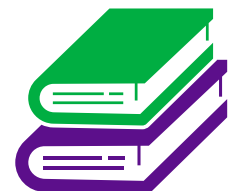


**FAIRS SUCCEED WHEN
KIDS ARE EXCITED ABOUT
BOOKS!**

FALL PICKS!
(PreK–Gr. 6)

Booktalking invites students to explore new titles and authors that will help build a lifelong love of reading!

Use these blurbs to call out the amazing books at your Fair during student previews, in online promotions, on posters, and even in PA announcements.



THE PERFECT PAPER AIRPLANE

WRITTEN BY ROBERT MUNSCH
ILLUSTRATED BY MICHAEL MARTCHENKO
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K+

This hilarious and heartwarming tale follows Kevin's determined quest to craft the perfect paper flyer. When he finally succeeds, the airplane soars through wild adventures—around the house, to school, even chasing a fishing boat! Will it ever come back down?



How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Ask students, “What if this paper airplane could fly around the world? That’s exactly what happens in this book!”
- ◆ Talk about perseverance and creativity: “Have you ever tried something over and over until you got it just right? That’s what Kevin does!”
- ◆ Invite students to make their own paper airplanes before reading.
- ◆ Hold a mini contest: “Whose plane flies the farthest? Let’s see if Kevin can beat that!”
- ◆ Ask students if they have a favourite Robert Munsch book. Have them tell you why it’s their favourite.

NIBI'S WATER SONG/NIBI NIGOMON (ANISHINAABEMOWIN DUAL LANGUAGE EDITION)

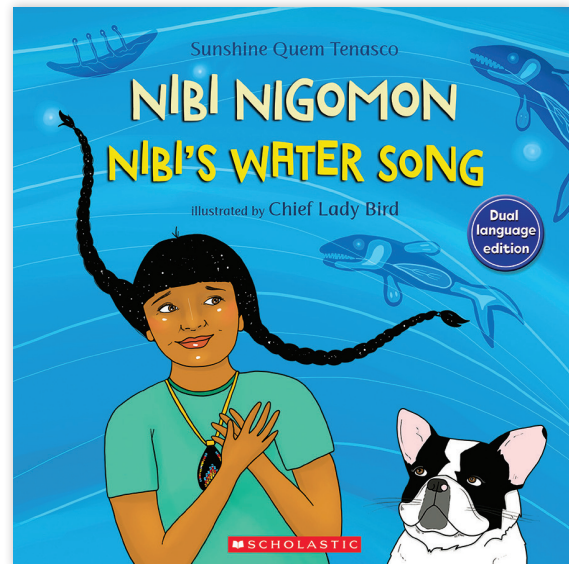
WRITTEN BY SUNSHINE QUEM TENASCO

ILLUSTRATED BY CHIEF LADY BIRD

TRANSLATED BY TINA NOTTAWAY

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K+

Nibi's Water Song / Nibi nigomon follows a spirited Indigenous girl named Nibi on her quest for clean drinking water. Faced with obstacles, she sings with joyful determination—rallying her community and inspiring change. Presented in both English and Anishinaabemowin, this powerful picture book celebrates resilience, activism, and the right to safe water for all.



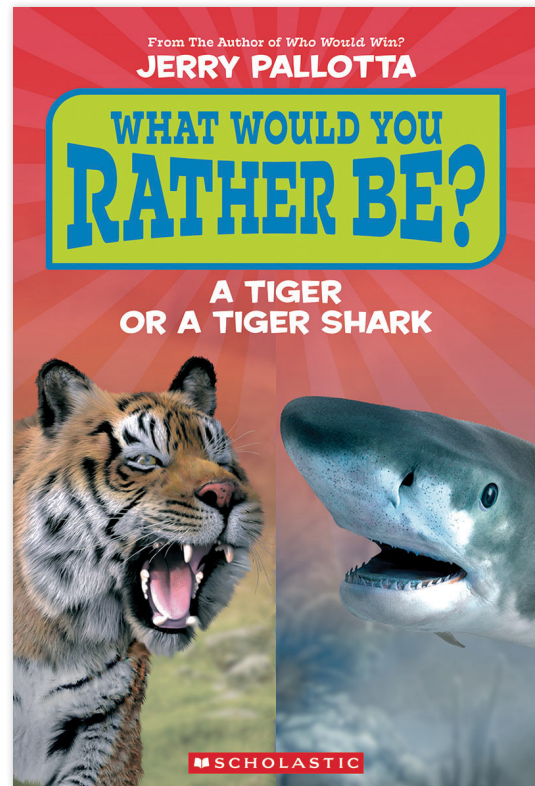
How to Booktalk this title:

- ♦ Play or sing the **Nibi Song** in Anishinaabemowin to introduce the book's theme of water appreciation. Ask students, "What do you love about water? What do you thank water for?"
- ♦ Say, "Nibi doesn't have clean water at home. Can you imagine that?" Prompt students to think about where their water comes from and why clean water matters.
- ♦ Point out that the book is written in both **English and Anishinaabemowin**, an Indigenous language. Teach a few words from the book and celebrate the importance of language preservation.
- ♦ Invite students to draw a water protector superhero or write a short poem about water.

WHAT WOULD YOU RATHER BE? A TIGER OR A TIGER SHARK

WRITTEN BY JERRY PALLOTTA
ILLUSTRATED BY ROB BOLSTER
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 1+

What Would You Rather Be?
A Tiger or a Tiger Shark is a playful reader packed with fun facts and vivid art. Kids compare two fierce animals—then choose which one they'd rather be in this wild twist on a classic game.



How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Share fun facts from the book—like how fast a tiger can run or how many teeth a tiger shark has. Use visuals to spark curiosity.
- ◆ Create a mini “Would You Rather?” quiz with other animal matchups.

Let students guess which animal has the edge in speed, strength, or stealth.

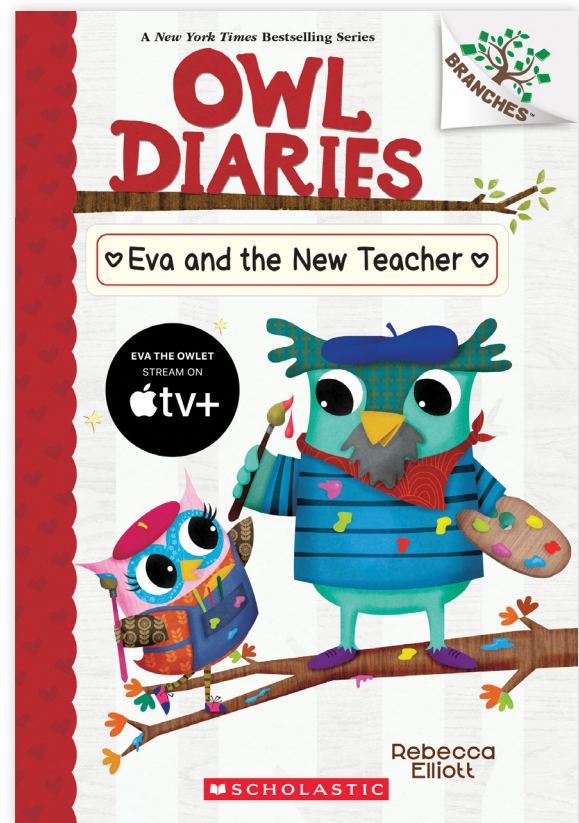
- ◆ Have students draw themselves as either a tiger or a tiger shark and write a short “Why I’d rather be...” paragraph.

OWL DIARIES #21: EVA AND THE NEW TEACHER

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY REBECCA ELLIOTT

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 1+

Eva and her friends are unsure about a new teacher—until Mr. Brushwing inspires them with a creative art project. A *flap*-tastic story about friendship, feelings, and embracing change through imagination.



How to Booktalk this title:

- ♦ Ask, “How do you feel when something changes at school—like a new teacher?” Connect Eva’s nervousness to students’ own experiences and how she learns to embrace change.
- ♦ Invite students to imagine what kind of art they’d make if they had

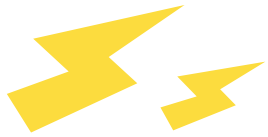
to express a feeling—just like Eva and her friends. Let them sketch or describe their ideas.

- ♦ Mention that this is book #21 in the Owl Diaries series, perfect for readers who love diary-style stories and adorable characters. Ask, “Who’s read an Owl Diaries book before? What do you love about Eva?”

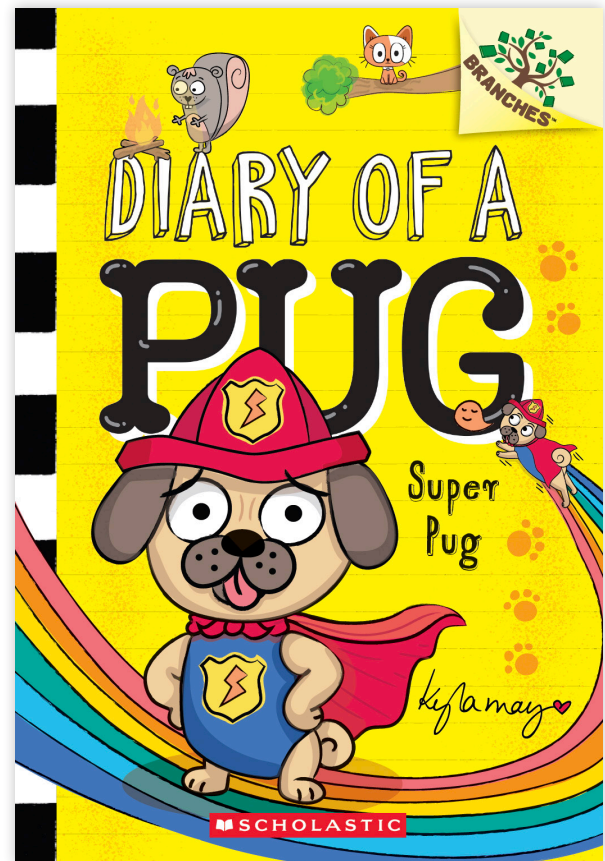
DIARY OF A PUG #13: SUPER PUG

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY KYLA MAY

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 1+



Bub lands a role in a fire safety commercial—but stolen treats and on-set chaos test his courage. Can this pint-sized pup become a real hero? A funny, feel-good tale about friendship and believing in yourself.



How to Booktalk this title:

- ♦ Ask: “What would YOU do if you were asked to star in a fire safety commercial?” Reveal that Bub the pug gets his big break—but things don’t go exactly as planned!
- ♦ Say, “Bub may be small, but he’s brave when it counts.” Ask students

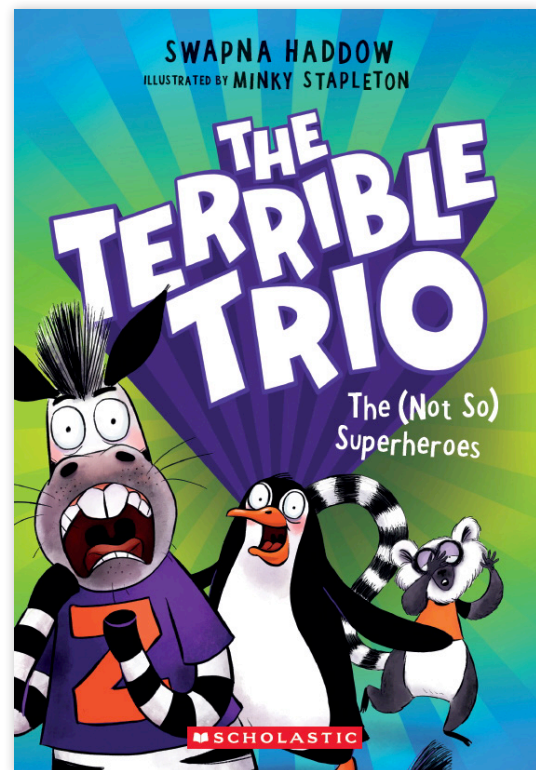
to share what makes someone a hero—kindness, courage, or helping others?

- ♦ Introduce Bub, Bella, and Nutz the squirrel. Let students guess who causes the most chaos on set (hint: it involves stolen treats!).

THE TERRIBLE TRIO #1: THE (NOT SO) SUPERHEROES

WRITTEN BY SWAPNA HADDOW
ILLUSTRATED BY MINKY STAPLETON
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 2+

Three animals with hilariously useless powers—mac and cheese making, neat handwriting, and blending into crosswalks—team up to prove you don’t need flashy skills to be heroic. A laugh-out-loud illustrated chapter book full of heart and underdog charm.



How to Booktalk this title:

- ♦ Ask: “If you could have ANY superpower, what would it be?” Then reveal the trio’s powers: blending into crosswalks, making mac and cheese, and neat handwriting!
- ♦ Say, “While other animals are out saving the world, these three are stuck working at a café.” Prompt:
 - “What kind of superhero team would YOU build from café workers?”
- ♦ Choose a moment where Zeb, Margarine, or Barry tries to be heroic—with ridiculous results. Use dramatic voices and let students guess what happens next.
- ♦ Invite students to invent their own “not so super” powers and draw their animal alter egos.

GAME QUEST #1: PLAYER VS PLAYER

WRITTEN BY ASH WU

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 2+



Kat, Tai, and Alex are zapped into their favourite video game—where teamwork is the only way out. With zombies chasing and defenses to build, this fast-paced chapter book mixes friendship drama with Minecraft-style thrills.



How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Ask: “What would YOU do if you got zapped into your favourite video game?” Reveal that Kat, Tai, and Alex are pulled into Otherworld—and must survive zombies and build defenses to escape!
- ◆ Talk about teamwork and friendship, and how the characters learn to collaborate under pressure. Ask: “What makes a good teammate in games and in real life?”

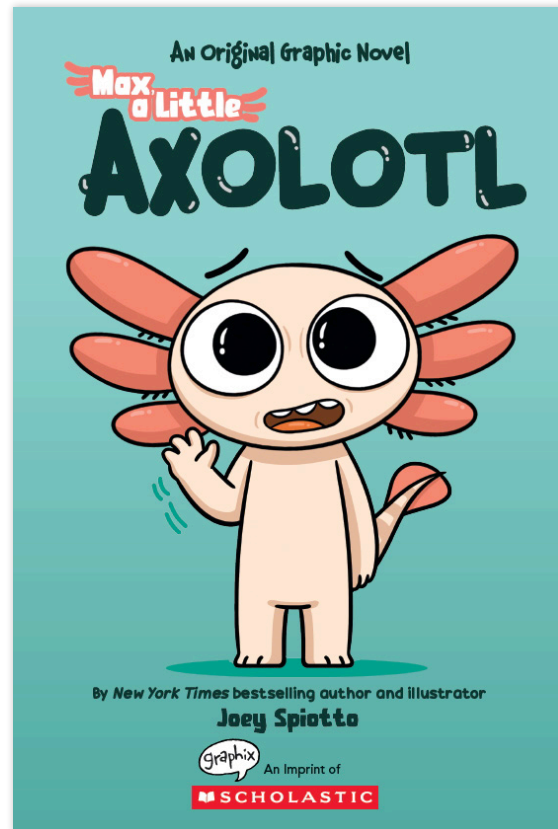
MAX, A LITTLE AXOLOTL

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY JOEY SPIOTTO

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 2+



Max, a Little Axolotl follows shy Max on his first day at Coral Elementary, where curious sea creatures and nervous hiccups make fitting in a challenge. A sweet, silly graphic novel about friendship, confidence, and conservation—perfect for fans of *Narwhal* and *Jelly*.



How to Booktalk this title:

- ♦ Say, “Max is starting school underwater—with dolphins, crabs, and octopuses as classmates!” Ask: “What would YOU do if you were the only axolotl in a new school?”
- ♦ Share that Max gets the hiccups when he’s nervous. Prompt: “Have you ever felt nervous on your first day? What helped you feel better?”
- ♦ Mention that Max’s classmates have lots of questions—some silly, some serious. Ask students what they’d want to know if they met a real axolotl.
- ♦ Invite students to draw their own sea creature character and write a short comic about their first day at Coral Elementary. Or create a “Welcome to Our School” poster from Max’s point of view.

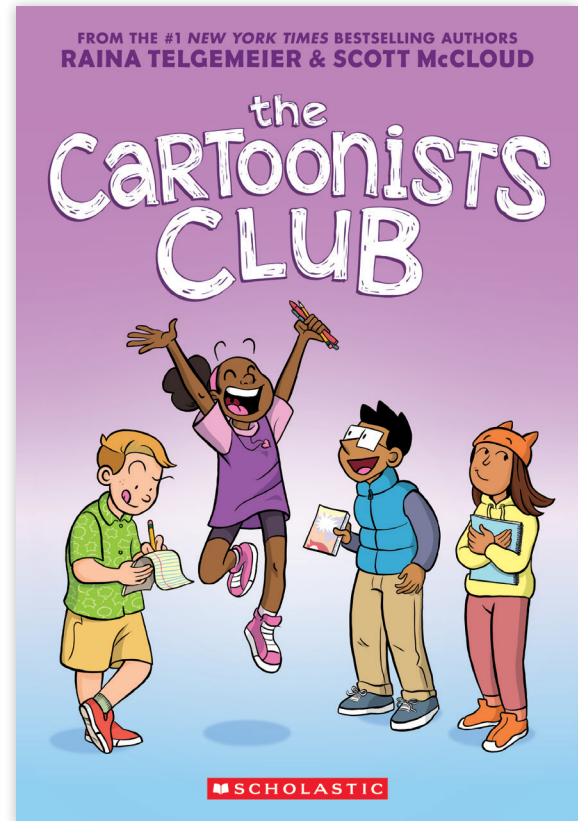
THE CARTOONISTS CLUB

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY RAINA TELGEMEIER
AND SCOTT MCCLOUD

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 4+



Four kids with big dreams and creative struggles form a cartooning club—and discover the power of storytelling, teamwork, and self-expression. *The Cartoonists Club* is a fun, inspiring graphic novel from Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud that celebrates friendship and the joy of making comics.



How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Begin by doodling something simple on the board—then say, “This book is all about turning drawings into stories!” Ask students, “What would you name this character? What kind of adventure could they go on?”
- ◆ Introduce Makayla, Howard, Lynda, and Art—each with their own creative challenge. Prompt: “Do you ever have big ideas but don’t know how to start? That’s exactly what this club helps with!”
- ◆ Invite students to start their own mini comic club: brainstorm characters, sketch panels, or write a short comic strip. You could even create a “comic wall” where students can add their own drawings over time.

BABY-SITTERS LITTLE SISTER®

#11: KAREN'S GHOST

WRITTEN BY ANN M. MARTIN

ILLUSTRATED BY DK YINGST

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 2+

Karen suspects her house is haunted—especially when she hears about a ghostly Halloween birthday party in the attic! Spooky fun turns mysterious in this graphic novel full of laughs and friendship.



How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Share that Karen finds a secret diary and starts piecing together clues about Old Ben Brewer. Prompt: “What would you do if you found a hidden journal in your house?”
- ◆ Mention that Karen and her friends dress up as *Wizard of Oz* characters for trick-or-treating. Invite students to share their favourite costumes or design one for a ghost-themed party.
- ◆ Have students draw their own ghost character or write a short spooky story inspired by Karen’s attic adventure. Or create a classroom “Ghost Detectives” boardgame with clues and theories.

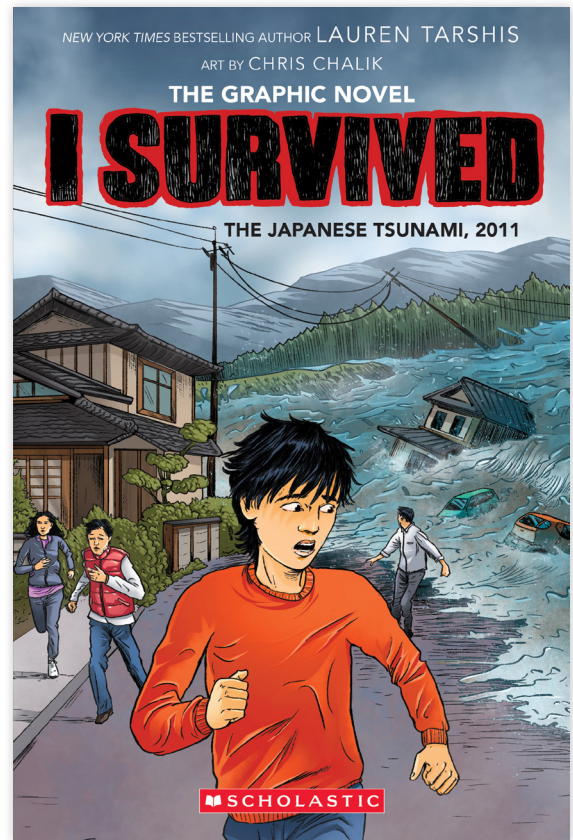
I SURVIVED THE JAPANESE TSUNAMI, 2011: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

WRITTEN BY LAUREN TARSHIS
ILLUSTRATED BY CHRIS CHALIK

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 4+

Ben is swept away by a deadly wave while visiting Japan. Separated from his family, he must find the strength to survive in a country far from home. A gripping tale of disaster, courage, and hope.

Contains some mature content.



How to Booktalk this title:

- ♦ Say: “This story is based on a real disaster that happened in Japan in 2011.” Show photos or a short video clip of the tsunami’s impact to help students understand the scale and emotion behind the story.
- ♦ Prompt: “What does it mean to

be brave when everything feels uncertain?” Discuss how Ben’s courage and quick thinking help him survive and reunite with loved ones.

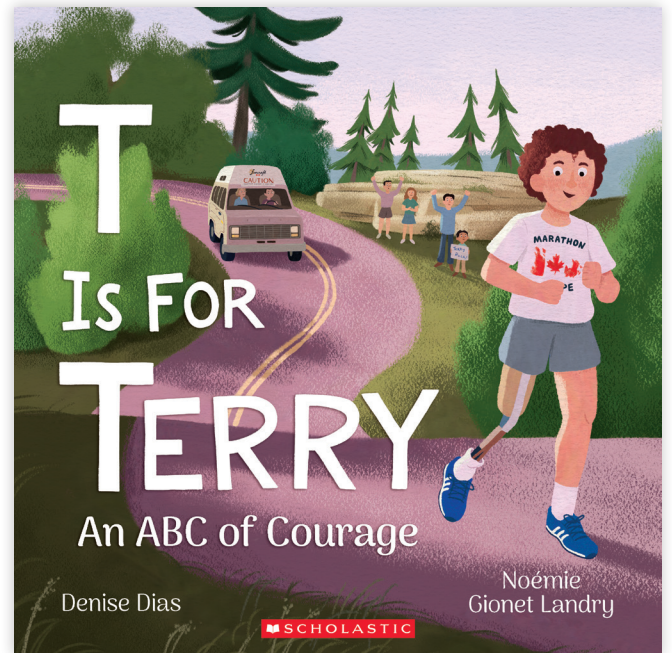
- ♦ Invite students to write their own “I Survived” story—real or imagined—about overcoming a challenge.

T IS FOR TERRY: AN ABC OF COURAGE



WRITTEN BY DENISE DIAS
ILLUSTRATED BY NOÉMIE GIONET LANDRY
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES PREK+

T Is for Terry: An ABC of Courage introduces Terry Fox's inspiring journey through the alphabet, highlighting his bravery, compassion, and lasting legacy. A beautifully illustrated picture book that shows kids how one person can make a difference.



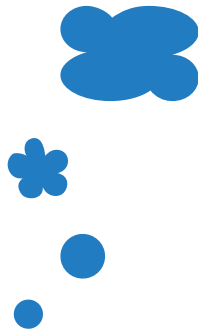
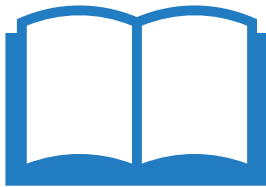
How to Booktalk this title:

- ◆ Say: "A is for Adventure. B is for Basketball. C is for Courage. What do YOU think T stands for?" Let students guess before revealing it's Terry—then introduce Terry Fox as a real-life hero.
- ◆ Prompt: "What does courage mean to you?" Invite students to share times they've been brave—like trying something new or standing up for a friend.
- ◆ Design a classroom "Wall of Courage" inspired by Terry's journey.
- ◆ Talk about how Terry's story shows that one person can make a big difference. Brainstorm ways students can help others—through kindness, fundraising, or awareness.

OLD SCHOOL

WRITTEN BY GORDON KORMAN
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 4+

Dexter Foreman is twelve going on eighty—raised in a retirement village, he’s more grandpa than kid. When he’s sent to public school, Dex’s old-school habits cause chaos and comedy in this witty tale about fitting in and standing out.



How to Booktalk this title:

♦ Ask: “What do you think life would be like growing up in a retirement village?” Reveal that Dexter is twelve—but acts like he’s eighty, thanks to his unusual upbringing.

- ♦ Say, “Dex can fix almost anything with his trusty Swiss Army knife.” Prompt: “What’s the weirdest thing YOU know how to fix or do?”
- ♦ Invite students to design a “Dex Survival Kit” with items he’d carry to school.