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KIDS ARE EXCITED ABOUT

**BOOKS!**   

**FALL PICKS!**  
(PreK–Gr. 6)



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# PIGEON HAS TO GO TO SCHOOL!

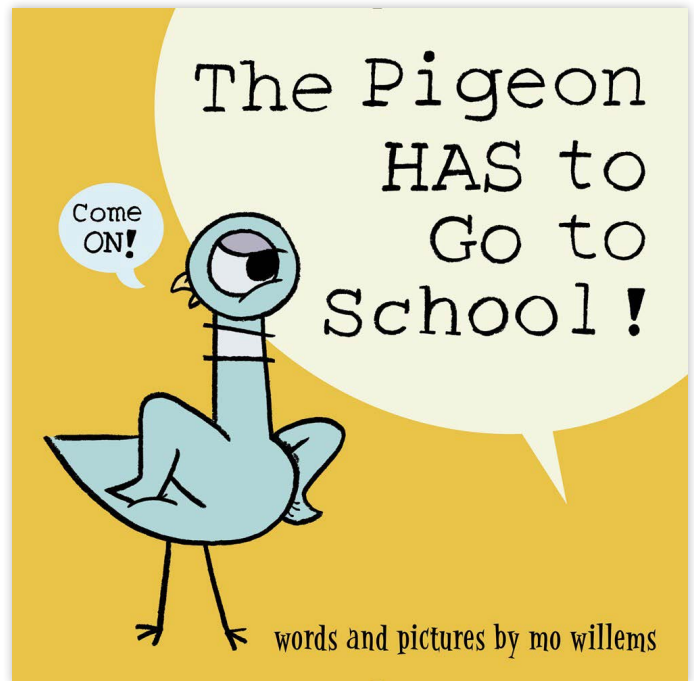
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MO WILLEMS

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES PREK+

Pigeon has first-day-of-school jitters! This funny book talks about fears and concerns that can make you not want to go to school.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book.
- ◆ Ask students how they felt on their first day of daycare, preschool, or kindergarten.
- ◆ Share how you calm your fears before doing something new.
- ◆ Ask students if they have read other Pigeon books. Which one is their favourite?
- ◆ Have students draw a picture of Pigeon at school. What is he doing? Is he having fun?



The Pigeon: Art © Hidden Pigeon, LLC.

# BOUNCE!

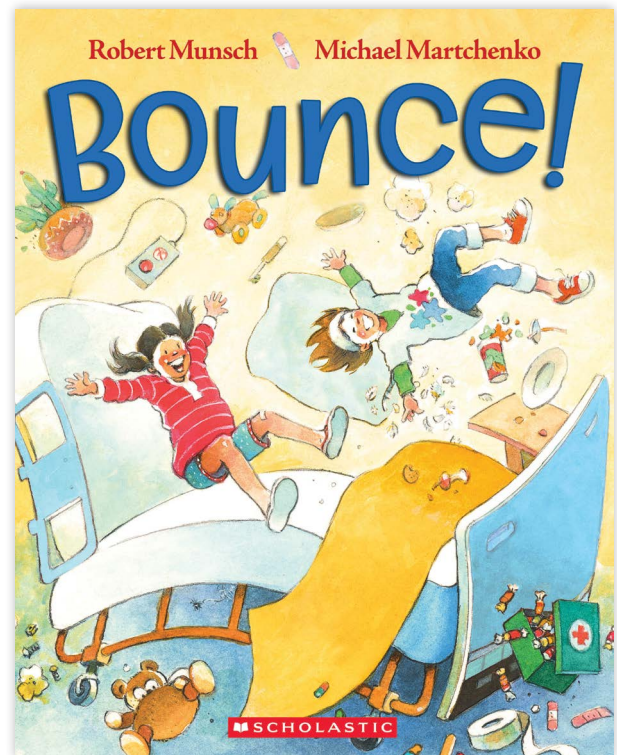
WRITTEN BY ROBERT MUNSCH  
ILLUSTRATED BY MICHAEL MARTCHENKO

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K+

Ruth and Barbara are SO BORED at the hospital! They decide to create their own fun by doing some crazy things. This laugh-out-loud book shows you can have fun no matter where you are.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book.
- ◆ Ask students to talk about a time they were super bored and decided to do something fun.
- ◆ Share some tips on how they can make a mundane moment more fun.
- ◆ Come up with a scenario that is boring, and have students brainstorm what they could do.
- ◆ Have students draw the most fun day of their life.



# SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR! 🍁

WRITTEN BY LANA BUTTON  
ILLUSTRATED BY NOÉMIE GIONET LANDRY  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES PREK+

Flora thinks saying goodbye in the morning is really hard to do. This book shares her rhyming nicknames that give her the strength to be independent.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book.
- ◆ Ask students if they ever felt sad saying goodbye before going to school.
- ◆ Share a time when you had to go and didn't want to say goodbye.
- ◆ Brainstorm funny rhyming nicknames with students.
- ◆ Have students come up with dances to go along with rhyming nicknames.



# THE COOL BEAN MAKES A SPLASH

WRITTEN BY JORY JOHN

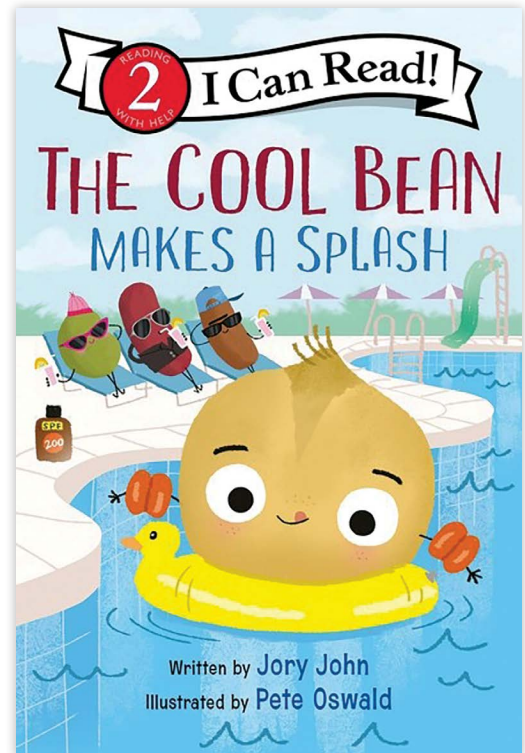
ILLUSTRATED BY PETE OSWALD

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K+

The Cool Bean loves to do cool things, but sometimes he doesn't feel brave enough. In this story, the Cool Bean tries to go down a waterside and faces his fears.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book.
- ◆ Ask students to talk about a time they were scared to do something, even though they wanted to do it.
- ◆ Share some tips on how students can find the courage to face their fears.
- ◆ Come up with a scary scenario and have students brainstorm what they could do to make it less scary.
- ◆ Have students draw a picture of them being brave.





# DISASTER SQUAD #1: WILDFIRE RESCUE

WRITTEN BY REKHA S. RAJAN  
ILLUSTRATED BY COURTNEY LOVETT  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 1+

The Jackson family is called to save the day as people and animals are in danger from the wildfire. This action-packed story is perfect for anyone learning to read by themselves.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book (or ask a student to read aloud!)
- ◆ Ask students to talk about a time they lent a helping hand.
- ◆ Share some tips on how students can help prevent forest fires.
- ◆ Come up with a scenario where students can pretend to be brave and save the day.
- ◆ Have students draw what a day would be like if they were part of the Disaster Squad.



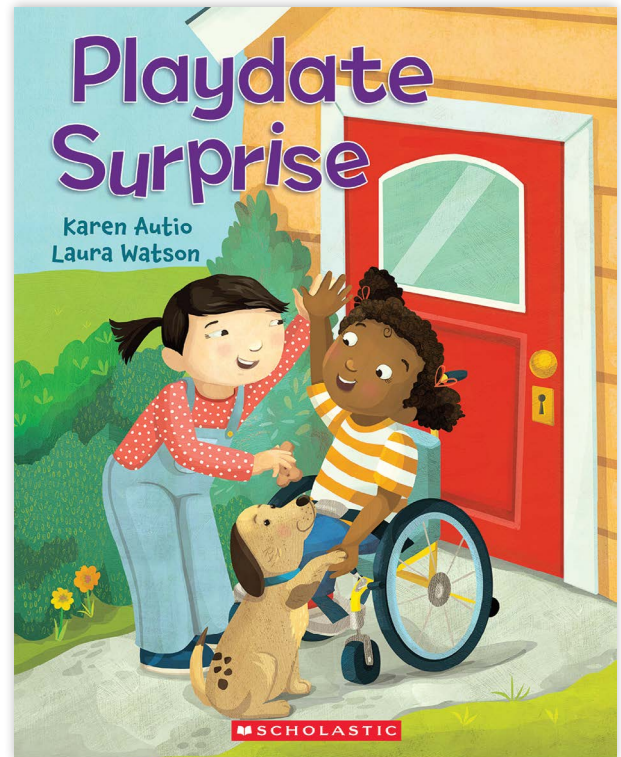
# PLAYDATE SURPRISE

WRITTEN BY KAREN AUTIO  
ILLUSTRATED BY LAURA WATSON  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K+

Kayla and Piper love to play together, but Kayla's wheelchair keeps her from being able to visit any time. This story shows how independent thinking can make things more inclusive for every one.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book.
- ◆ Ask students to talk about a time they helped a friend.
- ◆ Share some tips on how students can help make the world more accessible.
- ◆ Come up with a scenario that might not be inclusive and ask students to brainstorm what they can change.
- ◆ Have students draw a picture of themselves and a friend playing together.



# SMILE SO BIG 🍁

WRITTEN BY SUNSHINE QUEM TENASCO

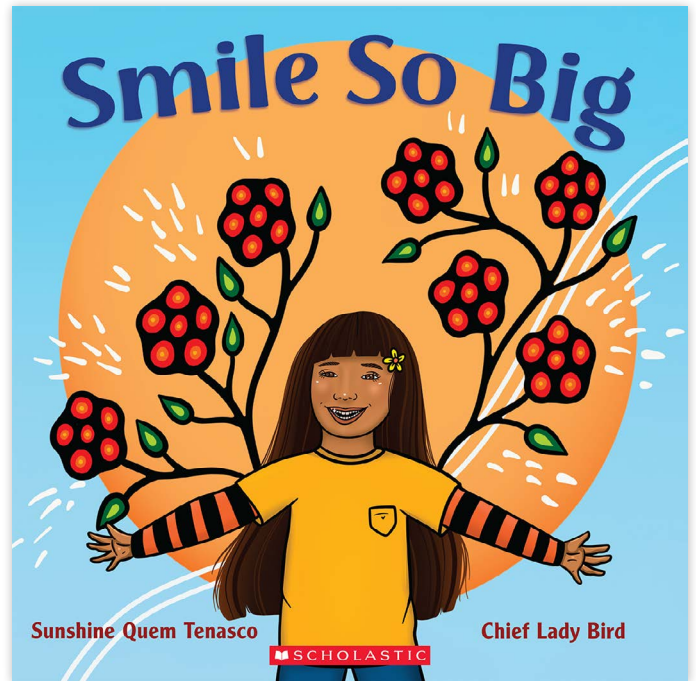
ILLUSTRATED BY CHIEF LADY BIRD

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K+

Challa goes home in tears after being teased about her smile. This heart-warming story about self-acceptance and self-empowerment shows that true beauty comes from within.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book.
- ◆ Ask students to talk about a time they felt beautiful.
- ◆ Share some tips on how students can practise self-acceptance.
- ◆ Have students share what they love most about themselves.
- ◆ Have students draw themselves with a BIG smile on their face.





# CAT ON THE RUN #2: CAT ON THE RUN IN CUCUMBER MADNESS!

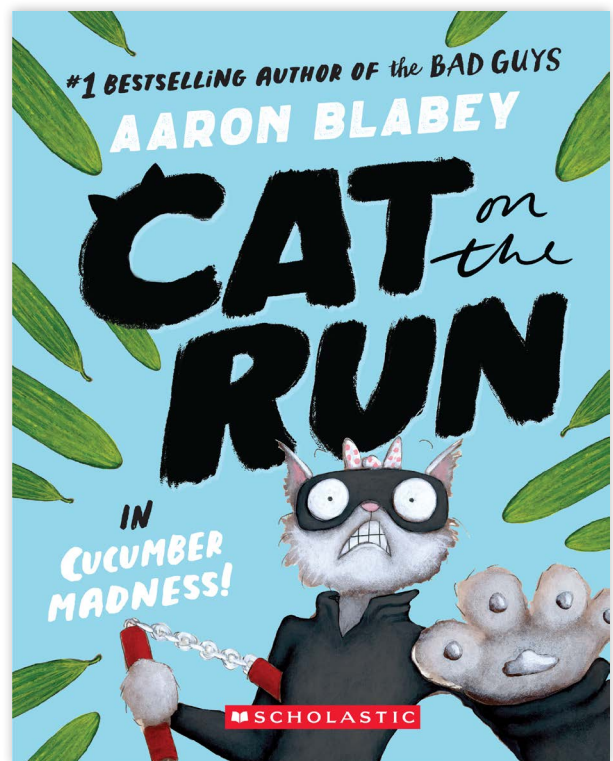
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AARON BLABEY

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 2+

Princess Beautiful may be pampered, but she is tougher than anyone realizes! This book unravels a diabolical mystery involving cucumbers that will have you laughing no matter what.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book (or ask a student to read aloud!)
- ◆ Ask students if they have read the Cat on the Run or Bad Guys series. What do they like about them?
- ◆ Share a time when you had to act tough to get out of a sticky situation.
- ◆ Come up with a scenario where students need to be tough to survive. Have them brainstorm what they would do.
- ◆ Have students draw Princess Beautiful battling enemies.



# IS THERE A BOY LIKE ME?

WRITTEN BY KERN CARTER  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 6+

London starts a comic to vent and relieve stress about the pressures he feels in life, which unintentionally goes viral! This book discusses toxic masculinity, identity, and self-worth.

*Some mature content.*

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book (or ask a student to read aloud!)
- ◆ Ask students if they have felt sad, upset, or pressured by societal expectations.
- ◆ Have students create a comic strip showing them being who they really want to be.



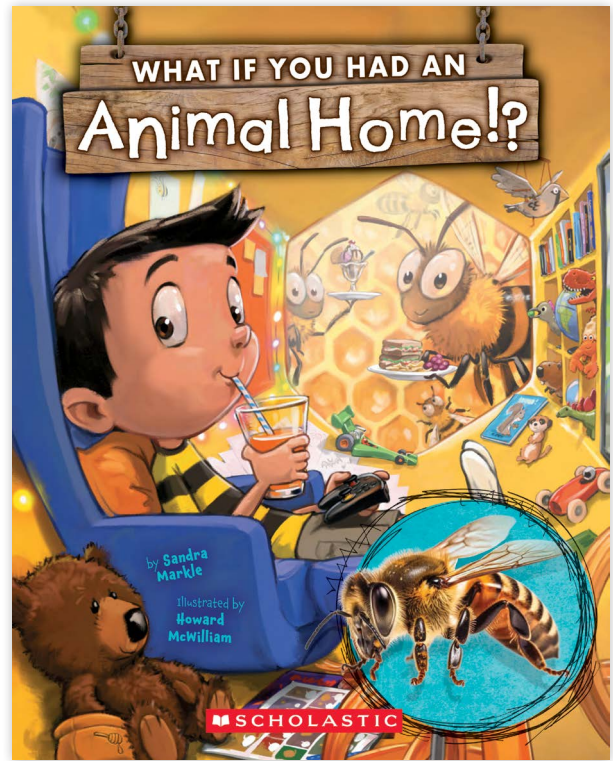
# WHAT IF YOU HAD AN ANIMAL HOME?!

WRITTEN BY SANDRA MARKLE  
ILLUSTRATED BY HOWARD MCWILLIAM  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K+

The animal kingdom has tons of amazing homes! This book dives into real homes of animals across the world with an imaginative twist.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book.
- ◆ Ask students to name as many types of animal homes as they can.
- ◆ Share an animal home that you would like to live in and why.
- ◆ Brainstorm with students what they would change about their home to be like an animal's.
- ◆ Have students draw themselves living in an animal home.



# PARTY DIARIES #4: FAIRY-TALE PUPPY PICNIC

WRITTEN BY MITALI BANERJEE RUTHS  
ILLUSTRATED BY AALIYA JALEEL  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES I+

Priya has worked hard to plan the perfect party for her friend's puppy, but it looks like it's going to rain! This upbeat book talks through problem-solving and dealing with anxious feelings.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book (or ask a student to read aloud!)
- ◆ Ask students to name a time they were worried.
- ◆ Share a story of when you worked hard, only to have something disappointing happen. How did you overcome it?
- ◆ Brainstorm with students how they would throw a puppy party.
- ◆ Complete the DIY garland activity at the back of the book with students.





# I SURVIVED: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL: THE DESTRUCTION OF POMPEII, AD 79

WRITTEN BY LAUREN TARSHIS  
ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID SHEPHARD

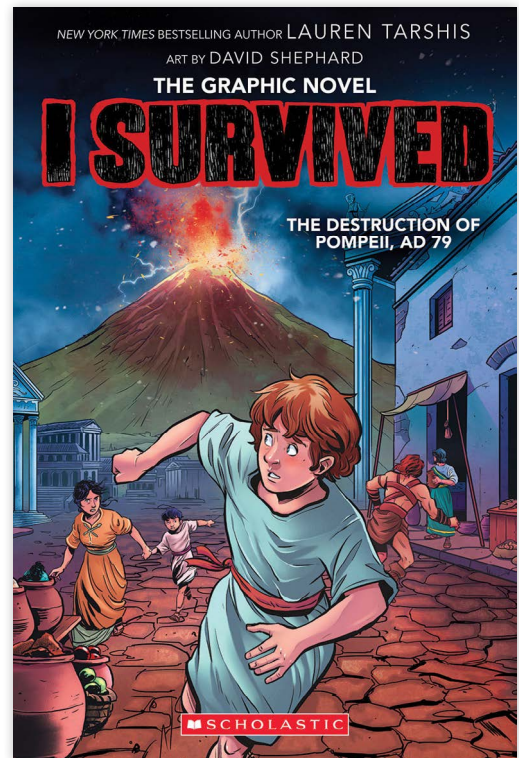
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 4+

Marcus knows something is wrong but no one believes him until Mount Vesuvius erupts and everyone must escape to safety! This thrilling tale about survival will keep you at the edge of your seat.

*Some mature content.*

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book (or ask a student to read aloud!)
- ◆ Ask students to share a time they felt something was wrong but no one believed them.
- ◆ Share a story of when you had to convince people to believe you when you said something was wrong.
- ◆ Ask students what they would do if they were near a volcanic eruption.
- ◆ Have students draw how they would escape from an eruption with lava, ash, and falling rocks.





# THE NEW GIRL

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY CASSANDRA CALIN  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 6+

Lia is moving and she must live in a new country, make new friends, and speak a new language, all while her body is changing! This graphic novel about change and acceptance is comically charming.

*Some adolescent themes.*

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book (or ask a student to read aloud!)
- ◆ Ask students to share how they would feel if they had to leave everyone behind and start new.
- ◆ Share a story of when you started somewhere new and how you tried to fit in.
- ◆ Brainstorm ways to help others that are new to the area feel more comfortable.
- ◆ Have students write about a time they felt like their world was changing.



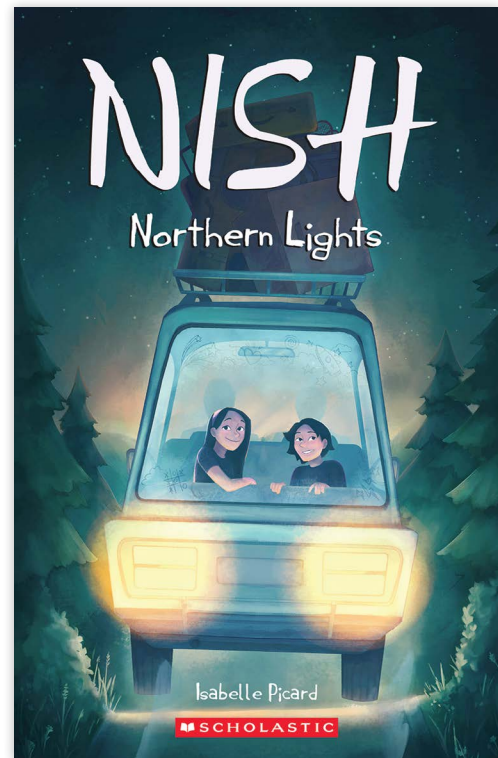
# NISH #2: NORTHERN LIGHTS

WRITTEN BY ISABELLE PICARD  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 5+

Leon and Eloise have moved and they're struggling with adapting to their new world, as well as their changing identities! Mysteries unfold in this coming-of-age book where the twins feel everything is moving too fast.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book (or ask a student to read aloud!)
- ◆ Ask students to reflect on when they felt like things were changing too quickly.
- ◆ Share a story of when you struggled with keeping up with changes.
- ◆ Brainstorm with students how they can make new students at their school feel more welcomed.
- ◆ Have students write about what they would do if they had to leave their friends and school behind and move to a new place.



# TODAY I AM: 10 STORIES OF BELONGING 🍁

WRITTEN BY MULTIPLE AUTHORS  
EDITED BY JAEI RICHARDSON  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 5+

Fresh and fearless stories from BIPOC authors provide unique perspectives in this collection of fiction, poetry, and graphic fiction.

## How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Read aloud an interesting or exciting part of the book (or ask a student to read aloud!)
- ◆ Ask students to write about an awkward family dinner. It can be a poem, a short story, etc.
- ◆ Ask students to write about the theme of belonging. It can be a poem, a short story, etc.
- ◆ Ask students to write about moving to a new town. It can be a poem, a short story, etc.
- ◆ Have students share why reading BIPOC stories are important.

