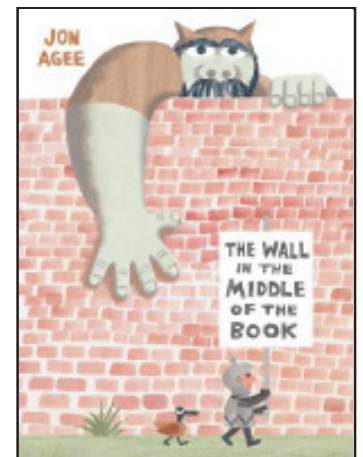
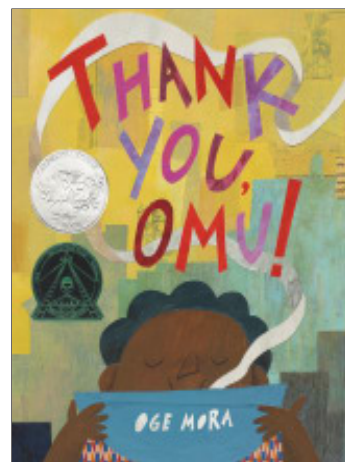
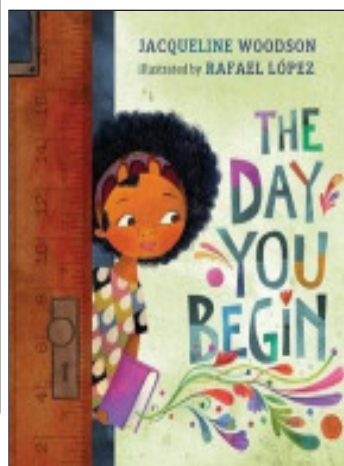
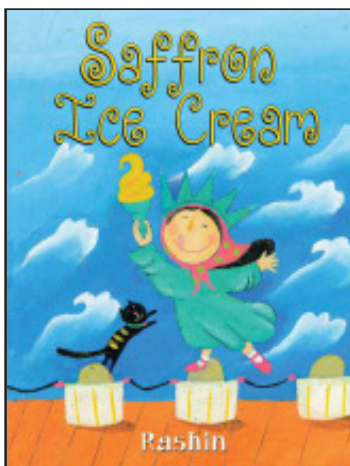
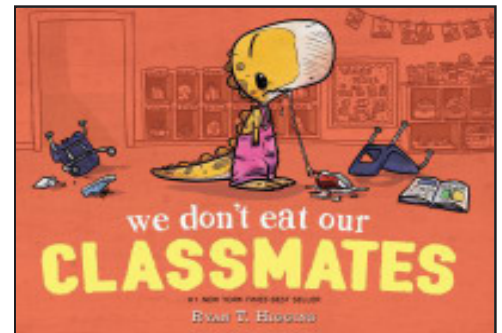
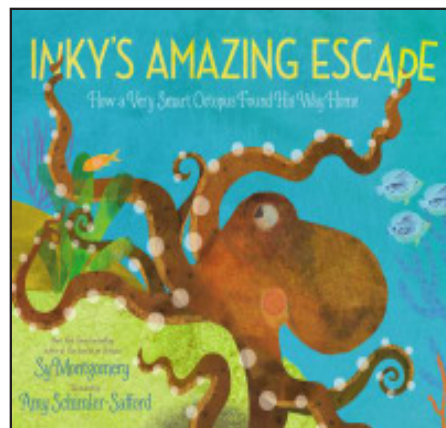
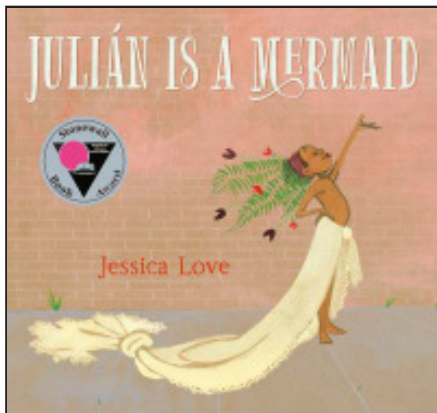
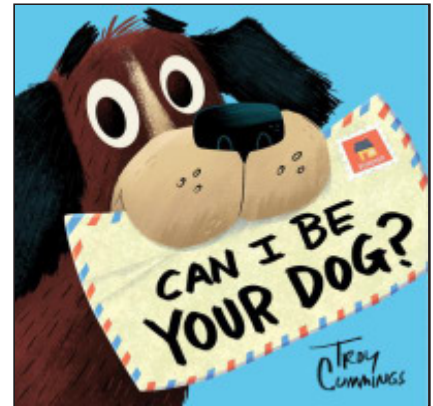
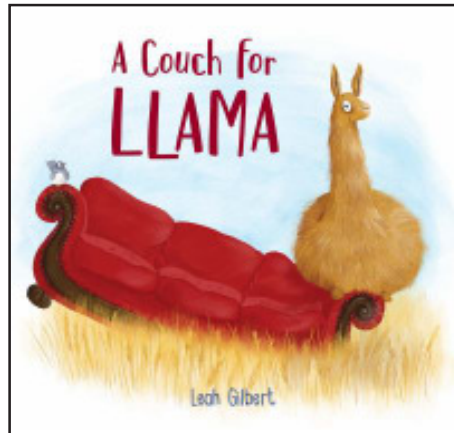
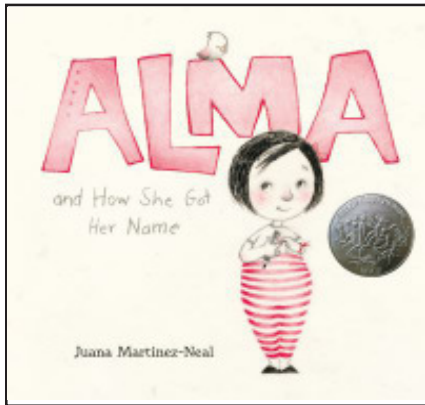


Ladybug Picture Book Award 2019 Voting Guide



Sponsored by the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library
Learn more at <http://ladybug.nhbookcenter.org>

The Ladybug Picture Book Award is a program of the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library and is designed to promote early literacy and honor the best in recent children's picture books. A committee of children's librarians from around the state selects 10 picture book titles each spring. Then, during November, New Hampshire children from preschoolers to those in third grade choose the award winner. The winning picture book is announced at the end of the year.

To be considered for nomination, a picture book must meet the following criteria:

- be published, in its current edition, within the last three years
- be in print
- have an author and illustrator both residing in the United States
- possess strong child appeal
- have artistic quality with text that supports the illustrations
- not be a title previously nominated (visit our website for a list)

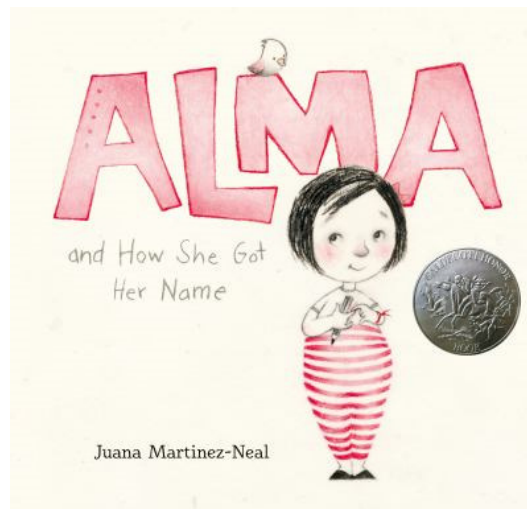
Voting may be held anywhere there are Granite State kids of eligible Ladybug voting age (up to 3rd graders). To be a voting site you must make all nominated books for that year available to your voters (this can be through storytimes, making the books available for kids to read themselves, or to take home, or a combination of these).

Voting materials for 2019, including a picture ballot, printable tally sheet, and the online tally form are all available at <http://ladybug.nhbookcenter.org>. There is also an order form to purchase voting and book stickers and several customizable flyers you can download to help promote your Ladybug events.

Voting may be conducted in any way that works for the voting site—picture ballots, raised hands, gathering near the book (Iowa-caucus style), putting an object in a container by the chosen book (like a penny raffle), or whatever you come up with that results in a count of votes for each nominated title that reflects the choices of the kids involved.

Votes must be received at the State Library, either through the online ballot or on an official tally sheet, by 4:30pm, Friday, December 13, 2019 in order to be counted.

This guide includes information and activities about each of the ten titles nominated for the 2019 Ladybug Picture Book Award. This information was compiled by Deborah Dutcher, Youth and Adult Services Librarian, and Karen Landsman, Library Media/Tech Integration Specialist, Hooksett School District.



Alma and How She Got Her Name

Author/Illustrator: Juana Martinez-Neal

ISBN: 978-0763693558

Publisher: Candlewick (April 10, 2018)

What's in a name? For one little girl, her very long name tells a vibrant story of where she came from — and who she may one day be. In her author-illustrator debut, Juana Martinez-Neal opens a treasure box of discovery for children who may be curious about their own name or origin story.

About Juana Martinez-Neal

Website: <http://juanamartinezneal.com>

Interview with Author: <https://youtu.be/xvuuoGzrRos>

Illustration demo: <https://youtu.be/YBu3Ci5qsR4>

Book Trailer: <https://youtu.be/1Q1AvRtpkYw>

Big Ideas: Identity, Connections and Individuality

Questions:

- Pre-reading and other discussion questions and activities from the Anti-Defamation League at <https://www.adl.org/media/11817/download>

- Conversation starters and talking points from the Anti-Defamation League at <https://www.adl.org/media/11818/download>

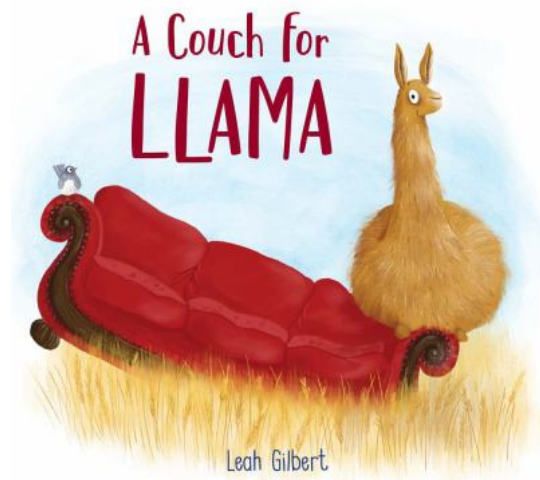
Vocabulary: Fits, Plazas

Activities:

- Name Tags and Activities from the author's website at <http://juanamartinezneal.com/books/alma/>
- Author study, Diverse family structure study, Oral history, What do you want to be known for, All about names and more from School Library Journal at <http://www.theclassroombookshelf.com/2019/01/the-stories-that-shape-us-teaching-ideas-for-alma-and-how-she-got-her-name/>
- Varied levels of word searches and matching games from RIF at <https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/book/alma-and-how-she-got-her-name>
- Activities from Candlewick at http://www.candlewick.com/book_files/0763693553.kit.1.pdf

Companion Titles:

- *Who's in My Family?: All About Our Families* by Robie H. Harris; illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott (Candlewick, 2012)
- *Why am I Me?* words by Paige Britt; pictures by Sean Qualls and Selina Aiko (Scholastic Press, 2017)
- *Looking Like Me* by Walter Dean Myers; illustrated by Christopher Myers (Egmont USA, 2009)
- *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi (Knopf, 2001)
- *My Name is Not Isabella: Just How Big Can a Little Girl Dream?* story by Jennifer Fosberry; pictures by Mike Litwin (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2010)
- *Only One You* by Linda Kranz (Rising Moon, 2006)
- *You Be You* by Linda Kranz (Taylor Trade Pub., 2011)
- *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow Books, 1991)



A Couch for Llama

Author/Illustrator: Leah Gilbert

ISBN: 978-1454925118

Publisher: Sterling Children's Books (February 6, 2018)

The Lago family really loves their couch. It's perfect for reading, snuggling, playing, and jumping. But all good things must come to an end, and, one day, the family realizes the time has come to replace it. As they drive home with their brand-new bright-red couch, though, it gets knocked off the top of their car into a field . . . where a llama tries to make sense of this new thing. At first confused—It doesn't talk! It doesn't taste good! It doesn't budge!—the llama soon realizes how comfy the couch is and settles right in. Can the family get its furniture back—and keep llama happy, too? Leah Gilbert has written and illustrated a warm picture book that touches both the heart and the funny bone.

About Leah Gilbert

From a small town in Wisconsin on Lake Michigan, Leah Gilbert took her love of art and books to school earning a bachelor's degree in illustration and graphic design. She then moved to Colorado and spent a decade as a designer for a greeting card company. Still living in Colorado in the Denver area, this is her debut picture book.

Website: leah-gilbert.com

Book Trailer: <https://youtu.be/BKkOsHHZxnA>

Big Ideas: Problem Solving & Compromise

Questions:

- Talk about making concessions or adjusting your position or opinion to reach a settlement or an agreement.
- How might you investigate an item you have never seen before?
- What are some things to take into consideration when transporting a couch? (Science-Math)

Vocabulary: Piled, Brayed, Stubborn

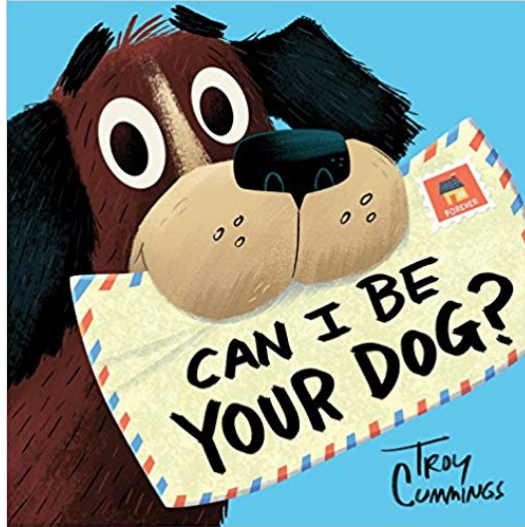
Activities & Crafts: Reminder “L” is for Library and Llama

- llama mask <https://jdaniel4smom.com/2016/07/llama-llama-misses-mama.html>
- footprint llama <http://www.houseofburkeblog.com/2015/11/llama-llama-red-pajama-footprint-craft.html>
- llama puppets <https://www.gluedtomycraftsblog.com/2018/02/craft-stick-llama-puppet.html> and <https://www.thecountrychiccottage.net/smiling-llama/>
- cardboard llama <http://mermagblog.com/diy-lama-craft/>
- Coloring sheet for December 9 - National Llama Day is at <http://tinyurl.com/yxl32dnb>

Companion Titles:

- A great companion title full of positive affirmations: *Llive Llaugh Love, Llike a Llama* by Alena Tkach (Pop Press, 2018)
- Stay calm with *Be a Llama and Stay a Little Calmer* by Sarah Ford; illustrated by Anita Mangan (Spruce, 2018)
- Therapy Llama: *Rojo: the Perfectly Imperfect Llama* by Shannon Joy Hendrickson (Mascot Books, 2016)
- South American culture and folklore:
 - *The Llama’s Secret: A Peruvian Legend* by Argentina Palacios Ziegler; illustrated by Charles Reasoner (Troll Communications, 1993)
 - *Maria Had a Little Llama* (English/Spanish) by Angela Dominguez (Henry Holt, 2013)
 - *Tales of Latin America: Retold Timeless Classics* edited by Paula Reece; retold by Peg Hall; illustrated by Margaret Sanfilippo (Perfection Learning, 2000)
- Any book in the *Llama Llama* series by Anna Dewdney is sure to please the llama lovers. It begins with *Llama Llama Red Pajama* (Viking, 2005)
- Silly and about cutting hair: *When Your Llama Needs a Haircut* by Susanna Leonard Hill; illustrated by Daniel Wiseman (Little Simon, 2018)
- Need some llama poetry? Try *The Llama Who Had No Pajama: 100 Favorite Poems* written by Mary Ann Hoberman; illustrated by Betty Fraser (Harcourt Brace, 1998)
- Get crafty with *Crafty Llama* by Mike Kerr; illustrated by Renata Liwska (Bloomsbury, 2018)
- Educational resource: *Living Wild: Llamas* by Melissa Gish (Creative Education, 2018)

Other Links and Resources: Ages and Stages: Learning to Resolve Conflict by Scholastic at <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/ages-stages-learning-resolve-conflicts/>



Can I Be Your Dog?

Author/Illustrator: Troy Cummings

ISBN: 978-0399554520

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (March 13, 2018)

This picture book shares the tale of Arfy, a homeless mutt who lives in a box in an alley. Arfy writes to every person on Butternut Street about what a great pet he'd make. His letters to prospective owners share that he's house broken! He has his own squeaky bone! He can learn to live with cats! But, no one wants him. Won't anyone open their heart--and home--to a lonesome dog? Readers will be happily surprised to learn just who steps up to adopt Arfy.

About Troy Cummings

Website: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/authors/103947/troy-cummings>

Read Aloud: <https://youtu.be/an4jAjfJKe4>

Big Ideas: Perseverance. Responsible Pet Ownership. Helping Others. Treating Others with Kindness and Respect. Homelessness.

Questions: What are some characteristics of a good home and pet owner?

Vocabulary: Allergic, Butcher, Gloom

Activities:

- Pretending you are an animal, write a letter (or postcard) asking for a home. Younger children can dictate to an adult or older sibling and add pictures. NHSL created an Early Literacy Planning Tool sheet NHSL created for this at <http://tinyurl.com/dogstorytime>
- Draw a picture of the dog happy in his new home.

- Draw a map of all the different places the dog wanted to live and use the map to retell the story.
- How to Sketch a Fetch-Worthy Picture Book Cover, by Troy Cummings at <https://taralazar.com/2018/03/15/how-to-sketch-a-fetch-worthy-picture-book-cover/> Read and look at the article and have children sketch their idea for the book cover.
- Lesson plan for caring for a dog by ASPCA at <https://www.petfinder.com/pro/for-shelters/lesson-plan-caring-dog/>
- Fetch a Good Book activities by Upstart at <https://resources.demco.com/fetchagoodbookactivityguide.pdf>

Companion Titles:

- *What Pet Should I Get?* by Dr. Seuss (Random House, 2015)
- *May I Pet Your Dog?: The How-to Guide for Kids Meeting Dogs (and Dogs Meeting Kids)* by Stephanie Calmenson; illustrated by Jan Ormerod (Clarion Books, 2007)
- *Let's Get a Pup! Said Kate* by Bob Graham (Candlewick, 2001)
- *How do Dinosaurs Love Their Cats?* by Jane Yolan and Mark Teague (Blue Sky Press, 2010)
- *Oh, Theodore!: Guinea Pig Poems* by Susan Katz; illustrated by Stacey Schuett (Clarion Books, 2007)
- *The Forgotten Rabbit* by Nancy Furstinger; illustrated by Nancy Lane (Gryphon Press, 2014) About not neglecting our pets.
- *Sparky!* by Jennie Offill; illustrations by Chris Appelhans (Schwartz and Wade Books, 2014) Accepting pets for what they are.

Other Links and Resources:

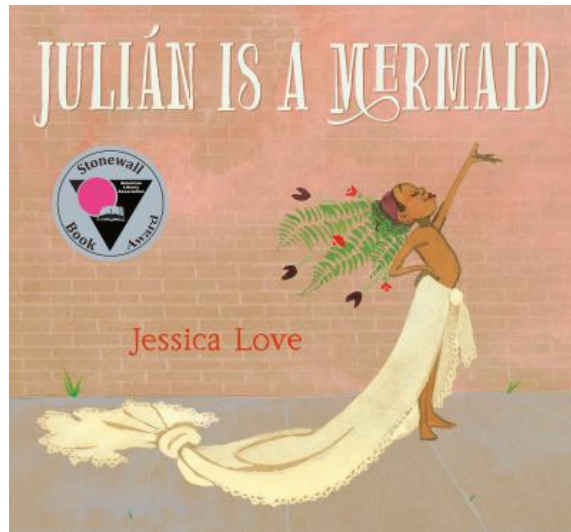
Thoughts from Andrea L. Mack (at <https://andrea-mack.blogspot.com/2018/06/can-i-be-your-dog-by-troy-cummings-dog.html>):

My Thoughts as a Writer: If you're interested in writing a story through letters, this is a great mentor text. There's lots of humor in this story. I especially liked the different styles of responses to the dog. The letters show the different personalities and hints of backstory in a just a few words. It made me want to try the challenge of writing a story told through letters or notes!

My Thoughts as an Educator: This is a fun book to show students examples of letter writing and persuasive writing. It also shows different community helpers or places in the community. It may even lead into discussions about homelessness. The big, colourful illustrations make this book great for reading aloud.

How to help homeless animals and adopt a shelter animal: <https://www.asPCA.org/> and [Humanesociety.org](https://www.humanesociety.org/)

Mutt-i-grees Curriculum at <https://education.muttigrees.org/>: A unique social emotional learning program using canine-themed activities.



Julian is a Mermaid

Author/Illustrator: Jessica Love

ISBN: 978-0763690458

Publisher: Candlewick (April 23, 2018)

While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a butter-yellow curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his headdress. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes — and even more importantly, what will she think about how Julián sees himself? Mesmerizing and full of heart, Jessica Love's author-illustrator debut is a jubilant picture of self-love and a radiant celebration of individuality.

About Jessica Love

Website: <https://jesslove.format.com/>

Children's Book Podcast: <https://lgbpodcast.libsyn.com/jessica-love>

Big Ideas: Empathy

Questions & Talking Points:

- What is it like or what does it mean to walk in someone else's shoes?
- Children explore elements of identity when they dress up. They “try-on” new ideas and behaviors. They learn about how others may live.
- Many of the spreads are wordless. What clues do you get from the illustrations?

- More talking points in the Classroom Ideas from Walker Books at <http://classroom.walkerbooks.com.au/home/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Julian-is-a-Mermaid-Classroom-Ideas.pdf>

Vocabulary: Abuela, Mermaids, Mijo,

Activities:

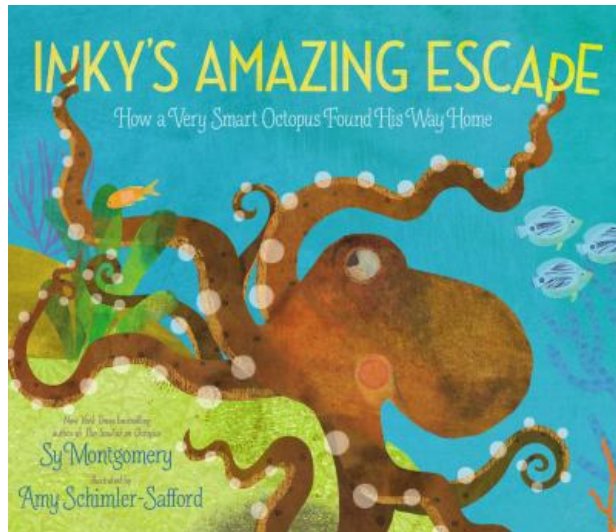
- Word searches and memory matches FROM RIF at <https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/book/julian-mermaid>.
- I Can Do Anything lesson plan from Scholastic at <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/i-can-do-anything/>
- Identity Self-Portraits from Teaching Tolerance at <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/student-tasks/do-something/identity-selfportraits>
- Reflective writing and/or illustration. Have children describe themselves. What makes you—you? How do you express yourself?
- Song: What I am from PBS Sesame Street at <https://nhpbs.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/sesame-what-i-am/song-what-i-am-sesame-street/> Will.I.Am and his muppet friends celebrate the things that make each person special! This song focuses on emotional challenges and learning to believe in yourself.
- A selection of mermaid tails to make on Pinterest at <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/425730971009136315>

Companion Titles:

- *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman; pictures by Caroline Binch (Dial Books for Young Readers, 1991)
- *Be a Friend* by Salina Yoon (Bloomsbury, 2016)
- *Bee-Wigged* by Cece Bell (Candlewick, 2008)
- *Jamela’s Dress* by Niki Daly (Farrar Straus Giroux, 1989)
- *Lucia the Luchadora* by Cynthia Leonor Garza; illustrations by Alyssa Bermudez (POW!, 2017)
- *Sparkle Boy* by Lesléa Newman; illustrations by Maria Mola (Lee & Low Books, 2017)

Other Links and Resources:

- Intellectual Freedom Brochure from American Association of School Librarians at http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org.aasl/files/content/aaslissues/intellectual_freedom_brochure0212.pdf
- We Need Diverse Books at <https://diversebooks.org/>



Inky's Amazing Escape: How a Very Smart Octopus Found His Way Home

Author: Sy Montgomery

Illustrator: Amy Schimler-Safford

ISBN: 978-1534401914

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books (September 25, 2018)

About Sy Montgomery

Sy Montgomery is a naturalist and author who also calls New Hampshire home. She writes for adults and children. Full of the passion she has for creatures, her books fill your brain and tug at your heart.

Website: <http://symontgomery.com/> (be sure to check out the interviews on the "media" tab)

About Amy Schimler-Safford

Website: <https://www.amyschimler.com/>

Big Ideas: Determination, Science of Octopus

Questions: How is an octopus able to squeeze its body through tiny spaces so easily? (see Activity: No Bones About It Experiment)

Vocabulary: Morsel, Nook & Cranny, Suckers, Observed, Aquarium, "Squirt Ink"

Activities:

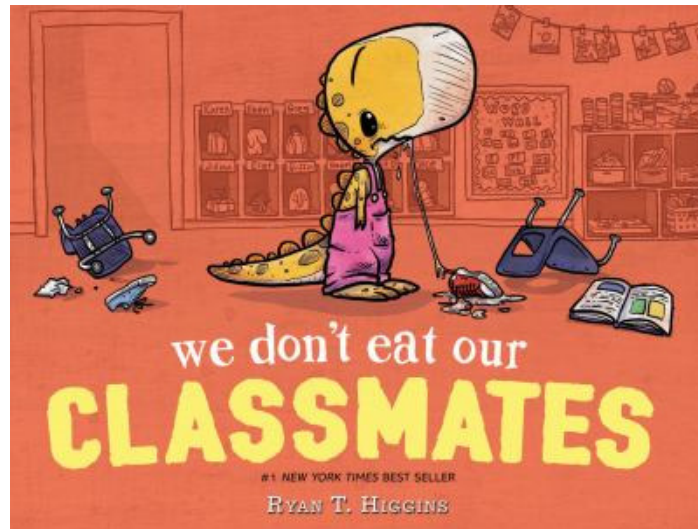
- Draw an octopus
<https://easydrawingguides.com/draw-octopus-really-easy-drawing-tutorial/>
- Creatures of the Sea Word Scramble
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nrVP3kxyjRmiPxzbrgx2UNWcKVgrIzJ3NmDYirpOv2Y/edit>
- No Bones About It—Science Experiment
https://docs.google.com/document/d/15dYn8uGETLT5EUikx_NCaLwl-ody4DPKWBuggMmCQ/edit
- Octopus at National Geographic Kids
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/octopus/#/octopus.jpg>
- Extension Activities at Scholastic for “The Great Octopus Escape” by Nancy Jang
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/nancy-jang/2017/Extension-Activities-for-The-Great-Octopus-Escape/>
- 3D Printer Octopus on Thingiverse
<https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:3495390>

Companion Titles:

- *Love Agnes* by Irene Latham; illustrated by Thea Baker (Millbrook Press, 2018)
- *Good Thing You’re Not an Octopus* by Julie Markes; pictures by Maggie Smith (Harper Collins, 2001)
- *An Octopus is Amazing* by Patricia Lauber; illustrated by Holly Keller (Harper Trophy, 1990)
- *Cephalopods: Octopuses, Squids, and their Relatives* by Beth Blaxland (Chelsea House, 2003)
- *The Mermaid* by Jan Brett (G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 2017)
A retelling of the 3 Bears starring octopi

Other Links and Resources:

- Sneaky Octopus video from National Geographic
<https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/00000144-0a21-d3cb-a96c-7b2dbf360000>



We Don't Eat Our Classmates

Author/Illustrator: Ryan T. Higgins

ISBN: 978-1368003551

Publisher: Disney-Hyperion (June 19, 2018)

It's the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can't wait to meet her classmates. But it's hard to make human friends when they're so darn delicious! That is, until Penelope gets a taste of her own medicine and finds she may not be at the top of the food chain after all.

About Ryan T. Higgins

Website: <http://ryanhiggins.com/>

Read-Aloud: <https://youtu.be/D93VbNFd1lo>

Big Ideas: Making Friends, Undesirable behaviors impact on others, Perspective, Impulse Control, Dinosaurs, First Day of School

Questions: What things were you nervous about on your first day of school (or storytime)?

Vocabulary: Nervous, Delicious, Determined, Appetite, Peeks

Activities:

- Activity sheets from the publisher
https://books.disney.com/content/uploads/2018/03/WDEOCClassmates_ActivitySheets_FINAL14.pdf
- Mrs. Bremer Book Study Sheets
<https://mrsbremer.sk.blogspot.com/2018/08/we-dont-eat-our-classmates.html>

- Friendship sandwich craft
<http://maistorybook.com/2018/07/27/maistorybook-library-we-dont-eat-our-classmates-friendship-sandwich-craft/>
- Preschool and Kindergarten Friendship Crafts, Activities, Games, and Printables
<https://www.kidssoup.com/activity/friendship-crafts-activities-games-and-printables>
- Dinosaur theme ideas - <http://www.nuttinbutpreschool.com/dinosaur-theme/>
- Dinosaur songs - <https://carrotsareorange.com/dinosaur-songs/>
- Dinosaur flannel board stories
<http://www.makinglearningfun.com/themepages/DinosaurFeltBoard.htm>

Companion Titles:

First day of school

- *Llama Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney (Viking, 2009)
- *First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg; illustrated by Judy Love (Whispering Coyote, 2000)
- *The Night Before Kindergarten* by Natasha Wing; illustrated by Julie Durrell (Grosset and Dunlap, 2001)
- *Chu's First Day of School* by Neil Gaiman; illustrated by Adam Rex (Harper, 2014)

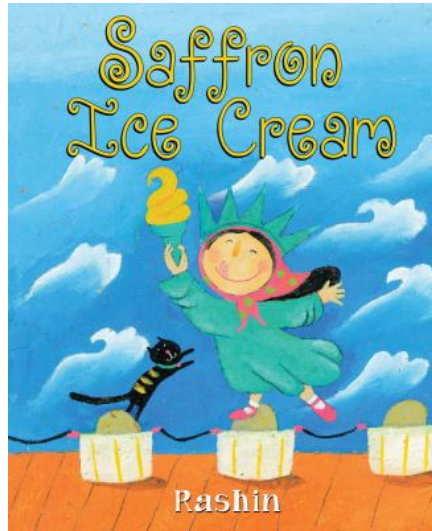
Making friends

- *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend* by Dan Santat (Little Brown & Co, 2014)
- *Hector and Hummingbird* by Nicholas John Frith (Arthur A. Levine Books, 2016)
- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson; illustrations by E.B. Lewis (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2012)
- *Leonardo, the Terrible Monster* by Mo Willems (Hyperion Books for Children, 2005)
- *Strictly No Elephants* by Lisa Mantchev & Taeun Yoo (Simon & Schuster, 2015)
- *Horrible Bear!* by Ame Dyckman; illustrated by Zachariah OHora (Little Brown and Co., 2016)
- *Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen; pictures by Kevin Hawkes (Candlewick Press, 2006)
- *How do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends?* by Jane Yolan & Mark Teague (Blue Sky Press, 2006)

Self-Regulation

- *David Goes to School* by David Shannon (Blue Sky Press, 1999)
- *It's Hard to Be Five: Learning How to Work My Control Panel* by Jamie Lee Curtis & Laura Cornell (Joanna Cotler Books, 2004)
- *My Mouth is a Volcano* by Julia Cook; illustrations by Carrie Hartman (National Center for Youth Issues, 2005)
- *The Gingerbread Girl Goes Animal Crackers* by Lisa Campbell Ernst (Dutton Children's Books, 2011)
- *Oh No, George!* by Chris Haughton (Candlewick, 2012)

- *Little Dinos Don't Bite* by Michael Dahl; illustrated by Adam Record (Picture Window Books, 2013)



Saffron Ice Cream

Author/Illustrator: Rashin Kheiriyeh

ISBN: 978-1338150520

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books (May 29, 2018)

Rashin is excited about her first visit to the beach in her family's new home. On the way there, she remembers what beach trips were like in Iran, the beautiful Caspian Sea, the Persian music, and most of all, the saffron ice cream she shared with her best friend, Azadeh. But there are wonderful things in this new place as well -- a subway train, exciting music... and maybe even a new friend!

About Rashin Kheiriyeh

Website: <http://www.rashinart.com/>

Book Preview by Author: <https://vimeo.com/247608982>

Book Animation: <https://vimeo.com/299230600>

Big Ideas: Immigration. Celebrating Differences & Similarities.

Questions:

- When you try something new for the first time, describe your feelings?
- If you moved to a new place, how would you feel and what would you miss?

- What are some good ways to make friends?

Vocabulary: Halim, “Persian music,” Subway, Islamic, Saffron

Places: Iran, Caspian Sea, Brooklyn, Coney Island

Activities:

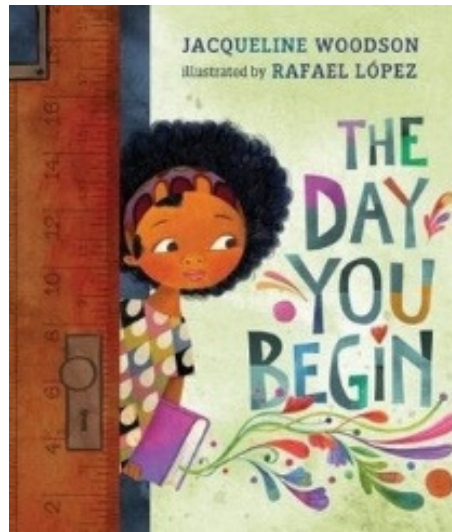
- Talk and practice ways to meet and talk to new people in their community.
- Make maps of your school or neighborhood that features fun places to visit.

Other Links and Resources:

- [Teaching Tolerance: Making Connections During Read-Aloud.](https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/teaching-strategies/responding-to-the-readaloud-text/making-connections-during)
<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/teaching-strategies/responding-to-the-readaloud-text/making-connections-during>
- [Learning to Give: Friends Lesson Plan](https://www.learningtogive.org/units/unity-community/friends) <https://www.learningtogive.org/units/unity-community/friends>
- Resources for your classroom from Read Across America
<https://www.readacrossamerica.org/saffron-ice-cream/>
- Explore Iran with National Geographic Kids at
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/iran/>
- Scholastic Reads Podcast: Journey to America-Sharing Stories of Survival and Hope featuring Rashin Kheiriyeh <http://oomscholasticblog.com/podcast/journeys-america-sharing-stories-survival-and-hope>
- Recipe for No-churn Persian ice cream with saffron and rose water. At <https://familyspice.com/persian-ice-cream-saffro-rose-water/>
- Word searches and memory games from RIF at <https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/book/saffron-ice-cream>

Companion Titles:

- *Here I Am* by Patti Kim; pictures by Sonia Sánchez (Capstone Young Readers, 2014)
- *I'm New Here* by Anne Sibley O'Brien (Charlesbridge, 2015)
- *King of the Sky* by Nicola Davies; illustrated by Laura Carlin (Candlewick, 2017)
- *Margaret and Margarita / Margarita y Margaret* by Lynn Reiser (Greenwillow Books, 1993)
- *My Two Blankets* by Irena Kobald and Freya Blackwood (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015)
- *Sakura's Cherry Blossoms* by Robert Paul Weston and Misa Saburi (Tundra Books, 2018)
- *The Sandwich Swap* by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah with Kelly DiPucchio; illustrated by Tricia Tusa (Disney-Hyperion, 2010)
- *The Seeds of Friendship* by Michael Foreman (Candlewick, 2015)



The Day You Begin

Author: Jacqueline Woodson

Illustrator: Rafael López

ISBN: 978-0399246531

Publisher: Nancy Paulsen Books (August 28, 2018)

There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes-and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

About Jacqueline Woodson

Jacqueline Woodson is the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Learn more at <http://www.read.gov/cfb/ambassador/>

Website: <https://www.jacquelinewoodson.com/>

About Rafael López

Website: <http://rafaellopez.com/>

Reading Rockets Interview: <https://youtu.be/BvyoUViYSXY>

Book Trailer: <https://youtu.be/ZEW1BW51j3A>

Big Ideas: Self-Esteem, Diversity

Questions:

- How do you feel when you are in a room of people that seem different than you?
- What is something positive about yourself?
- Talk about diversity and its meaning. What can we do to become a more inclusive community?

Vocabulary: Language, Fragile, Untraveled, Kimchi

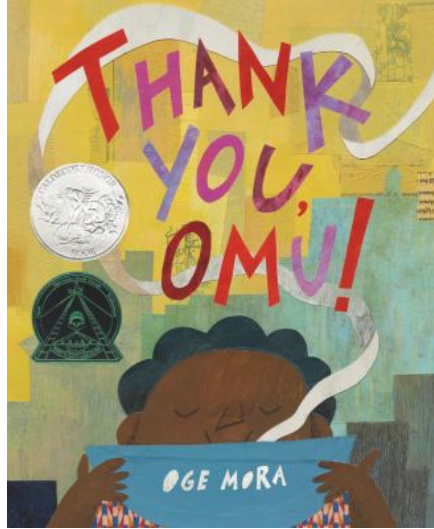
Places: Venezuela, France, India, Spain, Maine, South Carolina

Activities:

- Random House Guide to the work of Jacqueline Woodson at http://images.randomhouse.com/teachers_guides/9780147515827.pdf
- 10 Ways to be Brave in School from the Read Learn Repeat Blog at <https://readlearnrepeat.blog/2018/08/23/courage-the-day-you-begin/>
- Guide from The Curriculum Corner at <http://www.thecurriculumcorner.com/thecurriculumcorner123/wp-content/pdf/reading/bookstudy/the%20day%20you%20begin.pdf>
- Creative Confidence-Building Activities for Elementary Students at <https://studenttreasures.com/blog/creative-confidence-building-classroom-activities-for-elementary-students/>
- Positive Parenting: Self-Esteem Activities from babies up at <https://www.positive-parenting-ally.com/self-esteem-activities.html>

Companion Titles:

- *All are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold, Suzanne Kaufman (Knopf, 2018)
- *Elmer* by David McKee (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1968)
- *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae; illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees (Orchard Books, 2001)
- *Last Stop on Market Street* words by Matt De La Peña; pictures by Christian Robinson (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2015)
- *Lovely* by Jess Hong (Creston Books, 2017)
- *Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall (Greenwillow Books, 2015)
- *Same, Same but Different* by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw (Henry Holt, 2011)
- *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon* by Patty Lovell; illustrated by David Catrow (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2001)
- *Stephanie's Ponytail* story by Robert Munsch; art by Michael Martchenko (Annick Press, 1996)



Thank You, Omu!

Author/Illustrator: Oge Mora

ISBN: 978-0316431248

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (October 2, 2018)

Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself? Debut author-illustrator Oge Mora brings to life a heartwarming story of sharing and community in colorful cut-paper designs as luscious as Omu's stew, with an extra serving of love. An author's note explains that "Omu" (pronounced AH-moo) means "queen" in the Igbo language of her parents, but growing up, she used it to mean "Grandma." This book was inspired by the strong female role models in Oge Mora's life.

About Oge Mora

Website: <http://www.ogemora.com/>

Book Chat: <https://vimeo.com/286206752>

Big Ideas: Gratitude. Kindness. Acts of Generosity. Grandparents

Questions:

- How does setting play a part in a story?
- Could this have happened in a rural setting?
- What foods remind you of your family, neighborhood or culture?
- The author called her grandmother Omu. What are some other names for a grandparent?

Vocabulary: Seasoned, Supper, Simmered, Block, Mayor

Activities:

- Game of Synonyms: When Omu tells them about her stew, they each reply with different words (delectable, tasty, yummy) that all mean the same thing. Introduce a thesaurus. (Learn more at <https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-a-thesaurus-definition-use-history.html>) Try replacing words in sentences.
- This is a perfect book to act out with a class or group.
- Create a gratitude jar.

Companion Titles:

Grandparents

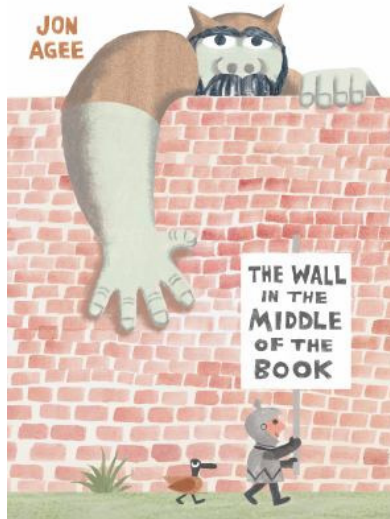
- *A Gift from Abuela* by Cecelia Ruiz (Candlewick, 2018)
- *Quiet* by Tommie dePaola (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018)

Sharing

- *You are Not My Friend, But I Miss You* by Daniel Kirk (Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2014)
- *Rabbit's Gift* by George Shannon; illustrated by Laura Dronzek (Harcourt, 2007)

Thankfulness

- *Thankful* by Eileen Spinelli; illustrations by Archie Preston (Zonderkidz, 2015)
- *Thankful Book* by Todd Parr (Little, Brown, 2012)
- *Bear Says Thanks* by Karma Wilson; illustrated by Jane Chapman (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2012)
- *The Thank You Book* by Mo Willems (Hyperion Books for Children, 2016)



The Wall in the Middle of the Book

Author/Illustrator: Jon Agee

ISBN: 978-0525555452

Publisher: Dial Books (October 2, 2018)

There's a wall in the middle of the book, and our hero--a young knight--is sure that the wall protects his side of the book from the dangers of the other side--like an angry tiger and giant rhino, and worst of all, an ogre who would gobble him up in a second! But our knight doesn't seem to notice the crocodile and growing sea of water that are emerging on his side. When he's almost over his head and calling for help, who will come to his rescue? An individual who isn't as dangerous as the knight thought--from a side of the book that might just have some positive things to offer after all!

About Jon Agee

Website: <http://www.jonagee.com/>

Twenty Questions: <http://www.jonagee.com/html/20questions.php>

Book Trailer: https://youtu.be/X_zeRNiEot8

Big Ideas: Preconceived notions or assumptions, xenophobia, symbolism, fear & safety

Questions:

- Why is there a wall?
- Is the other side better or safer?
- Is it wise to pre-judge people?

Vocabulary: Protects, Ogre, Fantastic

Activities:

- Story map lesson plans by Teaching Books Net at https://www.teachingbooks.net/clp.cgi?master_id=60561&lf_id=9
- Kindergarten American symbols lesson plan at <https://www.education.com/lesson-plan/american-symbols/>
- Elementary School Symbolism lesson plan at <https://study.com/academy/lesson/symbolism-lesson-plan-for-elementary-school.html>
- Art: How are shapes, color and text placement used in the book to help tell the story?

Companion Titles:

- Read about inclusiveness and hospitality in *Big Umbrella* by Amy June Bates; co-written with Juniper Bates (Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018)
- Community, resilience, and optimism: *The Breaking News* by Sarah Lynne Reul (Roaring Brook Press, 2018)
- Overcoming fear of what we can't see: *The Dark* by Lemony Snicket; illustrated by Jon Klassen (Little, Brown & Co., 2013)

Preconceived notions

- *They All Saw a Cat* by Brendan Wenzel (Chronicle Books, 2016)
- *Flashlight* by Lizi Boyd (Chronicle Books, 2014)
- *Leonardo the Terrible Monster* by Mo Willems (Hyperion Books for Children, 2005)
- *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf; illustrated by Robert Lawson (Viking Press, 1936)
- *The New Neighbors* by Sarah McIntyre (Penguin Workshop, 2019)

Other Links and Resources:

- Teaching about bias is a good time to talk about reliable news sources and biases in news. Resource at <https://www.weareteachers.com/recognize-bias/>
- Resources on Teaching Elections from Teaching Tolerance at <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2016/teach-2016>
- Check your own biases at <https://blog.discoveryeducation.com/blog/2017/09/08/are-my-biases-impacting-the-classroom/>

- Critical practices for Anti-Bias Education from Teaching Tolerance at <http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/PDA%20Critical%20Practices.pdf>
- Guide for Selecting Anti-Bias Children’s Books from Teaching for Change at <https://www.teachingforchange.org/selecting-anti-bias-books>
- Articles on anti-bias early childhood education from Teaching for Change at https://www.teachingforchange.org/anti-bias-education-articles#antibias_curriculum