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# **Books Kits for the 2019 Beehive Book Awards Children's Fiction Nominees**

***Amina's Voice***

***Beyond the Bright Sea***

***Dragon With A Chocolate Heart***

***Overboard! (Survivor Diaries)***

***Refugee***

***Restart***

***The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl: Squirrel Meets World***

***Wedgie & Gizmo***

***Wolfie & Fly***

***Word of Mouse***



## Amina's Voice

**Author:** Hena Khan  
**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster  
**Publication Date:** 2017  
**ISBN:** 9781481492072  
**Grade Level:** 3-8



### Description

The first year of middle school is tricky. Suddenly, Amina's best friend, Soojin, starts talking about changing her name and, even worse, spending time with Emily—a girl that used to make fun of them! Amina's older brother seems to be getting into a lot of trouble for his grades, and now he wants to play basketball instead of studying. To make matters worse, her uncle comes to visit from Pakistan, and her parents seem to be trying awfully hard to impress him. With so many changes, it's hard to know how to be a good friend, sister, and daughter. But when Amina's mosque is vandalized, she learns that the things that connect us will always be stronger than the things that try to tear us apart.

### Themes

Children of Faith, Family, Friendship, Immigration, Muslim-Americans, Pakistani-Americans, Prejudice & Racism, Self-courage

### Author Information

Hena Khan is a Pakistani-American who was born and raised in Maryland, where she still lives. She enjoys writing about her culture as well as all sorts of other subjects, from spies to space travel. You can learn more about Hena by visiting her website: [www.henakhan.com](http://www.henakhan.com).

### Discussion Questions

1. Amina loves music and singing, but is afraid to do it solo. How did she overcome her fear? Do you have any talents, or activities that you are scared to do? What do you think could give you the courage to do it?
2. What does "backbiting" mean? Why is it not a good thing to do?
3. Amina's Baba is quiet when Thaya Jaan says music is forbidden. Why didn't he speak up with his own opinion? What is his opinion?
4. Amina says "I was so worried about Emily becoming friends with you that I didn't notice she was trying to be friends with me, too." Has this ever happened to you? What would help you to prevent this from happening?

For more discussion questions visit:

[http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Aminas-Voice/Hena-Khan/9781481492065/reading\\_group\\_guide](http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Aminas-Voice/Hena-Khan/9781481492065/reading_group_guide)



## **Activities**

1. Trace your own family history and learn about the cultures that made you who you are. Pick one and celebrate it with friends, family, or as a class.
2. Soojin is trying to find an American name to take as her own. Pick another country you would like to visit and look up popular names in that country. Which one would you pick for yourself?
3. Amina memorizes passages from the Quran for a competition. Find a poem or short speech that you like and memorize it.
4. Amina chooses to sing a song about change. Think of songs you know that would be appropriate for current situations in the country or your area and sing them, or teach them to each other.
5. Amina is surprised to find out that her brother has a great singing voice as well. Take 10 minutes and talk to 5 people to see what talents you can discover.

For more activities visit:

[http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Aminas-Voice/Hena-Khan/9781481492065/reading\\_group\\_guide](http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Aminas-Voice/Hena-Khan/9781481492065/reading_group_guide)

## **More Resources**

1. Interview with Hena Kahn, get correct pronunciation of Amina:  
<https://www.henakhan.com/audio-clips/>
2. Lesson Plan:  
<https://sharemylesson.com/teaching-resource/aminas-voice-book-discussion-guide-283151>
3. Reading Group Guide:  
[http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Aminas-Voice/Hena-Khan/9781481492065/reading\\_group\\_guide](http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Aminas-Voice/Hena-Khan/9781481492065/reading_group_guide)
4. A Change is Gonna Come:  
[https://www.vevo.com/watch/sam-cooke/a-change-is-gonna-come-\(official-lyric-video\)/USAB21610000](https://www.vevo.com/watch/sam-cooke/a-change-is-gonna-come-(official-lyric-video)/USAB21610000)

## **Similar Books**

- *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate
- *It Ain't so Awful Falafel* by Firoozeh Dumas
- *The Penderwicks in Spring* by Jeanne Birdsall
- *Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks
- *Blackbird Fly* by Erin Entrada Kelly

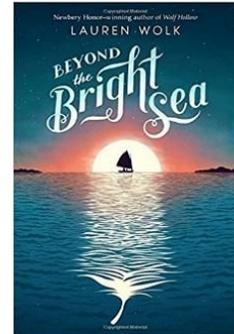
## **Related Non-fiction**

- *This Land is Our Land: a History of American Immigration* by Linda Barrett Osborne
- *Faith* by Maya Ajmera
- *When Marian Sang: the true recital of Marian Anderson the Voice of a Century* by Pam Munoz Ryan



## Beyond the Bright Sea

Author: Lauren Wolk  
Publisher: Dutton Books for Young Readers  
Publication Date: 2017  
ISBN: 1101994851  
Grade Level: Age 10-14



### **Description**

Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift on a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar. Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger. Vivid and heart wrenching, Lauren Wolk's *Beyond the Bright Sea* is a gorgeously crafted and tensely paced tale that explores questions of identity, belonging, and the true meaning of family.

### **Themes**

Abandonment, Atlantic Ocean, Belonging, Elizabeth Islands, Family, Identity, Leprosy, Love, Orphan, Prejudice

### **Author Information**

Lauren Wolk was born in Baltimore. She graduated from Brown University in 1981 and married her classmate Richard in 1982. They have two sons who are musicians. Wolk currently lives with her family on Cape Cod. Learn more at <http://www.laurenwolk.com>

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Where do you think Osh came from, and what do you think happened that caused him to leave everything behind?
2. Describe the wild and beautiful Elizabeth Islands where Osh and Crow live. How could the Island be considered a "character" in the story.
3. How do people in the community react to Crow? How does fear contribute to their behavior, and how does Crow react? .
4. How is Crow's personality reflected in her name? If you were named after an animal what would it be and why?
5. What do Osh and Crow teach each other, and how do they change each other's lives?
6. How does this story teach that the family you make isn't less real or important than family you're born into? How do Osh and Miss Maggie create a family for Crow?



## **Activities**

1. Create a 3D model/diorama of Osh and Crow's island.
2. Learn more about the leper colony on Penikese Island and present your findings to a group.
3. All families are unique. Using old magazines and pictures create a collage that shows the unique characteristics of your family.
4. Learn more about shipwrecks that have happened on the coast of Massachusetts. You can find a list here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_shipwrecks\\_of\\_Massachusetts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_shipwrecks_of_Massachusetts) Choose one and share your findings.
5. Crow's parents leave behind some treasures that she later finds. What would you leave behind as "treasures" for your loved ones? Bring a box with these items inside to share. You could also draw a picture or write about what you would leave behind.

## **More Resources**

1. Elizabeth Islands: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth\\_Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Islands)
2. Penikese Island: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penikese\\_Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penikese_Island)
3. Video of what Penikese Island looks like today:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tei86YwBbQ>
4. Photography of Penikese and Cuttyhunk Islands today:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9Wlwb43B4I>
5. 350 degree view of Penikese Island: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spbKH4s0BiA>  
Leprosy: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leprosy>

## **Similar Books**

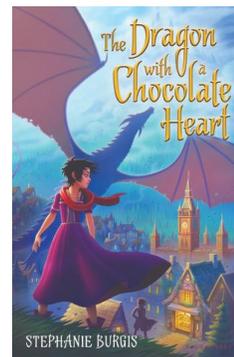
- *Orphan Island* by Laurel Snyder
- *Some Kind of Courage* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *Winterhouse* by Ben Guterson
- *Healing Water* by Joyce Moyer Hostetter
- *The Crow-Girl* by Bodil Bredsdorff
- *The Treasure of Maria Mamoun* by Michelle Chalfoun
- *The Wreckers* by Iain Lawrence
- *The Island at the End of Everything* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

## **Related Non-fiction**

- *Cuttyhunk and the Elizabeth Islands* by the Cuttyhunk Historical Society
- *Atlantic (Rise and Shine)* by G. Brian Karas
- *Outcasts: The Penikese Island Leper Hospital 1905-1921* by Eve Rifkah
- *Tapeworms, Foot Fungus, Lice and More: The Yucky Disease Book* by Alvin Silverstein
- *Alone in the world: orphans and orphanages in America* by Catherine Reef

## Dragon With A Chocolate Heart

**Author:** Stephanie Burgis  
**Publisher:** Bloomsbury Children's Books  
**Publication Date:** 2017  
**ISBN:** 9781691193434  
**Grade Level:** Grades 3-7



### Description

Aventurine is a brave young dragon ready to explore the world outside of her family's mountain cave . . . if only they'd let her leave it. Her family thinks she's too young to fly on her own, but she's determined to prove them wrong by capturing the most dangerous prey of all: a human. But when that human tricks her into drinking enchanted hot chocolate, she's transformed into a puny human without any sharp teeth, fire breath, or claws. Still, she's the fiercest creature in these mountains--and now she's found her true passion: chocolate. All she has to do is get to the human city to find herself an apprenticeship (whatever that is) in a chocolate house (which sounds delicious), and she'll be conquering new territory in no time . . . won't she? A classic fantasy with terrific girl power, perfect for fans of Shannon Hale and Jessica Day George.

### Themes

Chocolate, Dragons, Fantasy, Magic, Strong female character,

### Author Information

Stephanie Burgis is a lifelong reader of fantasy and 19th century romances. She grew up in East Lansing, Michigan and now lives in Wales with her husband (author Patrick Samphire) and two sons. She is a Fulbright Scholar, has a Master's degree in Music History, and has held many different jobs. Learn more at <https://www.stephanieburgis.com>

### Discussion Questions

1. Aventurine felt that her family didn't understand her and her strengths. So against the rules set for her she left the family cave. Have you ever felt that your family doesn't understand or appreciate you? What did you do about it?
2. What is the first thing you would do if you were tricked and then transformed into a different species?
3. Three people reached out to help Aventurine – Greta, Silke and Marina. Which person(s) really wanted to help her? What did they do that helped Aventurine?
4. Have you ever felt like you ruined things so bad you wanted to run away like Aventurine did after she burned the chocolate tarts? Did you run? What made Aventurine return to the chocolate house?



5. Why did Aventurine watch her mother so closely as she drank the hot chocolate? Have you ever felt that way?

### **Activities**

1. Find or draw a picture of a dragon, then create a picture of a person that dragon would look like if tricked like Aventurine was. Pictures can be found on many different web pages. As an alternative, find or draw a picture of a person and then create a picture of a dragon that person would look like.
2. *The Dragon with a Chocolate Heart* was first published in the UK (2/9/2017), then Australia (3/1/2017), then US and Canada (5/30/2017), then Germany 8/24/2017 and in France, Romania, Russia, Turkey, China and Poland at dates to be determined. Put the dates around the edge of a map of the world and have the students draw a line to the country that matches that date. They can then color the countries where the book was published.  
<https://www.stephanieburgis.com/books/the-dragon-with-a-chocolate-heart/>
3. Enjoy a day of dragon themed crafts!
  - Create a Dragon paper airplane and have races to see how far they will fly.  
<http://www.createinthechaos.com/printable-flying-craft-dragon-paper-airplane/>
  - Make dragon eggs using styrofoam eggs and thumbtacks.  
<http://craftyourhappiness.com/2014/06/30/dragon-egg-1-tutorial/>
  - Create a pipe cleaner dragon.  
<https://frugalfun4boys.com/2015/08/25/pipe-cleaner-dragons/>
  - Create a paper chain dragon.  
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/chinese-new-year-dragon-craft-project/>
  - Create a dragon mask or color this one  
<http://www.schoolofdragons.com/resources/dragon-mask>
  - Create a dragon with a glove. <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/141159769545191945/>
  - Make a dragon sock puppet then divide class into groups and create a play to do for the class. <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/449656344021500183/>
4. Learn about real dragons that can be found in our world. Watch the video and divide the class in groups so they choose one to create a report for the class.  
<http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20150426-ten-amazing-real-life-dragons>
5. Learn about Chinese New Year and create a dragon to celebrate.  
<https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/special-report/chinese-new-year/>
6. Make chocolate pudding then fingerpaint with it.
7. Play math games using chocolate. Estimate the number of M&Ms or candy kisses in a container. Give each student a handful of M&Ms or Skittles and have them graph the number in each color. Use the large chocolate bars that can be broken into 12 pieces to teach about fractions. Then read *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins.
8. Research where chocolate comes from and create a class cookbook of chocolate based recipes



### **More Resources**

1. Lesson plans on all topics involving chocolate. <http://hersheystory.org/teacher-lesson-plans/>
2. Chocolate based games, crafts, and recipes. <http://www.childfun.com/themes/food/chocolates/>
3. Recipes for sensory experiences involving chocolate.  
<http://www.123homeschool4me.com/2017/10/chocolate-crafts-and-activities-for.html>
4. Chocolate activities for the classroom based on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.  
[https://www.internet4classrooms.com/links\\_grades\\_kindergarten\\_12/elementary\\_chocolate\\_factory\\_activities\\_project.htm](https://www.internet4classrooms.com/links_grades_kindergarten_12/elementary_chocolate_factory_activities_project.htm)

### **Similar Books**

- *The Chocolate Touch* by Patrick Catling
- *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl
- *Chocolate Fever* by Robert Kimmel Smith
- *Dragon's nest* by Emily Rodda
- *Dragon's Milk* by Susan Fletcher
- *Dragon's Eye*, book 1 Dragonology Chronicles by Dugald Steer
- *Fire Within* by Chris D'Lacey
- *How to train your dragon* by Cressida Cowell
- *Dragonet Prophecy*, book 1 of Wings of Fire by Tui Sutherland
- *Blaze the Ice Dragon* by Adam Blade
- *Dragon in the sock drawer*, Dragon Keepers book 1, by Kate Klimo
- *Dragon Moon* by Carole Wilkinson
- *Dragonsdale* by Salamanda Drake

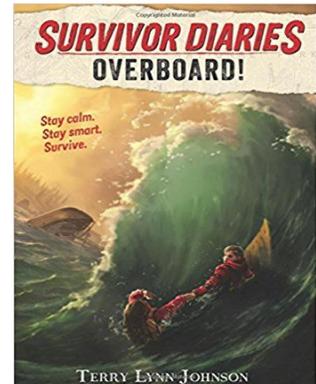
### **Related Non-fiction**

- *Make it: Chocolate* by Teacher Created Materials, Madison Speilman
- *Sweet Story of Hot Chocolate* by Stephen Krensky
- *Dragons* by John Malam
- *Drawing Dragons* by Jorge Santillan
- *Book of Dragons* by Patricia Saxton
- *Endangered Komodo Dragons* by Bobbie Kalman
- *Discovery of dragons* by Graeme Base
- *Drawing Dragons and other cold-blooded creatures* by Steve Beaumont
- *Discover Dragons, giants and other deadly fantasy monsters* by Aaron Sautter



## Overboard! (Survivor Diaries)

**Author:** Terry Lynn Johnson  
**Publisher:** HMH Books for Young Readers  
**Publication date:** 2017  
**ISBN:** 978-0544970106  
**Grade level:** 2-5  
**Pages:** 112 pages



### Description

A high-stakes adventure series perfect for fans of the I Survived series and Hatchet. Eleven-year-old Travis and his family are on a whale watch off the coast of Washington when disaster strikes. The boat capsizes, throwing everyone into the ice-cold chaotic waves. Separated from their families and struggling to stay afloat, Travis and twelve-year-old Marina must use all of their grit and knowledge to survive.

### Themes

Action & Adventure, Animals, Coast Guard, Environment, Nature, Oceans, Survival, Survival Skills

### Author Information

With seventeen years of hands-on experience and training in remote areas, survival expert Terry Lynn Johnson's storytelling features real skills that kids need to survive a disaster. This book includes Coast Guard-approved cold-water survival tips; you may have a better chance of surviving a real-life cold-water disaster after reading this book. <http://www.terrylynnjohnson.com/>

### Discussion Questions

1. Why is Travis' mom so protective of him? Do you think this is a good thing? Why or why not?
2. Unexpectedly, the whale-watching boat capsizes. What are some of Travis's thoughts as he finds himself in the cold, choppy ocean?
3. In this story, not only did Travis have to deal with the dangers of falling overboard, but he also had to face other fears. What events in the story challenged Travis to confront his fears? How did he respond to these challenges?
4. What lessons do you think Travis and Marina learned from their experience?
5. What would you do differently if you found yourself in a similar situation?
6. What did you learn about perseverance from the choices of Travis and Marina?



## **Activities**

1. Survival Diaries challenge cards and curriculum guide from the publisher.  
<http://hmhbooks.com/middlegrademania/survivordiaries/cards.html>  
<http://hmhbooks.com/middlegrademania/survivordiaries/index.html>
2. Look up an Eagle Cam online, then draw a picture of what you see and talk about the habits of eagles.  
[https://www.nationaleaglecenter.org/eagle-nest-cams/?gclid=EA1aIQobChMIst-BsNzV2QIVT5F-Ch0GNQVfEAAYASAAEgKtlfD\\_BwE](https://www.nationaleaglecenter.org/eagle-nest-cams/?gclid=EA1aIQobChMIst-BsNzV2QIVT5F-Ch0GNQVfEAAYASAAEgKtlfD_BwE)
3. Create a map of the island where Marina and Travis are stranded after their ordeal at sea. Reread the description of what the children found on the island and draw these as part of your map. Include a key that describes what each feature on your map represents.
4. Travis is delighted to find a wide variety of sea life on his whale-watching trip, including dolphins, orcas, and humpback whales. Later, he and Marina encounter a harbor seal. Select one of the animals Travis spotted on his trip and research your chosen animal to discover what the animal looks like, what it eats, how it is adapted to living in the sea, and how it takes care of its young. Write a paragraph or make a poster presenting all of the facts about your animal.
5. Pretend that you are a newspaper reporter covering the story about two children swept overboard during a whale-watching trip. Write a factual article that describes what happened to Travis and Marina, what they went through, and how they survived. Remember to include a headline for your article.
6. Adventure stories such as *Overboard!*; Gary Paulsen's *Hatchet*; *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare; *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell; and Lauren Tarshis's *I Survived* series allow readers to experience extreme situations in the safety of their own homes. Make a display of survival stories, both fiction and nonfiction, and host a Survivor Week in which kids read a book from the theme and discuss it with the rest of the group. What tips did they learn from the book about ways to survive in extremely difficult situations?  
[http://hmhbooks.com/middlegrademania/PDFs/MGM\\_kit\\_Spring%202017.pdf](http://hmhbooks.com/middlegrademania/PDFs/MGM_kit_Spring%202017.pdf)
7. Travis and Marina had to survive the cold ocean and alone in the wilderness on a tiny island until help arrives. Do you have what it takes to survive? Take a cold water survival quiz (with survival skills learned from the book) and find out.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-e2daE0hoOBeUtRcGRudElpRzg/view>

## **Similar Books**

- *I Survived series* by Lauren Tarshis
- *Ice Dogs* by Terry Lynn Johnson
- *Disaster Strikes series* by Marlane Kennedy
- *Storm Runners series* by Roland Smith
- *Stranded series* by Jeff Probst and Chris Tebbetts
- *Call it Courage* by Armstrong Sperry
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell
- *Ida B* by Caroline Starr Rose
- *Mount St. Helens 1980: fiery eruption!* by Gare Thompson
- *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George



### **Related Non-fiction**

- *Lost in the Pacific, 1942: not a drop to drink* by Tod Olson (Lost juvenile non-fiction series).
- *Pocket Guide to the Outdoors* by Jean Craighead George
- *Survival Zone* series by Christ Bowman
- *Magic Tree House Survival Guide* by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Healing Days: a guide for kids who have experienced trauma* by Susan Farber Straus



# Refugee

**Author:** Alan Gratz

**Publisher:** Scholastic Press

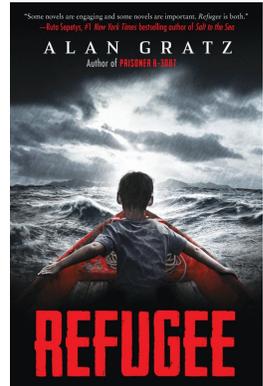
**Publication Date:** August, 2017

**ISBN:** 978-0-545-88083-1

**Grade Level:** 5-7

## Description

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America...MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe...This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.



## Themes

Refugees, Emigration and Immigration, Survival, Families, Belonging,

## Author Information

Alan Gratz is the *New York Times* bestselling author of a number of novels for young readers. Alan was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, home of the 1982 World's Fair. After a carefree but humid childhood, Alan attended the University of Tennessee, where he earned a College Scholars degree with a specialization in creative writing, and, later, a Master's degree in English education. He now lives with his wife Wendi and his daughter Jo in Asheville, North Carolina, where he enjoys playing games, eating pizza, and, perhaps not too surprisingly, reading books. For full biography see

<https://www.alangratz.com/about/>

## Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the reasons that Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud's families leave their homes. What are the situations in each of their lives that force them to flee? How are their situations similar and how are they different?
2. What do you feel is the most important idea of this story?
3. How do the parents change over the course of the book? Discuss each set of parents and the challenges they face. What role do the children play in the changes their parents make?
4. Discuss the voyage each child makes? What makes these voyages difficult and dangerous?
5. What could you do to make a positive difference in the lives of refugee children today?



### **Activities**

1. Research each of the countries of origin for the children in the book. Be sure to explore books, websites, and music related to these countries.
2. Draw a picture illustrating one of the ocean journeys described in the book.
3. Write about your own feelings about your home and family. How would you feel if you had to flee your home? What would you miss most?
4. Using recycled materials create an object that will float. You could have a competition to see which child's creation can float the longest and hold the most weight.
5. What could you do to make the life of someone else easier/happier? Think of someone you know and make a goal to provide a service for them that will brighten their day.

### **More Resources**

- Discussion guide from the author. <https://www.alangratz.com/writing/refugee/refugee-discussion-guide/>
- General information about refugees. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refugee>
- Learn about the United Nations efforts to help refugees. <https://www.unrefugees.org/>

### **Similar Books**

- *Stella by Starlight* by Sharon Draper
- *Escape from Aleppo* by N. H. Senzai
- *Tournament Fugee* by Dirk McLean
- *The Big Umbrella* by Amy Bates
- *Hunger* by Donna Jo Napoli

### **Related Non-fiction**

- *Malala's Magic Pencil* by Malala Yousafzai
- *Escaping the Nazis on the Kindertransport* by Emma Carlson Berne
- *A Refugee's Journey from Syria* by Helen Mason
- *Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees* by Mary Beth
- *Who was Fidel Castro?* Sarah Fabiny



## Restart

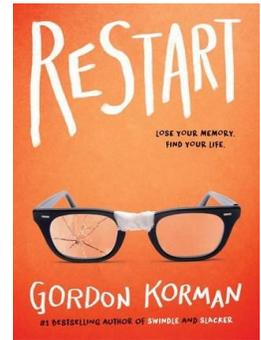
**Author:** Gordon Korman

**Publisher:** Scholastic Press

**Publication Date:** May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**ISBN:** 1338053779

**Grade Level:** 3–6



### Description

Chase's memory just went out the window. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again . . . starting with his own name. He knows he's Chase. But who is Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. One girl in particular is so angry with him that she pours her frozen yogurt on his head the first chance she gets. Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is--it's a question of who he was . . . and who he's going to be.

### Themes

Family, Forgiveness, Friendship, Kindness, Memory Loss, Reclamation

### Author Information

Gordon Korman grew up in Canada and now lives in Long Island, outside New York City, with his wife and family. When he's not writing, you can usually find him driving one of his three kids to some practice or rehearsal or game. Either that, or he is on the road, appearing at schools, libraries, and bookstores, meeting my readers. Korman has written over 80 books for children and published his first book as a freshman in high school! Lean more at <http://gordonkorman.com/> and how to schedule an author visit at <http://gordonkorman.com/author-visits>

### Discussion Questions

1. Chase did some pretty mean things to people before his amnesia. Some believe his amnesia is an opportunity to have a fresh start with people. Have you ever made an impression on someone you wish you could change? Explain.
2. Do you think Chase is the same person he was before his injury? Explain your reasoning.
3. After his injury, Chase makes friends with people he would never have talked to before his injury. Do you feel free to explore the person you are? If not, what interests would you like to explore? What friends do you think you would make? How do you feel when you think about the possibilities?
4. What did you think of the reason for Chase falling off the roof?
5. Do you think it would be hard to come clean for something bad you don't remember doing? Why or why not? What about the things you do remember doing?



### **Activities**

1. Play “Three Cups” and see how great everyone’s memory is. Use three red solo cups and hide an object under one of them. Switch the cups up a few times and then have someone guess which cup the object is under.
2. Play a game of memory (matching cards).
3. Make frozen yogurt - <https://www.biggerbolderbaking.com/strawberry-frozen-yogurt/>
4. Gather a group of “Vidiots” and create anti-bullying videos.
5. Form a circle in a gym or outdoors and have the kids toss a football to one another. The tosser says something he/she likes about the catcher.

### **More Resources**

1. Video Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rf56kldZo78>
2. Memory Matters  
<http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/memory.html?ref=search&WT.ac=msh-k-dtop-en-search-clk#>
3. Stop Bullying <https://www.stopbullying.gov/get-help-now/index.html>
4. YouTube Kids App <https://creatoracademy.youtube.com/page/lesson/kids-app>

### **Similar Books**

- *The Truth about Truman School* by Dori Hillestad Butler
- *Scars* by C.A. Rainfield
- *Bystander* by James Preller
- *Ungifted* by Gordon Korman
- *Lost in the Sun* by Lisa Graff

### **Related Non-Fiction**

- *Making YouTube Videos* by Nick Willoughby
- *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think Positive for Kids* by Kevin Sorbo & Amy Newmark
- *What Goes on in My Head?* by Robert Winston
- *The Brain and the Spinal Cord: Learning How We Think, Feel, and Move* by Chris Hayhurst



## The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl: Squirrel Meets World

**Author:** Shannon Hale & Dean Hale

**Publisher:** Marvel Press

**Publication Date:** Feb. 7, 2017

**ISBN:** 978-1484781548

**Grade Level:** 3 - 7



### Description

WHO RUNS THE WORLD? SQUIRRELS! Fourteen-year-old Doreen Green moved from sunny California to the suburbs of New Jersey. She must start at a new school, make new friends, and continue to hide her tail. Yep, Doreen has the powers of . . . a squirrel! After failing at several attempts to find her new BFF, Doreen feels lonely and trapped, liked a caged animal. Then one day Doreen uses her extraordinary powers to stop a group of troublemakers from causing mischief in the neighborhood, and her whole life changes. Everyone at school is talking about it! Doreen contemplates becoming a full-fledged Super Hero. And thus, Squirrel Girl is born! She saves cats from trees, keeps the sidewalks clean, and dissuades vandalism. All is well until a real-life Super Villain steps out of the shadows and declares Squirrel Girl his archenemy. Can Doreen balance being a teenager and a Super Hero? Or will she go . . . NUTS?

### Themes

Avengers, Cliques, Hearing Impairment, Middle School, Moving to a new state, New Friends, New Jersey, Special Abilities, Squirrels, Super Heroes, Super Villains, Technology, Teenagers

### Author Information

Shannon Hale is the New York Times best-selling author of fifteen children's and young adult novels, including the popular *Ever After High* trilogy and multiple award winners *The Goose Girl*, *Book of a Thousand Days*, and Newbery Honor recipient *Princess Academy*. She also penned three books for adults, beginning with *Austenland*, which is now a major motion picture starring Keri Russell. She co-wrote the hit graphic novels *Rapunzel's Revenge* and *Calamity Jack* and illustrated chapter book *The Princess in Black* with husband Dean Hale. They live with their four small children near Salt Lake City, Utah. Learn more at <http://www.shannonhale.com/biography.html> Shannon and Dean Hale are both very active on Twitter. See their feeds:

<https://twitter.com/halespawn?lang=en>

<https://twitter.com/haleshannon?lang=en>

### Discussion Questions

1. How are Doreen's parents different from Mike's? How did that affect Doreen and Mike?
2. At the beginning of the book ground squirrels and tree squirrels don't get along. How and why does their relationship change over the course of the book?



3. The Micro-Manager uses social media to destroy Squirrel Girl's confidence. How would you handle a situation like that?
4. Ana Sofia has no interest in being included in the Somebodies clique. Why doesn't it matter to her? Does her attitude help her?
5. Sometimes Squirrel Girl struggles with her identity. Is she Doreen, or Squirrel Girl? Can she be both? Do you think she would be able to give up one? Why or why not? How does she feel at the end of the book?

### **Activities**

1. If you could be a superhero with animal powers, which animal would you choose? Take some time to research the abilities of your chosen animal and write up how those abilities would translate into superpowers.
2. Squirrel girl does a lot of amazing physical feats. Create an obstacle course for the kids to run through to practice their squirrel abilities such as jumping, climbing, and carrying. You can also discuss how squirrel's tails help them balance. Have the kids walk a line with and without a balancing stick to feel the difference.
3. Make squirrel treats by rolling pinecones in peanut butter or honey and then in bird seed and then hang them from a tree's branches. Talk about what squirrels eat and how they gather food. To extend this activity, you could have the kids track how many squirrels they see at the tree for a few days before you put up treats and after.
4. Build robots.  
<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/blog/build-fun-robots-with-students?from=Pinterest>
5. Use paper bags and colored paper to make trees.  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/535717318168584603/>
6. Are squirrel proof bird feeders really squirrel proof? Tippy Toe doesn't think so. Try to design an effective squirrel proof bird feeder.
7. Ana Sofia, Doreen's new best friend, is deaf. They sometimes communicate through sign language which plays a major role in the final battle. Take some time to learn a few signs or the ASL alphabet and then set aside 5 to 10 minutes and try to complete a task using only sign language to communicate.

### **More Resources**

- Squirrel girl facts: [http://marvel.com/universe/Squirrel\\_Girl#axzz56w13PsoQ](http://marvel.com/universe/Squirrel_Girl#axzz56w13PsoQ)
- Squirrel facts: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/squirrels/>
- Squirrel facts: <https://www.livescience.com/28182-squirrels.html>
- Author interview:  
<https://news.marvel.com/comics/79193/unbeatable-squirrel-girl-2-fuzzy-2-furious/>
- ASL app <http://theaslapp.com/>
- ASL alphabet <https://www.startasl.com/printable-sign-language-alphabet.html>
- Sign Language printables [https://www.teachersprintables.net/category/sign\\_language](https://www.teachersprintables.net/category/sign_language)



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### **Similar Books**

- *Bug Girl* by Benjamin Harper
- *Captain Awesome to the Rescue* by Stan Kirby
- *Electrigril* by Jo Cotterill
- *Going Wild* by Lisa McMann
- *Hidden Talents* by David Lubar
- *My Brother is a Super Hero* by David Solomons
- *Sidekicked* by John David Anderson
- *The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl: Squirrel Power* by Ryan North
- *Wonder Woman at Super Hero High* by Lisa Yee

### **Related Non-fiction**

- *Everything Robotics* by Jennifer Swanson
- *The Kids' Guide to Sign Language* by Kathryn Clay
- *Life Cycles: Squirrels*: Julie K. Lundgren
- *Social Media: Like It or Leave It* by Rebecca Rowell
- *What Is It Like to Be Deaf?* By Deborah Kent



## Wedgie & Gizmo

**Author:** Suzanne Selfors

**Publisher:** Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

**Publication Date:** August 22, 2017

**ISBN:** 978-0-06-244763-0

**Grade Level:** 3.7



### Description

When a bouncy, barky dog and an evil genius guinea pig move into the same house, the laughs are nonstop! Wedgie is so excited, he can't stop barking. He LOVES having new siblings and friends to protect. He LOVES guinea pigs like Gizmo! He also LOVES treats! But Gizmo does not want to share his loyal human servant with a rump-sniffing beast! He does not want to live in a pink Barbie Playhouse. Or to be kissed and hugged by the girl human. Gizmo is an evil genius. He wants to take over the world and make all humans feel his wrath. But first he must destroy his archenemy, Wedgie, once and for all!

### Themes

African Americans, Animals, Blended Families, Dogs, Friendship, Guinea pigs, Hispanic Americans, Humor, Pet Rivalry, Pets, Stepfamilies

### Author Information

Suzanne is a national best-selling author who lives on an island in the Pacific Northwest where rain falls like music and slugs frolic beneath ferns. She has a husband who works as a pilot, two grown-up kids who are both in college, a very needy cat, and a sheltie who is her muse. Learn more at <https://www.suzanneselfors.com/about-camp>

Mail a letter:

Suzanne Selfors  
PO BOX 10414  
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98110  
USA

If you'd like a signed photo of Suzanne and Skylos, please send a stamped envelope. Any size will do.  
Email: [mail@suzanneselfors.com](mailto:mail@suzanneselfors.com)

Skype Visits: 20 Minute Visit - Free, as long as your students have read at least one of Suzanne's books. 40 Minute Visit - \$200 <https://www.suzanneselfors.com/schoolskype-visits>



## **Discussion Questions**

1. What holiday activity described at the book's beginning causes Wedgie to think he has superpowers? (answer: page 12) What does Wedgie always wear as a result of this activity? (a red cape). What name does Wedgie give himself? (Super Wedgie, page 13) What powers does Wedgie believe he has? ("If I run in a circle, again and again, with my cape flapping, I create an energized force field that opens the door. Ten times usually does the trick." page 13.)
2. Do you know of any instincts dogs have? (One was brought up on page 73, "Why does Wedgie always run around Gizmo? Mom: He's a Welsh corgi. His instinct is to herd. Elliott: Herd? Mom: Yes. Corgis are bred to herd livestock on farms. Like goats and sheep. Elliot: But Gizmo's not a sheep. And this isn't a farm. Mom: He's just trying to make sure that Gizmo doesn't get lost." See Animal Instincts K-5 free lesson plan (with adaptations for younger ages) at: <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/teachers/free-lesson-plans/animal-instincts.cfm>
3. What superpowers would you most like to have? Why?
4. Do you think animals, such as guinea pigs, can read and write like Gizmo can in this book? Why or why not?
5. What do you think about superheroes? Do you think Wedgie, the corgi, is Gizmo's enemy superhero sent to destroy him, named Thorgi? Why or why not? And what causes Gizmo to believe Wedgie is his enemy superhero? (answers: Chapter 9, pages 71-74 and Chapter 11, pages 76-79.)
6. Gizmo tries to mail Abuela back to Peru. Why doesn't it work? Have you ever wanted to mail something to another country to get rid of it? What & where did you want to send it?

## **Activities**

1. Read aloud pages 80 (last ¶) and page 81 (you can stop after the last complete ¶ on that page), and page 107 (2<sup>nd</sup> ¶) to page 108 (show picture and stop after "An Evil Genius must always look his best.") Give everybody some cheese puffs to eat while you read these excerpts.
2. Read pages 42-45 out loud or everybody can read it silently if they have the book. After reading, ask what the pink hearts, green clovers, and yellow stars are that Gizmo finds in the pantry. (Lucky Charms cereal) After the kids guess, pass out Lucky Charms in a baggy for each child to have.
3. Make a graph of all the foods Gizmo eats in the book to discover what he mentions eating the most in the book. (carrot sticks-p. 3, a Cheerio-p. 24, Lucky Charms-p. 43, alfalfa pellets-p. 71, drinking water-p. 71, alfalfa pellets-p. 104, cheese puff-p. 107, a withered acorn-p. 129, carrot stick-p. 154, broccoli stalk-p. 154)
4. Draw a picture of your pet as a superhero.
5. Draw a guinea pig using this YouTube video to show you how with a black Sharpie and some colored pencils or crayons to color it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWXghrdNbLs>
6. Gizmo needs a new evil lair since his old one broke in the move. Design your perfect evil lair, or hero hideout and draw a map of it with notes explaining why you included what you did.
7. Wedgie and Gizmo have unique ways of describing the world around them. For example, Wedgie calls Gizmo a "furry potato" and Gizmo calls Abuela's bed her "nest." Look around your



home, library, or classroom and describe things as you think an animal might. You can make a list, write a description, or just tell a partner or group.

### **More Resources**

- Guinea Pig Care Training for Kids: 4-minute video that shows important and interesting facts about guinea pigs and how to care for them: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8wOZNp5sOo>
- Making predictions and creating a story with a new character: Technology and English Language Arts Lesson grades 3-5: [https://alex.state.ut.us/lesson\\_view.php?id=32397](https://alex.state.ut.us/lesson_view.php?id=32397); uses *Sammy: the classroom guinea pig* by Alix Berenzy with the lesson.
- Using the News in the Classroom: Homing Pigeon flies from Japan to Canada! Fun facts and extension activities: <http://www.educationworld.com/content/using-news-classroom-homing-pigeon-flies-japan-canada>
- Wedgie & Gizmo novel study packet (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, homeschool) on English Language Arts, Literature, Writing, Reading Strategies: \$6 available at: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Wedgie-and-Gizmo-Novel-Study-3642171>

### **Similar Books**

- *15 things not to do with a puppy* by Margaret McAllister; illustrated by Holly Sterling
- Crummel; illustrated by Janet Stevens
- *Fenway and Hattie: up to new tricks* by Victoria J. Coe
- *Help me, Mr. Mutt!: expert answers for dogs with people problems* by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens
- *My big fat zombie goldfish* by Mo O'Hara; illustrated by Marek Jagucki
- *The sad puppy* by Holly Webb; illustrated by Sophy Williams
- *Sammy: the classroom guinea pig* by Alix Berenzy
- *Spunky tells all* by Ann Cameron; pictures by Lauren Castillot
- *Stick dog* (series) by Tom Watson
- *Wanted! A guinea pig called Henry* by Wendy Orr; illustrations by Patricia Castelao

### **Related Non-fiction**

- *Guinea pigs: keeping and caring for your pet* by Angela Beck
- *Love and roast chicken: a trickster tale from the Andes Mountains* by Barbara Knutson
- *Owen & Mzee: the language of friendship* told by Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff, and Paula Kuhumbu ; with photographs by Peter Greste
- *Super sniffers: dog detectives on the job* by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent
- *Why do rabbits hop?: and other questions about rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and gerbils* by Joan Holub; illustrations by Anna DiVito
- *Oh Theodore! Guinea Pig Poems*, Susan Katz
- *Great Big Book of Families*, Mary Hoffman



## Wolfie & Fly

**Author:** Cary Fagan

**Illustrator:** Zoe Si

**Publisher:** Tundra Books

**Publication Date:** January 10, 2017

**ISBN:** 1101918209 (hardcover), 1101919396 (paperback)

**Grade Level:** 2-5



### Description

“Renata Wolfman (Wolfie) is a lone wolf. She does everything by herself — friends just get in the way. Livingston Flott (Fly) is a slightly weird and wordy boy looking for a friend. He loves to make up songs and talk and eat snacks. When Fly takes refuge from his angry older brother at Wolfie's house, he convinces Wolfie that her homemade submarine would be more fun with two. Suddenly Wolfie finds herself motoring through deep water with Fly as her second-in-command. Will they get home? Will they defeat Pirate Bob? Will Fly ever stop singing? Find out in Wolfie and Fly's first adventure!”

### Themes

Adventure, Cooperation, Creativity, Extroversion, Facts, Friendship, Home Alone, Imagination, Introversion, Loners, Making, Marine Biology, Odd Couples, Personalities, Reading, Shyness, Singing, Submarines

### Author Information

Cary Fagan is the author of numerous picture books and novels for children, as well as novels and short story collections for adults. He was born and raised in Toronto, where he lives with his family. You can find more information about Cary Fagan and his books at his website, <http://www.caryfagan.com/>.

### Illustrator Information

Zoe Si is a cartoonist, freelance illustrator and lawyer. She believes in the power of words, but also that wherever words fail, a mildly disparaging cartoon can usually succeed. *Wolfie and Fly* is Zoe's first book for kids. She lives and works in beautiful British Columbia.

### Discussion Questions

1. How did Wolfie & Fly get their nicknames and what do the nicknames show about their personalities? Do you and your friends have any nicknames for each other?
2. How are Wolfie & Fly different from each other? How are they alike?
3. Would you consider yourself more like Wolfie or more like Fly? Why?



4. Wolfie says that creative people “make things up” but she likes “real things” and “facts.” What does it mean to be creative? Are there different ways to be creative? What does Wolfie create?
5. What things do Wolfie & Fly do to become friends even though they are so different? What can you do to get along with people and build friendships with people who are very different from you?
6. What is your favorite illustration in the book, and why?

### **Activities**

1. Engineer a submarine or anything else you would like out of cardboard, popsicle sticks, paper towel rolls, or other random recyclables lying around your house. Get instructions and ideas from the how-to books listed below or this Pinterest search:  
[https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=Cardboard%20Makerspace&rs=typed&term\\_meta\[\]=Cardboard%7Ctyped&term\\_meta\[\]=Makerspace%7Ctyped](https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=Cardboard%20Makerspace&rs=typed&term_meta[]=Cardboard%7Ctyped&term_meta[]=Makerspace%7Ctyped)
2. Take a personality test! Here is a kid-friendly option: True Colors Personality Test
  - o <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/True-Colors-Personality-Test-freebie-1309341>
  - o [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Wsik3id1\\_qY7RGg5YOdPb2uhStvfJ0zy/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Wsik3id1_qY7RGg5YOdPb2uhStvfJ0zy/view?usp=sharing)
3. Make up a song about one of your friends and sing it to them, even if they don't want to hear it.
4. Nonfiction challenge: look for a book in the library about a “real thing” you are interested in learning more about, check it out, and read it. Share something interesting you learned from the book with a friend.
5. Make a story chain by sitting in a circle with a group. Start with a basic scenario, such as: “Your house suddenly starts filling up with water” as happened in the book. Then each person gets to say one or two sentences that advance the story. See where you end up.

### **More Resources**

- Global Cardboard Challenge: <https://cardboardchallenge.com/>
- Caine's Arcade: <https://vimeo.com/40000072>
- 360° Underwater National Park | National Geographic  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v64KOxKVLVg>
- My Submarine Ocean Explorer: <http://www.coexploration.org/oe/kws/>
- National Geographic Kids Ocean Portal:  
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/ocean-portal/>

### **Similar Books**

- *Bink and Gollie* by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee, Illustrated by Tony Fucile
- *Dory and the Real True Friend* by Abby Hanlon
- Elephant and Piggie (series) by Mo Willems
- *Flora & Ulysses: the Illuminated Adventures* by Kate Dicamillo, Illustrated by K.G.Campbell



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- Frog and Toad (series) by Arnold Lobel
  - Judy Moody (series) by Meghan McDonald, Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds
  - *Real Friends* by Shannon Hale, Illustrated by LeUyen Pham
  - *The Story of Diva and Flea* by Mo Willems, Illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi

### **Related Non-fiction**

Any available informational books about marine life, ocean exploration, or submarines. Examples:

- *Diving to a Deep-Sea Volcano* by Kenneth Mallory
- *Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle* by Claire A. Nivola
- *Manfish: The Story of Jacques Cousteau* by Jennifer Berne, Illustrated by Eric Puybaret
- *Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist* by Jess Keating, Illustrated by Marta Alvarez Miguens

Any available how-to books on crafting or making with cardboard and other recyclables. Examples:

- *Junk Drawer Engineering: 25 Construction Challenges That Don't Cost a Thing* by Bobby Mercer
- *Out of the Box: 25 Cardboard Engineering Projects for Makers* by Jemma Westing
- *Quiet Power: The Secret Strengths of Introverts* by Susan Cain with Gregory Mone and Erica Moroz, Illustrated by Grant Snider



## Word of Mouse

**Author:** James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein

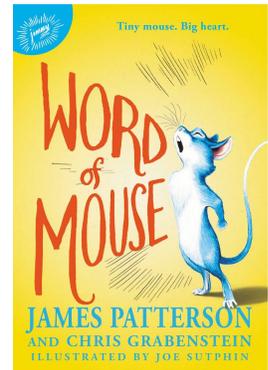
**Illustrator:** Joe Sutphin

**Publisher:** Little, Brown and Company

**Publication Date:** November 28, 2016

**ISBN:** 978-1478940098

**Grade Level:** 3-6



### Description

Raised in a laboratory, Isaiah is extremely smart but scared of everything. One day, he manages to escape the horrible lab and is forced to leave his family behind. All alone now, Isaiah has to learn to survive in the outside world - with its real predators, real friends, and really great people food. When he meets a girl who is as unusual as he is, Isaiah soon learns that even someone as small and as frightened as he is can have the power to change the world.

### Themes

Accepting differences, believing in oneself, celebrating family, communication, discovering courage to be yourself, finding common ground, friendship, kindness, learning to love your enemies, mistreatment of animals in research labs, overcoming fears that hold us back, the power of one voice, responsibility to do the right thing, using one's talents for the greater good, working together to achieve the impossible

### Author Information

Visit James Patterson's web site at: <http://www.jamespatterson.com/>

Visit Chris Grabenstein's web site at: <http://www.chrisgrabenstein.com/>

### Discussion Questions

1. Why do the humans in this book have different reactions to meeting Isaiah? What would be your reaction to meeting a talking (typing) mouse? What kinds of things would you ask such a creature?
2. Initially, Isaiah's goal is to simply stay safe and wait for his family to escape from the "horrible place," and find him. How does his goal change and grow from the beginning of the book to the end of the book?
3. Isaiah has many maxims or short, wise sayings quoted at the beginning of each chapter. Which saying is your favorite and why?
4. Do you think Isaiah's large (dare I say, "urbane?") vocabulary helps him get out of the sticky situations he finds himself in? Why or why not? Do words have power?



5. You may have heard the saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” Do you think Isaiah would agree with this maxim? Why or why not? Do *you* agree with it? Why or why not?
6. Isaiah teaches his human friend, Hailey, “We’re all different. It’s the only thing we have in common.” What do you think this means?
7. How do Isaiah and Mikayla work together to change people’s minds and hearts for the better? Can a creature as small as Isaiah make any real difference in the world? What about a young girl, like Mikayla? Can a single person change the world for good? How?

### **Activities**

1. “Words have no wings, but they can fly a thousand miles.” This is one of Isaiah’s wise sayings. How can you make words “fly?” Pen or email pals can be a fun class project where students send their words flying a thousand miles (or more!). Students could write a book review of *Word of Mouse* and send it to friends or relatives far away. They can also write letters to local papers supporting the rights of animals in their area.
2. Re-read Isaiah’s maxims quoted at the beginning of each chapter. Try your hand at writing an original maxim - a short, wise saying. It could be a tip for being a better student or friend, words that encourage someone to be their best self, or advice for finding true happiness and peace. Share your maxim with friends and classmates. You could make a class collection of these, illustrate them and bind them into a book.
3. Isaiah knows lots of “big words.” For example, *crepuscular*, which means “active throughout the night, as well as at dusk and dawn.” Mice are crepuscular. Research other crepuscular creatures. Make a list of diurnal, nocturnal and crepuscular animals. What differences and similarities do you see in these different groups of animals?
4. Isaiah is a clever mouse. He might enjoy playing a puzzle game like sudoku. Try this animal version of sudoku: <http://www.skyenimals.com/sudoku.cgi?set=critters>
5. One thing that makes Isaiah and his brothers and sisters special is their unique coloring. Isaiah is sky blue, His sister Winnie is chartreuse - a bright shade of yellow-green and his brother Abe is red, or, as he calls it, “electric crimson.” (p. 13) What colors do you imagine his other 95 siblings and parents are? Use this chart and/or watch this video to see how to mix some bright colors: <https://www.deepspacesparkle.com/creating-a-rainbow/> You can experiment with different colors to make your own original shade. Pick your favorite one, draw a simple outline of a mouse (you can find a good example here: <http://www.cler.com/clipart-164127.html>) and give your crepuscular creature some snazzy fur. Then, give your creation a name and add labels around your drawing, describing other unique features of your make-believe super mouse. For example, Isaiah has excellent eyesight and sense of smell, he can see color and he can read, speak and type. His friend, Mikayla, also has an excellent sense of smell, is quick, brave, and can sing. What can YOUR mouse do? How might your mouse use its super powers for good? Write a paragraph or a short story about your special mouse.
6. Isaiah can “type-dance.” Create your own version of type dancing by using chalk to create a giant keyboard on a driveway, porch or playground blacktop. (You could also do this inside, by writing one letter on a single sheet of paper and then taping them securely to the floor - don’t



forget a space bar!) Dance from letter to letter while your friends try to guess the word or message you are “typing” out.

7. Animal Activists - Research how you can help animals in your community. Here is a list of ideas to get you started: <http://www.humanedecisions.com/50-ways-kids-can-help-animals/>
8. Isaiah uses his knowledge about simple machines to rescue Gwindell. (p. 153) Learn more about simple machines here: <http://www.mikids.com/Smachines.htm>

### **More Resources**

- Can mice really sing? Check it out:  
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-mystery-of-the-singing-mice-1566363/>  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/national/health-science/ultrasonic-microphones-record-mice-singing/2017/10/17/09afd56a-b338-11e7-9b93-b97043e57a22\\_video.html?utm\\_term=.c22fa1177e97](https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/national/health-science/ultrasonic-microphones-record-mice-singing/2017/10/17/09afd56a-b338-11e7-9b93-b97043e57a22_video.html?utm_term=.c22fa1177e97)
- Facts about mice: <https://a-z-animals.com/animals/mouse/> & <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/mouse.html>
- Ten Ways Kids Like You can Help Animals in Shelters:  
<https://www.petakids.com/save-animals/help-shelter-animals/>
- 50 Ways Kids Can Help Animals:  
<http://www.humanedecisions.com/50-ways-kids-can-help-animals/>

### **Similar Books**

- *Doctor Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting
- *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Mouse Rushmore* by Lindsey Leavitt
- *The Nutcracker Mice* by Kristin Kladstrup
- *The Somewhat True Adventures of Sammy Shine* by Henry Cole
- *Lindbergh: The Tale of a Flying Mouse* by Torben Kuhlmann
- *Mouseheart* by Lisa Fiedler

### **Related Non-fiction**

- *So, You Love Animals: An Action-Packed, Fun-Filled Book to Help Kids Help Animals* by Zoe Weil
- *A Kids' Guide to Protecting and Caring for Animals: How to Take Action!* by Cathryn Berger Kaye
- *City Animals* by Claire Llewellyn
- *Mice: Nocturnal Explorers* by Rebecca Rissman
- *Strange, Unusual, Gross and Cool Animals* by Charles Ghigna
- *Historical Animals: The Dogs, Cats, Horses, Snakes, Goats, Rats, Dragons, Bears, Elephants, Rabbits, and Other Creatures that Changed the World* by Julia Moberg
- *My Life with the Chimpanzees* by Jane Goodall