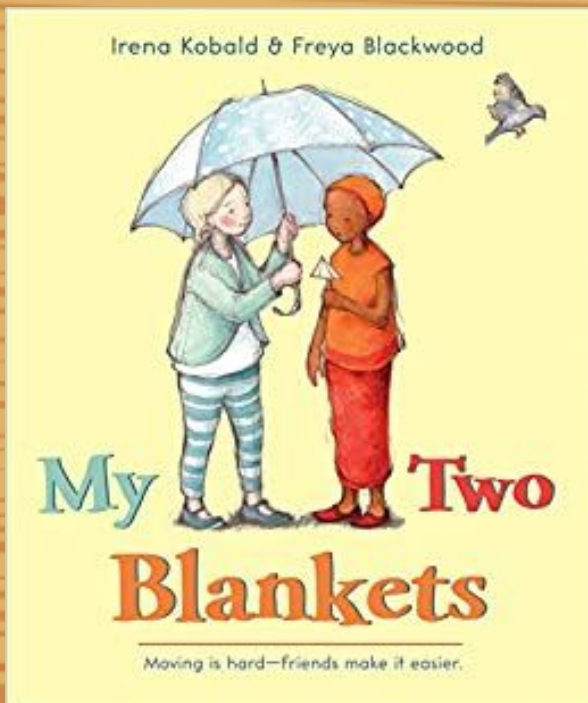
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Friendship & Citizenship

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Cartwheel moves to a new country with her auntie, and everything is strange: the animals, the plants—even the wind. An old blanket gives Cartwheel comfort when she's sad—and a new blanket just might change her world.

This multicultural story of friendship is about leaving home, moving to a foreign and strange place, and finding a new friend. It's a story for all who have experienced change. Irena Kobald's poetic text, paired with Kate Greenaway medalist Freya Blackwood's powerful paintings, renders an emotional and heart-warming story about two children from diverse backgrounds coming together to become new friends.

 See
More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Friendship & Citizenship

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

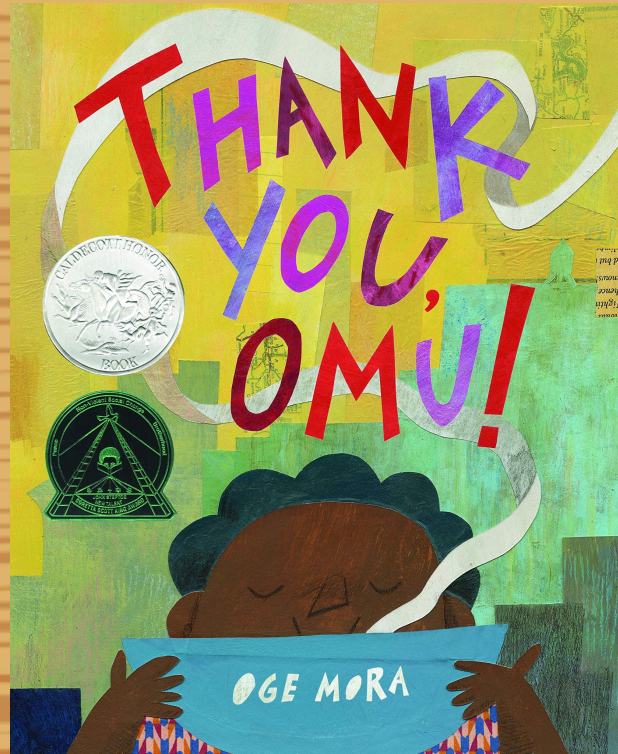
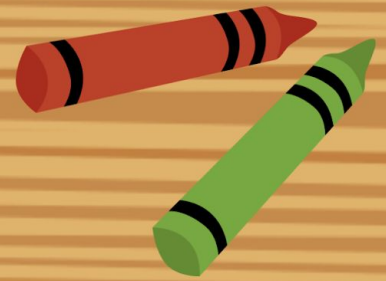
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Friendship & Citizenship

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself.

Debut author-illustrator Oge Mora brings to life a heartwarming story of sharing and community in colorful cut-paper designs as luscious as Omu's stew, with an extra serving of love. An author's note explains that "Omu" (pronounced AH-moo) means "queen" in the Igbo language of her parents, but growing up, she used it to mean "Grandma." This book was inspired by the strong female role models in Oge Mora's life.

[a](#) See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Friendship & Citizenship

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

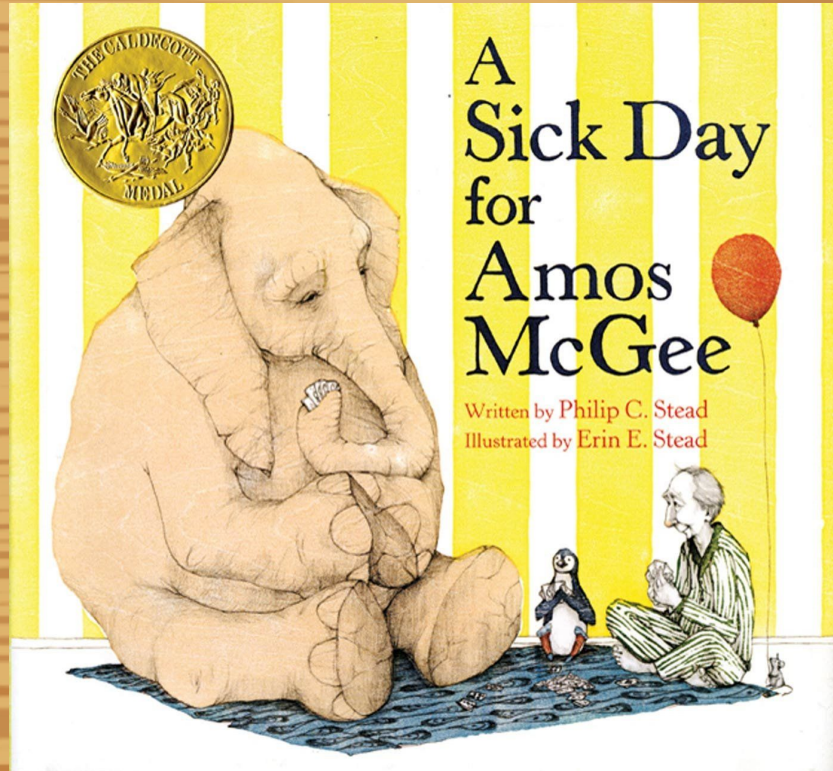
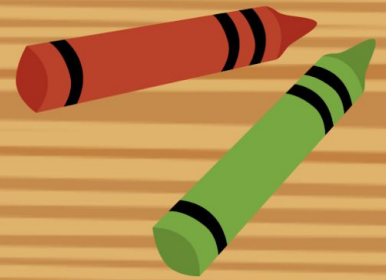
What lesson did you learn
from this story?:



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THEME: Friendship & Citizenship

Find this book at your local library.



SUMMARY:

Friends come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. In Amos McGee's case, all sorts of species, too! Every day he spends a little bit of time with each of his friends at the zoo, running races with the tortoise, keeping the shy penguin company, and even reading bedtime stories to the owl. But when Amos is too sick to make it to the zoo, his animal friends decide it's time they returned the favor.

 See More

BOOK REFLECTION

THEME: Friendship & Citizenship

Book Title:

Rate this book:



*Drag and drop
the stars to fill



What was your favorite part
of this story?:

What lesson did you learn
from this story?:

