



Book Kits for the 2020 Beehive Book Awards Children's Fiction Nominees

Aru Shah and the End of Time

Checked

Fairy Mom and Me

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus

The Mad Wolf's Daughter

The Night Diary

Rebound

Two Dogs in a Trench Coat Go to School

Wishtree

You Go First



Aru Shah and the End of Time

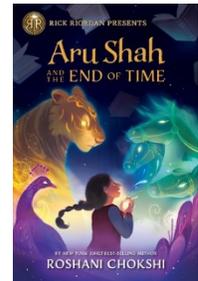
Author: Roshani Chokshi

Publisher: Rick Riordan Presents / Disney Hyperion

Publication Date: March 27, 2018

ISBN: 9781368012355 (hardcover); 9781368023566 (paperback)

Grade Level: 3-7



Description

“Twelve-year-old Aru Shah has a tendency to stretch the truth in order to fit in at school. While her classmates are jetting off to family vacations in exotic locales, she'll be spending her autumn break at home, in the Museum of Ancient Indian Art and Culture, waiting for her mom to return from her latest archeological trip. Is it any wonder that Aru makes up stories about being royalty, traveling to Paris, and having a chauffeur?

One day, three schoolmates show up at Aru's doorstep to catch her in a lie. They don't believe her claim that the museum's Lamp of Bharata is cursed, and they dare Aru to prove it. Just a quick light, Aru thinks. Then she can get herself out of this mess and never ever fib again.

But lighting the lamp has dire consequences. She unwittingly frees the Sleeper, an ancient demon whose duty it is to awaken the God of Destruction. Her classmates and beloved mother are frozen in time, and it's up to Aru to save them.

The only way to stop the demon is to find the reincarnations of the five legendary Pandava brothers, protagonists of the Hindu epic poem, the Mahabharata, and journey through the Kingdom of Death. But how is one girl in Spider-Man pajamas supposed to do all that?” -Publisher's Description

Themes

Adventure, Ancient Artifacts, Contemporary, Courage, Curses, Demons, Fantasy, Friendship, Gods and Goddesses, Hindu, Honesty, Humor, Indian Americans, Indic Mythology, Lies, Magic, Museums, Mythological Fiction, Own Voices, Reincarnation, Single-Parent Families

Author Information

Roshani Chokshi is a New York Times best-selling author of several adult novels. She studied fairy tales in college, and she has a pet luck dragon that looks suspiciously like a Great Pyrenees dog. *Aru Shah*, Chokshi's middle grade debut, was inspired by the stories her grandmother told her, as well as her all-consuming love for *Sailor Moon*. She lives in Georgia. For more information, visit her website, roshanichokshi.com, or follow her on Twitter [@Roshani_Chokshi](https://twitter.com/Roshani_Chokshi).

Discussion Questions

1. What is something you have said or done to try to impress someone, especially someone you don't even like? How did it work out?
2. In what ways are Aru, Mini, and Boo misjudged or underestimated by other characters? by themselves?



3. Tell about someone you know who is more powerful, talented, strong, or mysterious than they may at first appear.
4. Tell about a strength or talent you have that others have failed to recognize because of your youth or your appearance.
5. Aru's compulsive truth-stretching gets her into trouble, but how does she turn it into a strength?
6. What is a weakness about yourself and how could you possibly turn it into a strength?
7. In the end, do you think Aru failed, or did she make the right choice? Was there a right choice?
8. What do Boo's words "it is not failure to fail" mean to Aru? What do they mean to you?

Activities

1. Explore the Indian Bronzes collection from the National Museum, New Delhi in Google Arts & Culture (<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/JwlihvjegB8eLq>), the collection of the Sanskriti Museum of Everyday Art (<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/lwKyqPlaLq2EKA>), or browse through the entire National Museum in Google Street View (https://www.google.com/maps/@28.6116305,77.2195948,2a,75y,122.4h,79.51t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sOVn4LCzEQ_1r8BikIjcrwA!2e0!7i13312!8i6656 - this can also be a VR exploration on a phone with the Google Street View app and [Google Cardboard](#))
2. Paint your own diya (instructions for catching or releasing demons with them not included): <http://www.footnotesandfinds.com/2014/10/happy-diwali-2014.html>
3. Watch *The Making of a Myth* writing webcast with authors Rick Riordan, Roshani Chokshi, J.C. Cervantes, and Yoon Ha Lee, and go through the activities to create your own mythological fiction: <http://www.scholastic.com/rickriordanpresents/>
4. Read stories from the Mahabharata for kids online: <http://kids.asiasociety.org/stories/mahabharata> or <https://kathakids.com/mahabharata/home>
5. Make accordion-fold diyas and many other Diwali crafts for kids: <https://www.thejoysharing.com/2018/10/diwali-crafts-for-kids.html>, <https://blog.hobbycraft.co.uk/16-diwali-crafts-for-children/>, or <https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=diwali%20crafts%20for%20kids>

More Resources

- Character pages with illustrations:
 - Aru Shah: <https://www.readriordan.com/character/aru-shah/>
 - Mini: <https://www.readriordan.com/character/mini/>
 - Boo: <https://www.readriordan.com/character/boo/>
 - Urvashi: <https://www.readriordan.com/character/urvashi/>
- Video - Rick Riordan Interviews Roshani Chokshi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOgjDNWQSbI>
- Educator's Guide - *Aru Shah and the End of Time*: https://books.disney.com/content/uploads/2018/07/Aru-Shah-TG-FULL_v%C2%A6%C3%86.pdf
- About Sanskrit – Alphabet and Numerals: <http://veda.wikidot.com/sanskrit>

Similar Books

- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle
- *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan
- *Furthermore* by Tahereh Mafi



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- *Peasprout Chen, Future Legend of Skate and Sword* by Henry Lien
 - *Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanani
 - *The Serpent's Secret* by Sayantani DasGupta
 - *The Savage Fortress* by Sarway Chadda
 - *The Conch Bearer* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
 - *The Storm Runner* by Jennifer Cervantes
 - *The Entirely True Story of the Unbelievable FIB* by Adam Shaughnessy

Related Non-fiction

- *The Little Book of Hindu Deities: from the Goddess of Wealth to the Sacred Cow* by Sanjay Patel
- *Amma, Tell Me* series by Bhakti Mathur and Maulshree Somani
- *Illustrated Mahabharata for Children* by Vasana Publications
- *Ramayana: An Illustrated Retelling* by Arshia Sattar and Sonali Zohra
- *Tales from India: Stories of Creation and the Cosmos* by Jamila Gavin and Amanda Hall
- *Shower of Gold: Girls and Women in the Stories of India* by Uma Krishnaswami



Checked

Author: Cynthia Kadhata

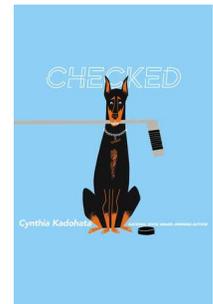
Illustrator: Maurizio Zorat

Publisher: Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books

Publication Date: February 6, 2018

ISBN: 9781481446617 (hardcover); 9781481446624 (paperback)

Grade Level: 5-8



Description

“Conor MacRae may not be a stellar student, but the half-Japanese 11-year-old is a champ on the ice. Conor lives and breathes hockey, especially with imminent tryouts for the Grizzlies, a AAA team. When Conor’s pet Doberman gets cancer, he has to decide whether to give up expensive hockey lessons to pay for Sinbad’s chemotherapy. Revealing the sacrifices young athletes and their families must often make, National Book Award winner Kadhata (*The Thing About Luck*) creates a deeply poignant story about a boy sorting out his priorities. Conor fills readers in on a wealth of hockey details, slowing the pace somewhat, but his problems are deeply relatable, and Kadhata never sugarcoats harsh realities. Conor’s hockey commitments contributed to his father’s and stepmother’s divorce (“When a kid plays travel hockey, it takes up a lot of space in your life. Some people don’t like that”), and their precarious financial situation is viscerally felt. Despite its sad moments, Kadhata’s story is uplifting on balance, sensitively showing how Conor’s hardships have made him wiser and more realistic without diminishing his passions. Ages 10–14. (Feb.)” <https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-4814-4661-7>

Themes

Hockey, sports, travel sports teams, dogs, Dobermans, dealing with illness of a pet, single parents, single fathers, only children

Author Information

Cynthia Kadhata writes for kids and teens; many of her books draw on her Japanese-American heritage. In 2005, her novel *Kira-Kira* won the Newberry Award, and in 2013 her novel *The Thing About Luck* won the National Book Award for young people’s literature. In real life, her son actually plays hockey, and they also have a rescue Doberman. For more information, see her webpage, <https://www.cynthiakadhata.com/>

Discussion Questions

1. In *Checked*, Conor and his dad share a passion for hockey. What are some ways Conor’s dad supports him? What sacrifices do they make as a family?
2. If you could meet Conor, what advice or encouragement would you give him?
3. Is there an activity or a passion in your life that you care deeply about? What sacrifices do you make to pursue your passion?
4. What is your favorite sport? What do you love about it? How is your sport the same/different from Conor’s favorite sport of hockey?
5. Conor’s dog Sinbad is also really important to Conor. In *Checked*, Conor takes on a role usually reserved for adults: providing all of Sinbad’s medical care. How do you feel about kids taking on adult roles like that? Is there a place where you would have drawn that line differently, if you



- were Conor, or would you have made the same choices?
6. Do you have a pet? If so, tell us a little about your special animal.
 7. When Conor visits a friend whose family has more money and a larger house than he and his dad have, Conor finds it a little awkward. What advice would you give Conor to help him navigate that situation?
 8. If you could meet Conor's grandparents, what advice or encouragement would you give them, as they try to rebuild their relationship with their grandson?
 9. If you could design an alternate cover for *Checked*, what would it look like?
 10. Think of one person you know who would like this book. Why do you think would they like *Checked*? How would you tell them about the book?

Activities

1. **Skype the author!** Request a free Skype author "visit" using this form <https://www.cynthiakadohata.com/appearance/appear01.html> , found on Cynthia Kadohata's website. For best success, brainstorm questions before your Skype visit.
2. **Play tabletop hockey.** Borrow an air hockey table or use these simple directions to make a home-made version:
 - a. Find the center line of a rectangular table. Using blue painter's tape, tape a center line dividing the table in half. Tape two rectangular "goal" areas 6"- 8" wide on opposite ends of the table.
 - b. Use puff balls or small pom-poms as the "puck". You can flick the "puck" with your index finger and thumb, blow on it, or use bulb syringes to blow the pom-poms across the table. You can print tournament brackets online. Optional: supply a small prize for the winners.
3. **Consider raising funds or donating animal toys or supplies to a local shelter.**
 - Salt Lake County Animal Services maintains an Amazon wish list; see <https://slco.org/animal-services/get-involved/donate-goods/>
 - Best Friends Animal Society also offers ways to help homeless pets; see <https://bestfriends.org/donate>
 - It is always wise to have a parent or guardian's input and advice when starting a service project.

More Resources

- Author website: <https://www.cynthiakadohata.com/>
- National Hockey League website: <https://www.nhl.com/>
- American Kennel Club: Doberman Pinscher <https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/doberman-pinscher/>

Similar Books

1. *Booked, Crossover, & Rebound* by Kwame Alexander
2. *Ghost, Patina, Sunny, and Lu* by Jason Reynolds
3. *A Dog's Life* by Ann M. Martin
4. *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker
5. *Lone Stars* by Mike Lupica

Related Non-fiction



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1. *Hockey: The Math of the Game* by Shane Frederick
 2. *Carey Price: How a First Nations Kid Became a Superstar Goaltender* by Catherine Rondina
 3. *A Dog in the Cave: The Wolves Who Made Us Human* by Kay Frydenborg
 4. *Chasing Space: Young Reader's Edition* by Leland Melvin

Heather Novotny
Librarian
The McGillis School



Fairy Mom and Me

Author: Sophie Kinsella

Illustrator: Marta Kissi

Publisher: Delecorte

Publication Date: January 8, 2018

ISBN: 9781524769895 (hardcover); 9780735263338 (paperback)

Grade Level: 1-3



Description

Ella Brook can't wait to grow up, because one day she will become a fairy and have her own sparkly wings and a teacher on Fairy Tube, just like her mom! Until then, Ella has to learn by watching her mom in action.

Themes

Fairies, Magic, Mothers and Daughters, Patience, Spells

Author Information

Sophie Kinsella is the author of the bestselling Shopaholic series as well as the novels *Can You Keep a Secret?*, *The Undomestic Goddess*, *Remember Me?*, *Twenties Girl*, *I've Got Your Number*, *Wedding Night*, *My Not So Perfect Life*, and, most recently, *Surprise Me*. She lives between London and the country. This is her first novel for children. For more information, <https://www.sophiekinsella.co.uk>.

Discussion Questions

1. Families can talk about how Ella and her mother view the use of magic in *Fairy Mom and Me*. When is it OK to use magic, and when is it inappropriate? How do those rules compare with your family's guidelines for using digital devices?
2. Ella's mom makes it clear that Ella can't use magic to cheat. Does her mom model good use of magic?
3. Do you find shortcuts tend to backfire on you, as they do for Ella's mom?
4. Ella's worst enemy is next door neighbor Zoe. What does Zoe do that makes Ella dislike her? Talk about ways to deal with kids like Zoe.
5. What do you like best about the relationship between Ella and her mom? How is this the same or different from your relationship with your mom?
6. The fact that Ella's mom is a fairy must be kept secret. What might happen if others find out the truth about her mom's magical abilities?
7. Which of the "spells gone wrong" is the funniest? Explain why you think that. What should have happened if the spell had gone right?
8. Ella's mom is an impatient fairy. How is patience a part of life? Tell about a time when impatience made life more complicated for you.

Activities

1. Make a Fairy Wand using popsicle sticks or dowels, glitter glue and ribbon.
2. Cook or decorate special fairy (small) treats such as mini cookies or cupcakes



3. Wave the Wand or Cast the Spell Game (like Simon Says) – “When I wave the wand, you will _____.” Or come up with fun spell names like “reverseroo” or “speedidoo”.
4. Make an illustrated Fairy Rule Book for Ella’s mother (or yourself).
5. Think about how fairies move. Then choreograph a Fairy Dance to appropriate music. Use ribbons or scarves to make the dance more fun.
6. Decorate a pair of fairy wings. Make your own out of paper with this template: <http://www.clipartandcrafts.com/papercrafts/masks/pages/fairy-wings.html>
7. Make a Fairy Necklace using fancy beads, glittery ribbon, or whatever you have on hand.
8. Create a Fairy Garden using things you can find around the house. There are lots of good videos on YouTube or follow the instructions here: <https://rhythmsofplay.com/start-your-own-fairy-garden/>
9. Make fairy mud. Recipe found here: <https://happyhooligans.ca/fairy-mud/>
10. Make a clothespin fairy doll. <http://wildflowerramblings.com/crafts/clothespins/>

More Resources

- Fairy Party Games: <http://www.queen-of-theme-party-games.com/fairy-party-games.html>
- Fun and Fabulous Fairy Party Games: <https://www.thespruce.com/fairy-party-games-2104589>
- Fun Facts about Fairies: <https://www.groveandgrotto.com/blogs/articles/fun-facts-about-fairies>
- Girl Talk: Mother Daughter Dates/Activities: <https://sugarspiceandglitter.com/girl-talk-mom-and-daughter-dates-for-every-budget/>

Similar Books

- Princess in Black series by Shannon Hale
- *Emma and the Blue Genie* by Cornelia Funke
- *Mia Mayhem is a Superhero* by Kara West
- Mermaid Tales series by Debbie Dadey
- Clementine series by Sara Pennypacker
- *Major Mama Drama* by Lisa Mullarkey
- *Katie’s Happy Mother’s Day* by Fran Manushkin
- *Fashion Frenzy* by A.J. Stern

Related Non-fiction

- *Fairy Spell: How Two Girls Convinced the World That Fairies Are Real* by Marc Tyler Nobleman
- *Fairy Cookbook* by Barbara Beery
- *Fairy House Crafts* by Liza Gardner Walsh
- *Fairies* by Virginia Loh-Hagan



Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus

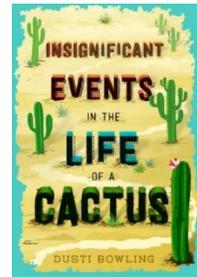
Author: Dusti Bowling

Publisher: Sterling Children's Books

Publication Date: September 5, 2017

ISBN: 9781454923459 (hardcover); 9781454932994 (paperback)

Grade Level: 5-8



Description

A spunky girl born without arms and a boy with Tourette's Syndrome navigate the challenges of middle school, disability, and friendship—all while solving a mystery in a western theme park.

Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again.

Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all...even without arms.

Themes

Adoption, Arizona, Cactus, Child Obesity, Disability, Empathy, Independence, Mystery, Tourette's Syndrome, Social Change

Author Information

Dusti Bowling holds a Bachelor of Psychology and a Master of Education, but her true passion is writing. She is the author of the well-reviewed *24 Hours in Nowhere* (Sterling); *The Day We Met*, her self-published YA novel, sold over 20,000 copies. She currently lives in Carefree, AZ, with her husband, three daughters, one bobcat, a pack of coyotes, a couple of chuckwallas, several rattlesnakes, and a few herds of javelina. Learn more at <https://www.dustibowling.com/>.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you think children are affected by the employment issues of their parents?
2. What is something that makes it hard to be the new student at school?
3. How is Aven a good friend to others? Are there times when she is not a good friend?
4. How does Aven use humor as a way of coping with her life?
5. What do Aven's parents do to try to support her?

Activities

1. Study cactus plants and draw pictures to compare and contrast five different types.
2. Serve a snack to your class that everyone must eat without using their hands.



3. Have each student choose a disability (no arms, Tourette's Syndrome, obesity, etc.). Each child imagines what life would be like with this disability. List how it would affect daily life and what a good friend could do to help.
4. Every student fills a sheet of paper with an illustrated map of an amusement park. It could be a Wild-West theme, or any other idea.
5. Study desert animals. Choose at least three animals and list how their bodies and habits are adapted for life in the desert.

More Resources

- Childhood obesity: <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/diets/childhood-obesity-and-weight-problems.htm/>
- Tourette's syndrome: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/kids/tourette.html>
- Empathy: <https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/resources-for-families/5-tips-cultivating-empathy>
- Adoption: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/expert-tips-advice/2017/11/friend-adopted-talk-adoption-child/>
- Disabilities: <https://www.dvusd.org/cms/lib/AZ01901092/Centricity/Domain/1318/Disability%20Awareness%20Packet%202.pdf>

Similar Books

- *Momentous Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling
- *Wonder* by RJ Palacio
- *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper
- *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez
- *Finding Perfect* by Elly Swartz
- *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson
- *The Truth as Told to Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor
- *The Benefits of Being an Octopus* by Ann Braden
- *Blended* by Sharon M. Draper

Related Non-fiction

- *Always the Fat Kid: The Truth About The Enduring Effects of Childhood Obesity* by Jacob C. Warren and K. Bryant Smalley
- *Cactuses* by Allan Fowler
- *Roadmap to Navigating Your Child's Disability* by Chrissie Kahan
- *Lost Found: The Adoption Experience* by Betty Jean Lifton



The Mad Wolf's Daughter

Author: Diane Magras

Publisher: Kathy Dawson Books

Publication Date: March 6, 2018

ISBN: 9780735229266 (hardcover); 9780735229280 (paperback)

Grade Level: 4-7



Description

One dark night, Drest's sheltered life on a remote Scottish headland is shattered when invading knights capture her family, but leave Drest behind. Her father, the Mad Wolf of the North, and her beloved brothers are a fearsome war-band, but now Drest is the only one who can save them. So she starts off on a wild rescue attempt, taking a wounded invader along as a hostage.

Hunted by a bandit with a dark link to her family's past, aided by a witch whom she rescues from the stake, Drest travels through unwelcoming villages, desolate forests, and haunted towns. Every time she faces a challenge, her five brothers speak to her in her mind about courage and her role in the war-band. But on her journey, Drest learns that the war-band is legendary for terrorizing the land. If she frees them, they'll not hesitate to hurt the gentle knight who's become her friend.

Drest thought that all she wanted was her family back; now she has to wonder what their freedom would really mean. Is she her father's daughter or is it time to become her own legend?

Themes

Adventure, Courage, Family, Friendship, Knights/Knighthood, Loyalty, Middle Ages, Scotland, War

Author Information

Diane Magras, author of the NYT Editors' Choice *The Mad Wolf's Daughter*, as well as its companion novel, *The Hunt for the Mad Wolf's Daughter*, grew up on Mount Desert Island in Maine surrounded by woods, cliffs, and the sea. She is addicted to tea, toast, castles, legends, and most things medieval. Diane lives with her husband and son and thinks often of Scotland, where her novels take place. You can find more about Diane, her free skypes and free teachers guide on her website: <https://www.dianemagras.com>.

Discussion Questions

Questions taken from the teacher study guide with author's permission (<https://www.dianemagras.com>.)

1. What does it mean to be strong? In what ways can different people be strong?
2. Emerick tells Drest about chivalry. What are some examples and non examples of Chivalry in the story?
3. How is Drest different from her family? Would they agree with Tig that she's a legend? Why?
4. What are some examples of Drest's fearlessness? What are the consequences, and what does she learn from her actions?
5. How does Drest's and Emmerick's relationship change from hatred to a close friendship?
6. How Does Gimbol's codes of life and war influence Drest's actions?



Activities

1. Design your own castle. Draw it on paper or create a 3D model.
2. Have a medieval feast
3. Have a lesson in sword fighting
4. Create a timeline for each day of Drest's adventure
5. Create a family crest or coat of arms
6. Learn about the feudal system of the Middle Ages then learn to play chess. Discuss how Chess relates to the feudal system.
7. Skype the author. Find out more information about her skype visits and how to contact her at this site: <https://www.dianemagras.com/author-talks/>

More Resources

- Videos: *Secrets of the Castle with Ruth, Peter and Tom*
 - Clips available on BBC Two website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04sv5nc>
 - Episodes available on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL72jhKwankOiwI5zt6IC3eQtsQDxOaN_g
- Website: <http://www.historyforkids.net/middle-ages.html>
- Website: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/medieval-times/>
- Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oTqMH6zHn0>

Similar Books

- *Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman (grades 5-7)
- *The Inquisitor's Tale* by Adam Gidwitz (grades 5-6)
- *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Amy Schlitz (grades 5-9)
- *Alanna: The First Adventure* by Tamora Pierce (grades 6-9)
- *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi (grades 6-9)

Related Non-fiction

- *A Medieval Feast* by Alike (picture book)
- *The Time Traveller Book of Knights & Castles* by Judy Hindley and Toni Goffe (picture book)
- *Life in a Medieval Village* by Frances and Joseph Gies (reference book)
- *Life in a Medieval Castle* by Frances and Joseph Gies (reference book)
- *Castle* by David Macaulay (picture book)
- *Medieval Life: Discover Medieval Europe from Life in a Country Manor to the Streets of a Growing town* (DK Eyewitness Books) by Andrew Langley
- *A Kid's Life During the Middle Ages* (How Kids Lived) by Sara Machajewski and Sarah Machajewski (picture book)



The Night Diary

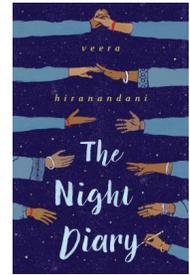
Author: Veera Hiranandani

Publisher: Kokila

Publication Date: March 6, 2018

ISBN: 9780735228511 (hardcover); 9780735228528 (paperback)

Grade Level: 3-7



Description

It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders.

Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together.

Told through Nisha's letters to her mother, *The Night Diary* is a heartfelt story of one girl's search for home, for her own identity...and for a hopeful future.

Themes

Diaries, Dyslexia, Families, Hindi, Historical, India, Muslims, Pakistan, Partition of India 1947, Refugees

Author Information

Veera Hiranandani is the author of *THE NIGHT DIARY* (Dial) and *THE WHOLE STORY OF HALF A GIRL* (Delacorte Press), which was named a Sydney Taylor Notable Book and a South Asian Book Award Finalist. She is also the author of the chapter book series, *PHOEBE G. GREEN* (Grosset & Dunlap). She earned her MFA in fiction writing at Sarah Lawrence College and teaches creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College's Writing Institute. Some of her hobbies include cooking, eating (the best part), painting, and cat admiring. She's never seen a cute animal video she didn't like. Find out more at www.veerahiranandani.com and follow Veera on Twitter [@veehira](https://twitter.com/veehira) or Instagram [@veerawrites!](https://www.instagram.com/veerawrites)

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Nisha's diary is addressing her mother?
2. Why did Nisha and her family have to leave their home?
3. Nisha and her brother Amil are of mixed heritage (Hindi and Muslim). Why does this make things complicated for her and her family as India is split into Pakistan and India?
4. Nisha's Father and her brother Amil have a difficult relationship. What do you think is the cause of this?
5. Why do you think Nisha enjoys cooking so much?
6. Why have Nisha and Amil never met their uncle Rashad? What connections do Rashad and Nisha have?



Activities

1. Write a news article about the time period and the events that are happening throughout the course of the book
2. Encourage kids to write a diary and record important events in their lives.
3. Have a Holi Festival (Hindi) day and a Eid al-Fit celebration (Muslim) to highlight the two different cultures described in the book.
4. Play a game of Cricket as it was played in the story.
5. Gather and make Indian/Pakistani recipes to replicate Nisha's love of cooking.

More Resources

- Scholastic: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/books/the-night-diary-by-veera-hiranandani/>
- ReadBrightly: <https://www.readbrightly.com/brightlys-book-club-for-kids-the-night-diary/>
- Penguin Books: https://www.penguin.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/The-Night-Diary_Educator-GuideWEB.pdf
- School Library Journal: <http://www.theclassroombookshelf.com/2018/06/the-night-diary/>

Similar Books

- *Escape from Aleppo* by N.H. Senzai
- *Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed
- *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
- *The War that Saved my Life* by Kimberly Bradley
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

Related Non-fiction

- *Malala, a Brave Girl from Pakistan/Iqbal, a Brave Boy from Pakistan: Two Stories of Bravery* by Jeanette Winter
- *Who Was Ghandi?* By Dana Meachan Rau



Rebound

Author: Kwame Alexander

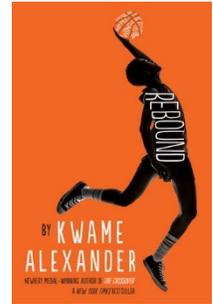
Illustrator: Dawud Anyabwile

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers

Publication Date: April 2, 2018

ISBN: 9780544868137 (hardcover)

Grade Level: 5-8



Description

"It's the end of the school year in 1988, and Charlie Bell is flattened by the death of his father. Charlie tries to hide in the pages of his comic book collection, much to his mother's despair. Finally she ships him off to stay with his grandparents for the summer. At first it's just a fresh form of misery, as Charlie's acidic grandfather goads him into physical activity in the stifling heat. Then his cousin Roxie coaxes him onto the basketball court. It's the combination of family, friends, and mad new skills that finally help Charlie begin to rebound from his father's death. Charlie Bell is the father of twins Jordan and Josh Bell, stars of Alexander's Newbery Medal-winning novel *Crossover* (2014). Fans of *Crossover* will remember that Chuck "Da Man" Bell played professional basketball, and they'll be intrigued by his initial resistance to learning the game. But this is an Alexander production, so the plot, as rich and satisfying as it is, is outdazzled by the brilliance of wordplay and syntax. There is a rhythm to each page, whether it's the snappy give-and-take of dialogue, the throbbing of Charlie's bottomless melancholy, or the rushing excitement of a basketball game. In addition, comics-style illustrations by Emmy--winning artist Anyabwile bring Charlie's fantasies of basketball glory to life." – Diane Colson, [Booklist \(3/15/2018\)](#).

Themes

1980s, African Americans, Basketball, Comic Books, Coming of Age, Community, Death, Family, Fathers, Friendship, Grandparents, Grief, Jazz, Novels in Verse, Realistic Fiction, Sports, Summer, Washington D.C.

Author Information

Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, and the New York Times Bestselling author of 32 books, including Newbery medal-winning middle grade novel *The Crossover*. His belief in the power of poetry and literature to inspire, engage, and empower young people is the guiding force behind K-12 writing workshops, school visits, and various initiatives he has started in the United States and worldwide. Kwame is the Founding Editor of Versify, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers whose mission is to *Change the World One Word at a Time*. Learn more at kwamealexander.com, or follow him on twitter [@kwamealexander](https://twitter.com/kwamealexander) and Instagram [@kwamealexander](https://www.instagram.com/kwamealexander).

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to rebound in basketball? What might it mean in Charlie's life?
2. What is a funny saying or rhyme that you remember from the book? Why do you like it?
3. What new things does Charlie try or learn about because people in his life (his mom, CJ, his grandparents, Roxie, etc.) challenge him to do it?



4. Tell about something you found out you liked, but only because a friend or family member pushed you to try it. Have you ever helped someone in your life learn something new in the same way?
5. What do you think Granddaddy means when he says Jazz music “takes you places...anywhere you want to go?” Share something you’ve found in your life that can “take you places.”
6. Why does Charlie start to go by the name Chuck?
7. Why do you think the author decided to tell this story through poems? Do you think you would like it as much if it were written in prose?

Activities

1. Listen to jazz music mentioned in the book. Ideas:
 - a. “Filthy McNasty” by the Horace Silver Quintet:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3s6Vua5c6U> or
<https://open.spotify.com/album/6CPk8vCQBxUtcPBQgnVvJv>
 - b. “So What” from *Kind of Blue* by Miles Davis:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fC1qSxpmKo> or
<https://open.spotify.com/album/42qe6JtPfeF6FEYXCJ50Gu>
2. Make a graphic poem / poetry comic:
 - a. Pick a poem (it can be from *Rebound* or any other book) or write your own poem
 - b. Pick and print out comic book paper templates: <http://comicbookpaper.com/>
 - c. Illustrate the poem as a comic
3. Make an animated/narrated poem (either from the book or your own poem) with a video creation tool such as Adobe Spark Video (<https://spark.adobe.com/about/video>), Animaker (<https://www.animaker.com/>) or Powtoon (<https://www.powtoon.com>)
4. Action-Inspired Poetry – Split participants into two groups. While one group plays basketball or some other active game or sport, the other group watches, listens, and writes about the actions. Then groups switch. (Idea from [The Classroom Bookshelf](#))

More Resources

- Educator’s Guide:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/11hsUVzPUJgJFJTU5G_LnoPzP1qbgYjCA/view
- Teaching Ideas and Resources: <http://www.theclassroombookshelf.com/2018/04/rebound/>

Similar Books

- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *Ghost* (Track Series) by Jason Reynolds
- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander
- *Checked* by Cynthia Kadohata
- *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson
- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds



Related Non-fiction

- *The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life* by Kwame Alexander
- *Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
- *Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream* by Deloris Jordan and Kadir Nelson
- *Basketball* (DK Eyewitness Books) by John Hareas
- *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts and Noah Jones
- *Super Basketball Infographics* by Jeff Savage
- *Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph* by Roxane Orgill and Francis Vallejo



Two Dogs in a Trench Coat Go to School

Author: Julie Falatko

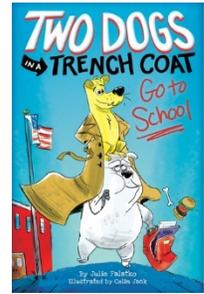
Illustrator: Colin Jack

Publisher: Scholastic Press

Publication Date: May 29, 2018

ISBN: 9781338189513 (hardcover); 9781338210163 (paperback)

Grade Level: 2-4



Description

“Little dog Waldo and big dog Sassy are the best at what they do. They keep out squirrels and imminent intruders. They make sure there are no stray meatballs or muffin crumbs in the kitchen. And most of all, they protect their boy, Stewart. But something is wrong. Every day Stewart trudges off to an awful place called school. The dogs know it's awful because Stewart's parents ask him what he does at school, and he says, "Nothing." And he smells like a weird mixture of boredom and anxiety. They have to save him! Plus maybe there's an evil overlord! Or a squirrel!

Waldo and Sassy hatch a plan to save Stewart by disguising themselves as a human. They can be a new student! Have they figured out any other aspect of their plan? Nope. They'll just figure it out as they go along. That's sure to work. But they find out that being a human student isn't quite what they imagined. There's gym (frisbee!), music (singing!), an alleged bully, and a teacher who is deeply suspicious of this new student. And best of all, they get lunch.” –Publisher's Description

Themes

Animals, Anthropomorphism, Anxiety, Bullies, Disguises, Dogs, Food, Friendship, Human-Animal Relationships, Humor, Pets, Point of View, Rescues, School, Smell, Squirrels

Author Information

Julie Falatko is a children's book author with a library degree, who writes quirky stories about misunderstood creatures. She grew up in New Jersey, and now lives in Maine with her husband, four children, and two dogs, where she maintains a Little Free Library in front of her house. Find out more about her at <http://juliefalatko.com/>. You can also follow and/or chat with Julie through social media; find her on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Discussion Questions

1. What kinds of things do Sassy and Waldo learn about their people and the world around them through smells? Do you think you could learn or notice more about the world by paying closer attention to your sense of smell?
2. What kinds of words are in **bold** in the text? Why are they in bold?
3. What do the dogs love about school? Does their perspective make you think about school in a different way?
4. Does Bax seem like a bully to you? Why or why not?
5. Share something from the book you thought was particularly funny. Can you figure out what the author and/or illustrator did to make you laugh?
6. Why are the dogs obsessed with squirrels? What random thing are you and your friends obsessed with?



Activities

1. Sensory Activities: Do any of the sensory activities that Ms. Twohey shares with students in Chapter 13 of the book. More sensory activities:
 - a. “48 Sensory Activities to Explore Taste, Smell, Sound & Sight” - <https://handsonaswegrow.com/non-touch-sensory-activities/>
 - b. “20 Fun Ways to Explore the Sense of Smell” - <https://theinspiredtreehouse.com/20-activities-for-kids-to-explore-the-sense-of-smell/>
2. Disguises: create disguises for kids or animals to sneak into places they normally aren't expected or allowed. These could be drawings, descriptions, or actual disguises made from dress-up props, cardboard, craft items, &c.
3. Food/Cooking: Make bacon-wrapped carrot sticks. Brainstorm with kids how to make these, or just find a recipe. Example: (<https://www.delish.com/cooking/a19625150/maple-bacon-carrots-recipe/>) Do you think they are as good as Waldo and Sassy imagine? You could also just make meatballs.
4. Schedule a “Read to a Dog” program or other therapy/service dog visit. Local resource: <http://www.therapyanimals.org/R.E.A.D.html>
5. Learn about dog behavior:
 - a. Video: “Dog Communication: Dog Body Language” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i33WRZaRwaA>
 - b. Article: “How to Read Dog Body Language” - <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/how-to-read-dog-body-language/>
 - c. Article: “Why Dogs Chase Squirrels” - <https://wagwalking.com/behavior/why-dogs-chase-squirrels>
6. Learn about squirrels: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/squirrels/>

More Resources

- Videos on Julie Falatko’s YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/worldofjulievideos/>)
 - “Two Dogs in a Trench Coat Go to School (and how I wrote it)” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwizH4zjOZk>
 - Author attempts to actually put her two dogs in a trench coat - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QODpxwjStUg>
- Book Trailer from Scholastic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQZqRk3FN2w>
- Texas Bluebonnets page for Two Dogs in a Trench Coat: <https://texasbluebonnetaward2020.wordpress.com/two-dogs-in-a-trench-coat-go-to-school/>

Similar Books

- *Smartypants (Pete in School)* by Maira Kalman
- *Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey
- *Stick Dog* by Tom Watson
- *Wedgie & Gizmo* by Suzanne Selfors
- *Elvis and the Underdogs* by Jenny Lee
- *The Original Adventures of Hank the Cowdog* by John R. Erickson
- *The Bad Guys* by Aaron Blabey
- *Watchdog* by Will McIntosh



Related Non-fiction

- *Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know* by Alexandra Horowitz
- *Dogs: From Predator to Protector* (Science Comics) by Andy Hirsch
- *How to Speak Dog: A Guide to Decoding Dog Language* by Aline Alex Newman and Gary Weitzman, D.V.M.
- *R.E.A.D. Dogs* by Meish Goldish
- *Back to Dog-gone School* by Amy Schmidt
- Any informational books about dogs available in your collection



Wishtree

Author: Katherine Applegate

Illustrator: Charles Santoso

Publisher: Feiwel and Friends

Publication Date: September 27, 2017

ISBN: 9781250043221 (hardcover); 9781250306869 (paperback)

Grade Level: 3-6



Description

Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood “wishtree” - people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red’s branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red’s hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood.

You might say Red has seen it all.

Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red’s experiences as a wishtree is more important than ever. (summary from book jacket)

Themes

Community, Cultural and Family Traditions, Friendship, Hate Crimes, Heritage, Hope, Immigration, Inclusiveness, Kindness, Muslim Americans, Nature Wisdom, Power of Stories, Prejudice, Toleration, Valuing Differences

Author Information

According to her website, Katherine Applegate is the author of many books for young readers, including *The One and Only Ivan*, winner of the 2013 Newbery Medal, *Crenshaw*, *Home of the Brave*, *wishtree*, the *Roscoe Riley Rules* series, *Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla* and *The Buffalo Storm*. With her husband, Michael Grant, she created the *Animorphs* series, which has sold over 35 million copies worldwide. Learn more at <http://katherineapplegate.com/>.

Discussion Questions

1. How do the different characters in the book feel about “wishing?” Do you think writing down hopes and dreams makes them come true? Why or why not? If you were to write down a wish and tie it to Red’s branches, what would it be?
2. Red says, “It is a great gift indeed to love who you are.” (p. 41) What does Red say and do to show that she/he has the gift of self-love?
3. What do you think Red means when she describes Samar as, “standing tall and reaching deep.” (p. 71) Have you ever had to “stand tall and reach deep?”
4. In the first part of the book, what keeps Samar and Stephen becoming friends? How do they eventually connect with each other? What qualities do you look for in a friend?
5. Red says that she/he is not just a tree but a “community.” (p. 23) Describe Red’s community. How does Red make her community feel safe? What can you do to make your community a safe place for everyone?
6. Bongo groans at Red’s tree humor and his/her “wise old tree” sayings. Find one of Red’s “wise sayings” and explain how it relates to the story. (For example, on p. 14, Red says, “the more you listen, the more you learn.” What role does listening play in this story?)



7. Why does Francesca threaten to cut Red down? What happens that changes Francesca's mind about cutting the wishtree down?
8. Throughout the book, Red says that his/her story is "not a fairytale." Do you think *Wishtree* has a "happy ending?" Why or why not?

Activities

1. In *Wishtree* two simple words play a big role - "leave," and "stay." A single word can be used for ill or good. Trace outlines of leaves (or do crayon rubbings of real leaves), cut them out and write a single word on each one that can impact our world. Share why you think the words you chose can make a difference to a community. Don't worry if someone else writes down the same words...repetition can give words more impact and emphasis. Display your leaves on the outline of a tree trunk and branches.
2. A **heritage tree** is typically a large, individual tree with unique value, which is considered irreplaceable. The major criteria for **heritage tree** designation are age, rarity, and size, as well as aesthetic, botanical, ecological, and historical value. Find a special tree in your neighborhood or community and write a letter explaining why your tree deserves to be nominated to be a heritage tree.
3. Create your own wishtree. Find a tree near your home or school. Invite your friends and family to write down their wishes on pieces of paper and tie them gently to the branches. Alternately, create a tree from wire and papier mache, or use dried tree branches in a bucket of plaster for an inside wishtree. (If you choose to use a real tree, don't forget to clean up and recycle your wishes after a few days.)
4. Research the history of wishtrees in different cultures and create an annotated slideshow or powerpoint to share with your family or class. <https://urnabios.com/the-fascinating-cultural-trend-of-wishing-trees/>
5. See the illustration on pp. 202-203. Look up information online and/or your school or local library about the different creatures that make up Red's community. Create a collection of 5 or more facts about each of the animals. Share your facts with your family and/or someone in another classroom.
6. Is there ever a time when a tree should be cut down? Back up your opinion with facts and evidence.
7. If you could talk with a tree, what would you say? What would you ask the tree? Using sketches and speech bubbles, draw a comic strip of your imagined conversation.
8. Brainstorm ideas about how you and your classmates or family members can welcome new people into your community. Focus on how you can show respect for cultural differences, how you can include others and treat them with kindness. Use your best ideas to compose a "welcome pledge" and hang it in your home or classroom.

More Resources

- Macmillan's *wishtree* Teacher's Guide: <https://images.macmillan.com/folio-assets/teachers-guides/9781250043221TG.pdf>
- Project Learning Tree: <https://www.plt.org/recommended-reading/wishtree/>
- Photo of a real wishtree: <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/us/see-do/culture-heritage/historical-sites/chinese/lam-tsuen-wishing-tree.jsp>
- The culture of wishtrees: <https://urnabios.com/the-fascinating-cultural-trend-of-wishing-trees/>



- School Library Journal Classroom Bookshelf: <http://www.theclassroombookshelf.com/2018/01/wishtree/>
- wishtree book site: <http://www.wishtreebook.com/resources>
- Utah Heritage Trees: <https://ffsl.utah.gov/index.php/forestry/urban-and-community-forestry/heritage-trees>

Similar Books

- *Amina's Voice* by Hena Kahn
- *The Wish Tree*, picture book by Kyo Maclear, Illustrated by Chris Turnham
- *Mango, Abuela and Me* by Meg Medina and Angela Dominguez
- *Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks
- *Return to Sender* by Julia Alvarez
- *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai
- *Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper
- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry
- *Our Tree Named Steve* by Alan Zwiebel and David Catrow
- *Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems* by Kristine O. George
- *Squirrel's Family Tree* by Beth Ferry

Related Non-fiction

- *Why Would Anyone Cut a Tree Down?* by Robert Burzynski, US Forest Service
- *Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town* by Warren St. John's
- *The Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth* by Rochelle Strauss
- *A Tree in My Village* by Paritosh Sen
- *The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree Loving Woman Changed a City Forever* by H. Joseph Hopkins and Jill McElmurry
- *The Book of Trees* by Piotr Socha



You Go First

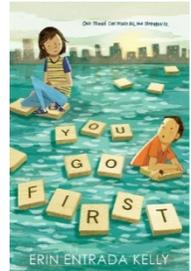
Author: Erin Entrada Kelly

Publisher: Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

Publication Date: April 10, 2018

ISBN: 9780062414182 (hardcover); 9780062414199 (paperback)

Grade Level: 4-7



Description

“In Newbery Medalist Kelly’s (*Hello, Universe*) new novel, a long-distance online friendship provides a lifeline for two brainy, lonely kids facing turbulent events. Tautly plotted, the narrative alternates points of view between 12-year-old Charlotte in the Philadelphia suburbs and 11-year-old Ben in Louisiana, who share a love of words and play a running game of online Scrabble. During one tumultuous week each faces grave challenges: Charlotte can’t face her father’s heart attack and struggles as her former best friend shifts into a more popular clique, and loner Ben denies the impact of his parents’ divorce and plunges himself into an out-of-character student council election. Kelly balances the humiliations of middle school—the desperation over where to sit at lunch, bullying, and social jockeying—with real kindness; each protagonist believably becomes more honest and forms new connections. Ultimately, Kelly crafts an incisive portrait of friendship and resilience.” *Publishers Weekly*, Sara Crowe, *Pippin Properties*, April 2018.

Themes

Bullying, Cliques, Divorce, Family, Friendship, Gifted and Talented, Heart Attack, Heart Surgery, Loner, Loneliness, Middle schools, Online Games, Parents, Schools, Scrabble (Game), Social Issues.

Author Information

Erin was raised in Louisiana, but now lives in Delaware, near Philadelphia. She is a professor of children’s literature in the graduate fiction and publishing programs at Rosemont College, where she earned her MFA. Erin is also a short story writer. Her short fiction has been nominated for the Philippines Free Press Literary Award for Short Fiction and the Pushcart Prize. Erin has a bachelor’s degree in women’s studies and liberal arts from McNeese State University and an MFA in creative writing from Rosemont. Erin is mestiza and identifies as Filipina-American. Her mother is Visayan and lives in Cebu, which is why many of Erin’s Filipino characters speak Cebuano rather than Tagalog. You can contact Erin with a link in her website. You can also find her on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. You can also learn more by visiting Frequently Asked Questions. Her website also explains her school visits, Skype visits, and what her presentation style is like. <http://www.erinentradakelly.com/>

Discussion Questions

1. What similarities do you see between the two main characters, Charlotte and Ben?
2. What are some of your favorite quotes from this book? (see p. 33, 161, 169, 184, 185, 194, 216, 228, 238, 265, 266, 278, 281, 282, 283.)
3. What new/interesting thing did you learn about animals or science from this book? (p. 1: rabbits live in a warren; p. 2: 1500 species of starfish and more...; p. 18: lizards are resilient and can grow new body parts; p. 19-20: left-brain vs right-brain is not true—math and science aren’t only on the left side; creativity and communication aren’t only on the right side of the brain; p. 44: the Mutter



Museum is a medical museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with a collection of anatomical and pathological specimens and wax models. Google the Mutter Museum for up-to-date information regarding the museum's recent collections; p. 88: Darwin's finches in the Galapagos Islands; p. 196: sea stars have radial symmetry and they don't have heads or brains)

4. What did you learn about art or poetry from this book? (Gauguin painted "Seascapes," and "Grapes in France;" p. 43: "Study of Two Pears" poem by Wallace Stevens, Emily Dickinson wrote poetry; p. 264: Robert Frost said: "In three words I can sum up everything I know about life: It goes on.")
5. Why do you think Charlotte and Ben became friends?

Activities

1. Play Scrabble/have a Scrabble tournament.
2. Create your own Word Scramble like Charlotte did throughout the book or play a game with the following scrambles: (p. 4: migration from waiting room; p. 64: diabolic from Victoria Baraldi; 2 on p. 97: oasis from Pablo Picasso, and nonteaching from Vincent van Gogh; p. 109: isophones and goopiness from Sophie Seong; p. 135: featly, fettle, and latte from LaFayette; p. 165: chiming from Michigan): <https://www.armoredpenguin.com/wordscramble/>
3. Play U.S. Presidents trivia as a group or in teams: http://www.usefultrivia.com/political_trivia/u_s_presidents_trivia_index.html
4. Choose to do your favorites from this list: 40 Kindness Activities & Empathy Worksheets for Students and Adults: <https://positivepsychologyprogram.com/kindness-activities-empathy-worksheets/>
5. Discuss and implement some anti-bullying activities: <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/NationalDay/ForSchools/ClassActivities>
6. Watch the videos from the anti-bullying class activities website:
 - a. Bullying: What can I do and where can I go? (6:42) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOvSV3S6D2A>
 - b. Student Bullying: What can I do if I see it happening? (8:22) (made in Australia; "dob" means to purposely go to a teacher about something small to get them into trouble.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qidZWugohy4>
 - c. Watch the cybersafety (23:06) video about cyberbullying, excessive gaming, sharing passwords, free downloads, and online friends, #GameOn: <https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/classroom-resources/gameon> (click on "Watch the film")
 - d. Teaching resources, including a study guide, teacher information, and student activities, can be downloaded here: <https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/classroom-resources/gameon/teaching-resources>

More Resources

1. Watch how to play Scrabble (2½ minute video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swlq3vQXboE>
2. Play U.S. Presidents trivia individually: https://worldhistoryproject.org/quizzes/us_presidents
3. Answer questions about the U.S. Presidents: <https://www.rd.com/culture/us-president-trivia/>
4. Watch the movie, *Word Wars: Tiles and Tribulations on the Scrabble Circuit*, a 2004 documentary directed by Eric Chaikin and Julian Petrillo about competitive Scrabble playing.



Similar Books

1. *Hello, Universe* (2018 Newbery Medal winner) by Erin Entrada Kelly
2. *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang
3. *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* by Stacy McAnulty
4. *The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman* by Meg Wolitzer
5. *Word Nerd* by Susin Nielsen
6. *The Way to Bea* by Kat Yeh
7. *Lions & Liars* by Kate Beasley
8. *Like Carrot Juice on a Cupcake (Eleanor)* by Julie Sternberg

Related Non-fiction

1. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey
2. *Real Friends* by Shannon Hale
3. *How Tickles Saved Pickles: A True Story* by Maddie Johnson
4. *My Mixed Emotions: Help Your Kids Handle Their Feelings* by DK, Foreword by Maureen Healy
5. *Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems* by Kristine O'Connell George
6. *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie
7. *Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius, and Obsession in the World of Competitive Scrabble Players* by Stefan Fatsis