



RACHEL IP 

# The Transformative Power of Stories

How reading is a pathway to empathy and  
expression

# Agenda



Ideas everywhere!



How stories foster imagination, empathy  
and curiosity



Finding your voice and connecting with others



Reading for pleasure

# Agenda



**Ideas everywhere!**



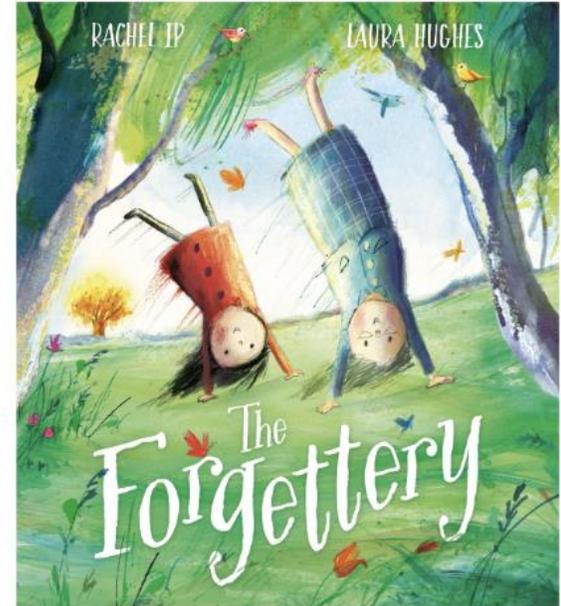
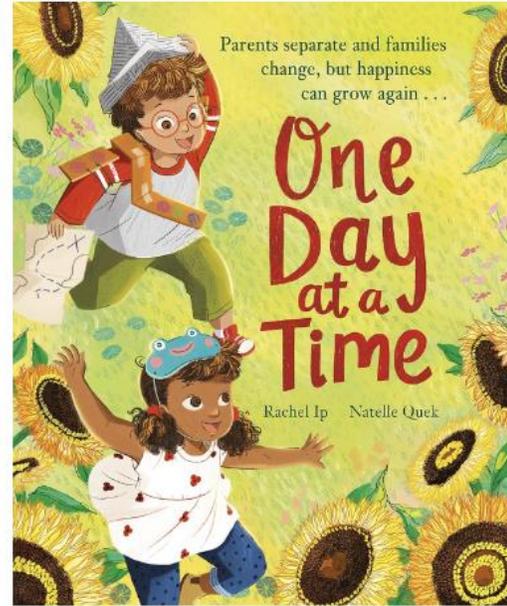
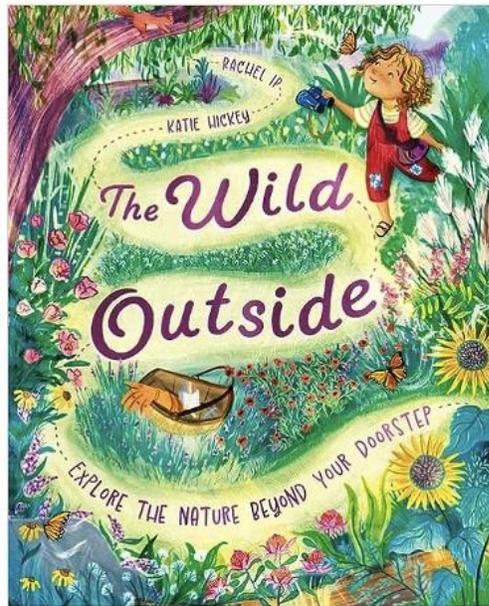
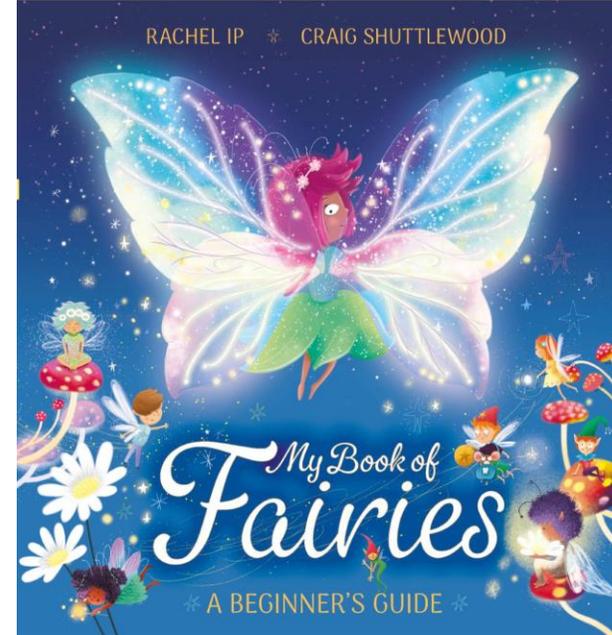
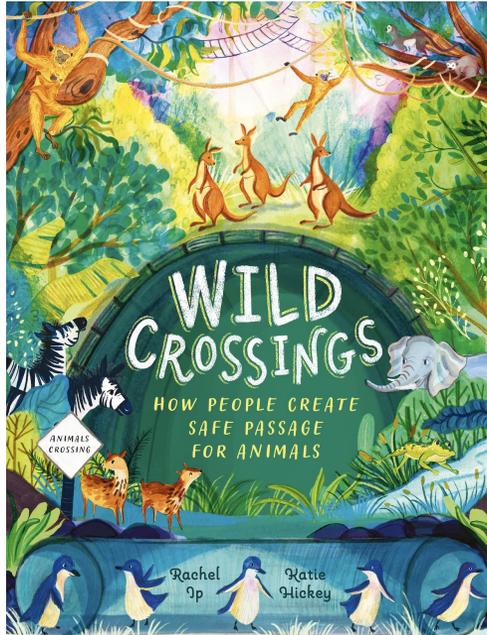
How stories foster imagination, empathy and curiosity



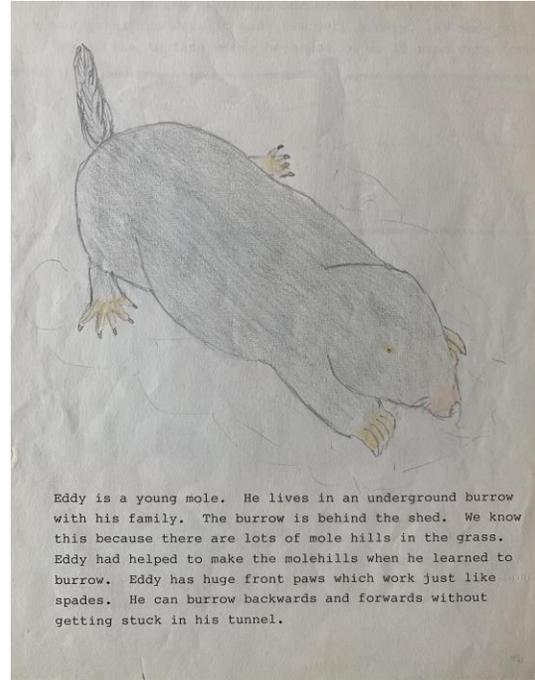
Finding your voice and connecting with others



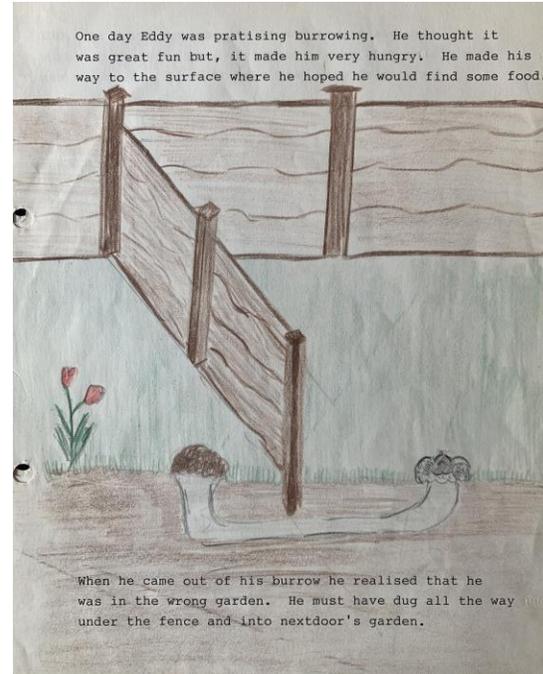
Reading for pleasure



When Eddy reached the end of the tunnel, his parents were waiting for him.  
"Where do you think you have been?" said Eddy's mother. Eddy began to explain what had happened --- but Eddy's father interrupted:  
"Do you realise just how dangerous it is to go off on your own without telling anyone where you are going?" Eddy told his parents that he had learned his lesson and he would never do it again. Eddy was sent to bed early--- he dreamed all night about CATS!

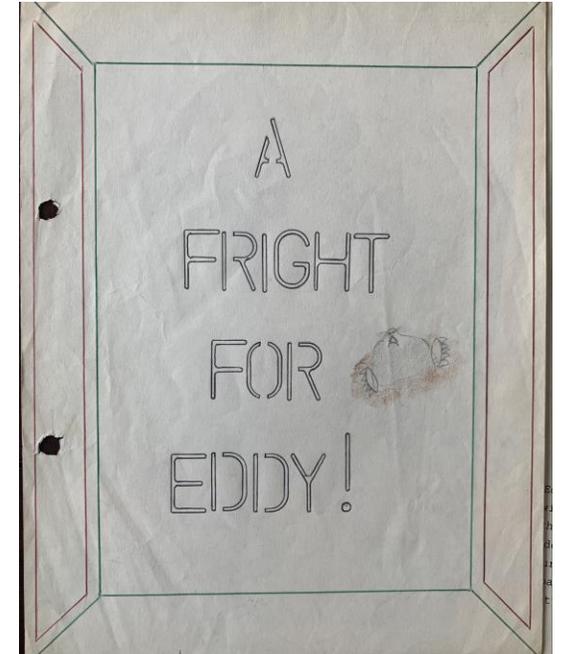


Eddy is a young mole. He lives in an underground burrow with his family. The burrow is behind the shed. We know this because there are lots of mole hills in the grass. Eddy had helped to make the molehills when he learned to burrow. Eddy has huge front paws which work just like spades. He can burrow backwards and forwards without getting stuck in his tunnel.



One day Eddy was pratising burrowing. He thought it was great fun but, it made him very hungry. He made his way to the surface where he hoped he would find some food.

When he came out of his burrow he realised that he was in the wrong garden. He must have dug all the way under the fence and into nextdoor's garden.



## The Last Gardener

Father of the flowers

Million people → 250,000 or

Shrapnel hit tree - it will live despite everything.

Oasis of comfort.  
Pocket of serenity  
life in the face of

Buy flowers to plant on roundabouts

destruction → construction

live + rebuild what has been destroyed

What happens when the last gardener is gone

No greater beauty than flowers,  
extinguishing life in the city

## The last gardener. The town is broken?

1. In a town where the schools + hospitals had to close. There was a gardener. the people had to leave
2. He was the last gardener. The buildings were broken. The roads were broken. The windows + homes + hearts were broken.
3. The last gardener cared for his plants + people came. They planted his flowers in old tin cans. On roundabouts.
4. On canes.
5. Fewer people came, but still he tended his garden. Broken plants were mended.
6. grew back.
7. One day, even the last gardener was gone. The garden centre was closed + quiet behind closed doors. The plants kept growing. No one to trim them.
8. or look after them. Wild + untidy. But still they grew.
9. Through the bricks, New shoots. And people smile.
10. Seeds in the wind. Strong roots.
11. And still there are flowers

There is a town which is broken. It is hard to get to because the roads are broken. There are no buses, no schools.

In the middle of the country.  
In the middle of the town.  
There is a garden.

In the middle of the garden.  
There is a gardener.  
He is the last gardener.

Because the town is broken.  
The windows + roads + homes + hearts are broken.

Even some of the plants are broken.  
But the last gardener cared for them.  
He plants them in old tin cans.  
And people buy them.

And people plant them  
On broken roundabouts.

In broken plant pots.  
And they grow. And people smile  
when they see them. And there are flowers.  
And people smile.

But people are leaving. Each day fewer people come to the garden. Soon there is no one left. Even the last gardener has gone.



Grammy's forgettery - rhymes mixed up  
 Buggled  
 Shel Silverstein  
 Some kitchen  
 Not wanting to go to bed  
 500-2000, 24 pages  
 Alphabet zoo.  
 Cuffie who can't laugh  
 12-14 DPS 1000 words  
 Cuffalo

back where you found them where do things go when  
 in the bin. forget  
 Forgettery is a cabinet  
 but happens  
 alot what happens to all d  
 the things we forget  
 number  
 and letter.

The Forgettery  
 The doors were large  
 It is a tricky place to find  
 But its doors are always open

My forgettery is different to yours  
 Mine has a different staircase different doors  
 is made of different colours  
 Mine has many rooms and floors  
 Many cupboards, chests of drawers  
 There are things in my forgettery that I  
 really want to find  
 And others that are there because I pushed  
 them from my mind.  
 I'd like to find my purple pen lid.  
 But it is long gone lost and  
 forgotten

With the hairclips and the so many and the so many  
 they are all down at the  
 bottom  
 hairbrush as my hair is  
 pushed

d / 6  
 Some things in my forgettery have been pushed  
 out of my mind  
 These may be words which were nice  
 or thoughts which  
 were not kind.  
 I like to keep them at the bottom  
 If a thought is nice, there is a  
 drawer where I can share it.  
 I keep it near the bottom so I can  
 rise above it  
 These sneaky tricks and  
 If people say things which they often  
 do not mean  
 Bird nuggets  
 An elephant forgettery must be very small  
 For it is widely known that  
 they do not forget at all  
 hippocampus.

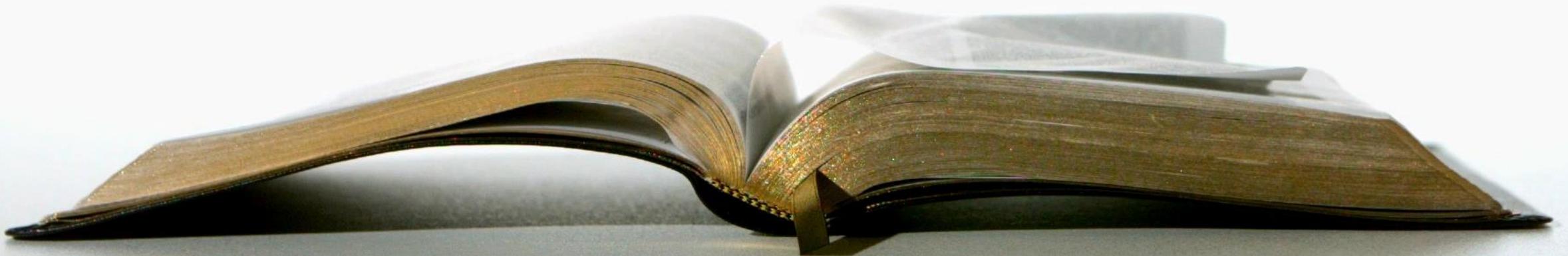
It is forgotten and forgotten, it is now forget  
 what once was in my brain now is gone, now it  
 is not there in no way...

It was in my forgettery  
 number and letter.  
 which way round, which foot.  
 hairclips socks and purple  
 rocks + shells + pebbles  
 the number nine  
 the missing piece right + left  
write  
surface?

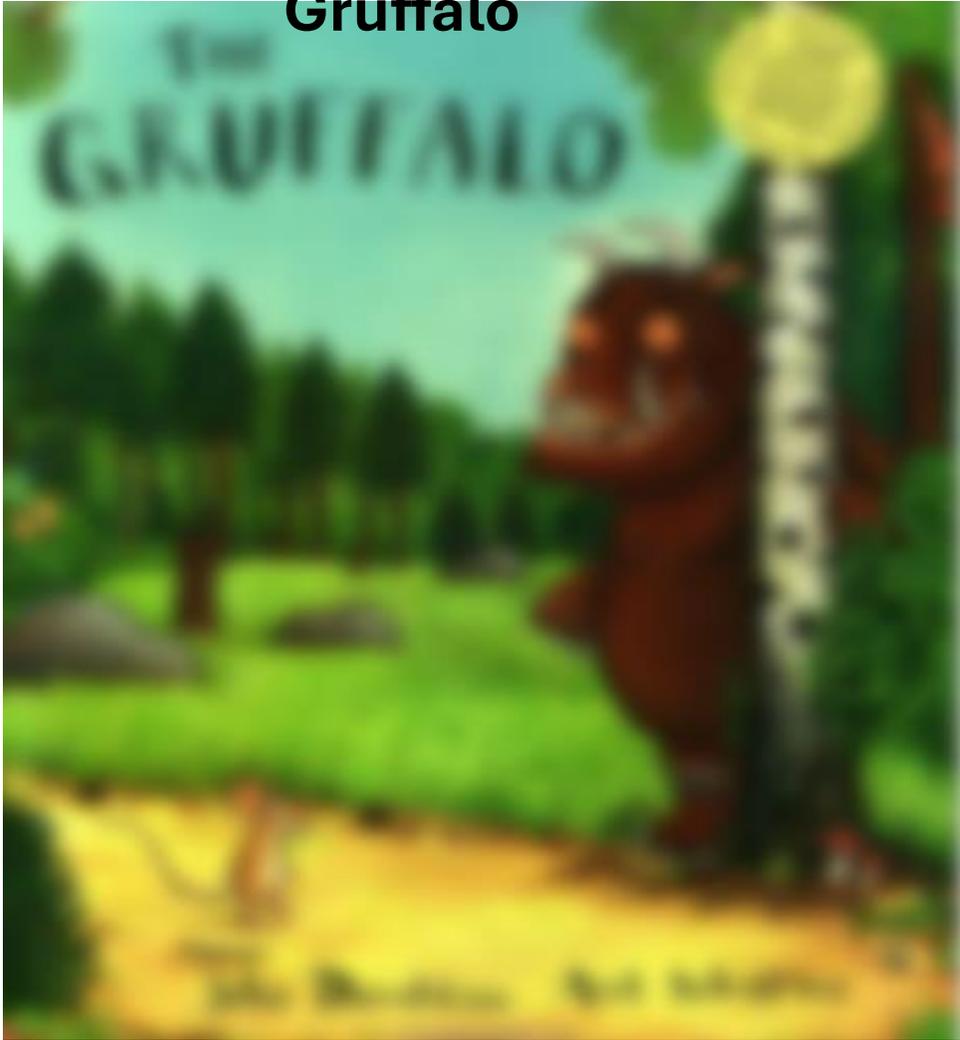
Mummy's forgettery is much bigger than mine  
 Hers must be enormous, she forgets things  
 all the time  
 I've heard her in the kitchen, I've heard her  
 mother  
 If you find ever nuggets, if you just  
 forget the words  
 If your twangie is tired

You don't know what you've forgotten  
 number + letter  
 address

Starting a story...



**The  
Gruffalo**



**Fox Steals The Tiger's Might**  
**狐假虎威**



# Once upon a time...

Arabic

“It was or it wasn’t,  
but long ago ...”

Tagalog

“In the first of times...”

Catalan

“Once upon a time,  
when the beasts  
spoke and people  
were silent...”

Maltese

“This might have  
happened and it might  
have not...”

Breton

“There was once or  
once there wasn’t...”

Croatian

“Beyond seven seas  
and seven  
mountains...”





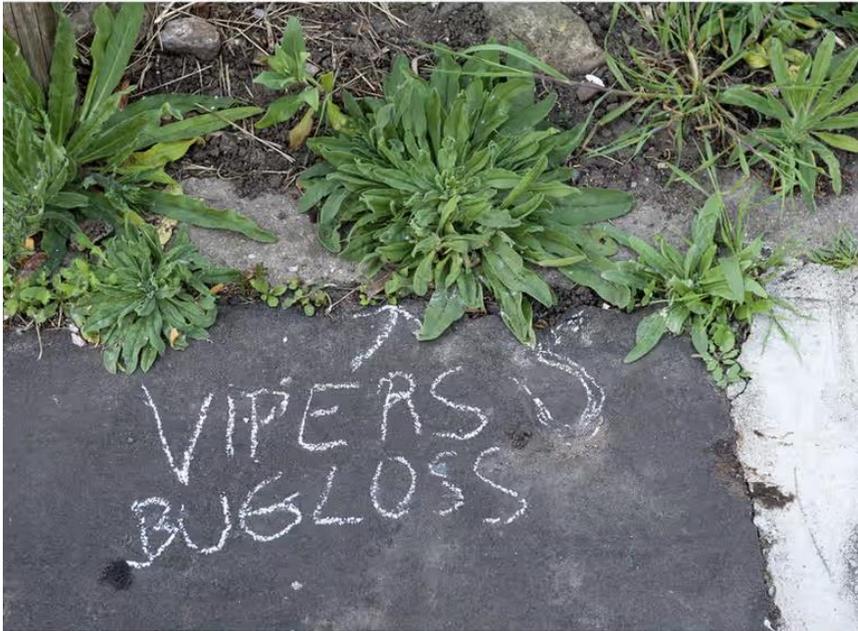


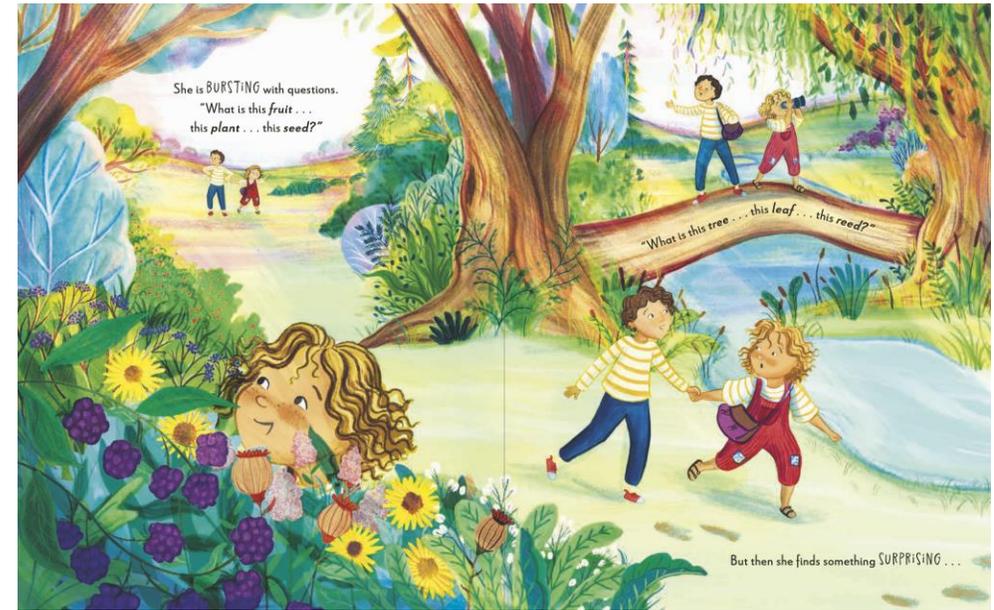
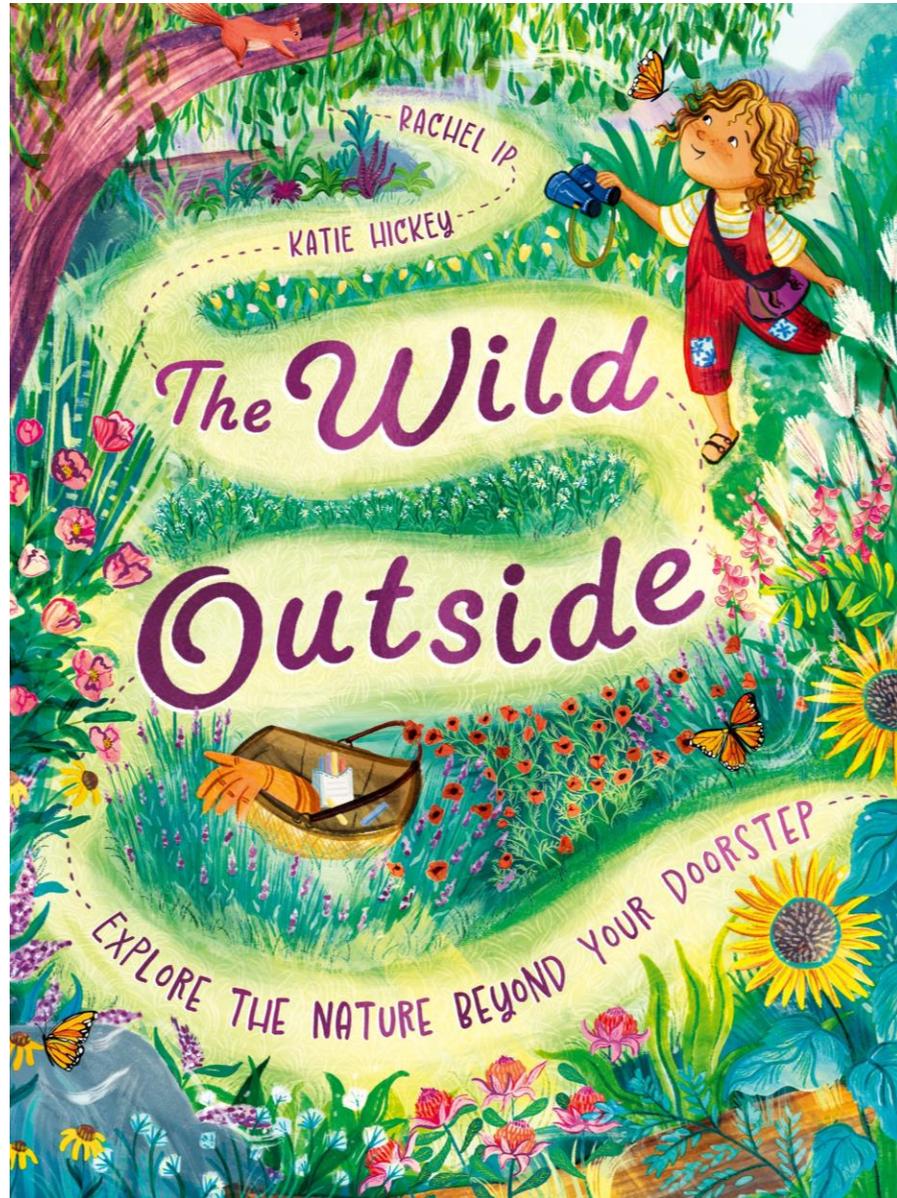
Based on the True Story of  
a Little Owl Named Rockefeller

## The Christmas Owl

By Gideon Sterer & Ellen  
Kalish

Illustrated by  
Ramona Kaulitzki





"Look! My fruit . . . my plant . . . my seed!"

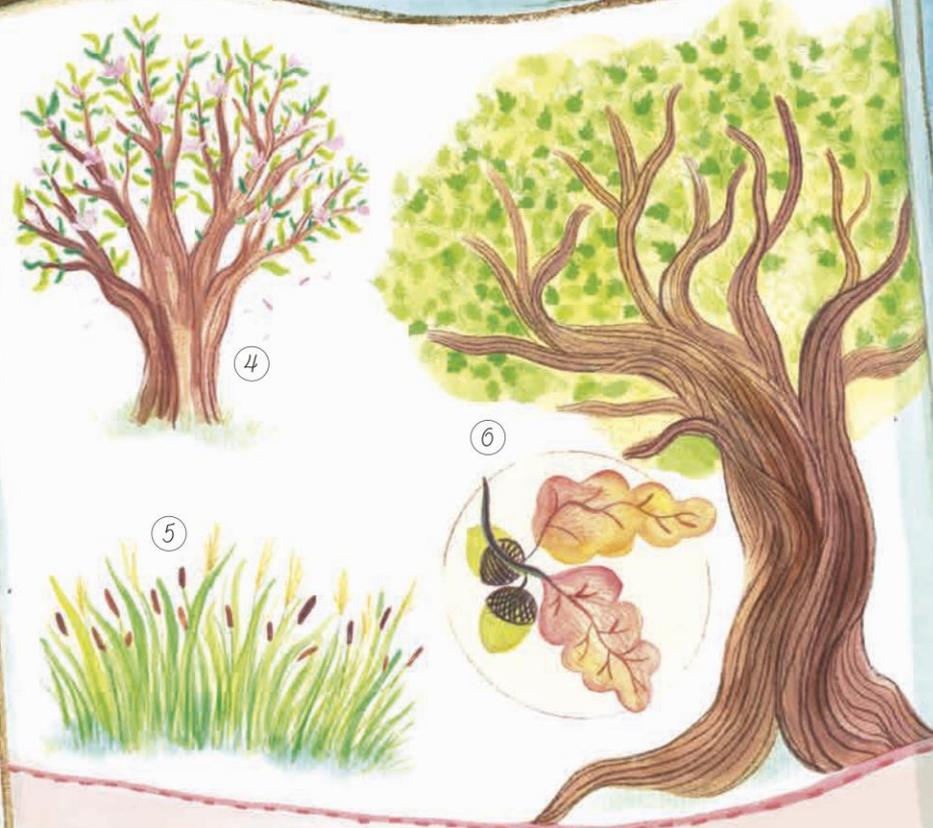


①  
*Japanese Maple*  
Winged "helicopter"  
seeds are called Samara

②  
*Hellebore*  
All parts of the plant  
are poisonous!

③  
*Plum*  
Dried plums are  
called prunes

"My favourite tree . . . my leaf . . . my reed!"

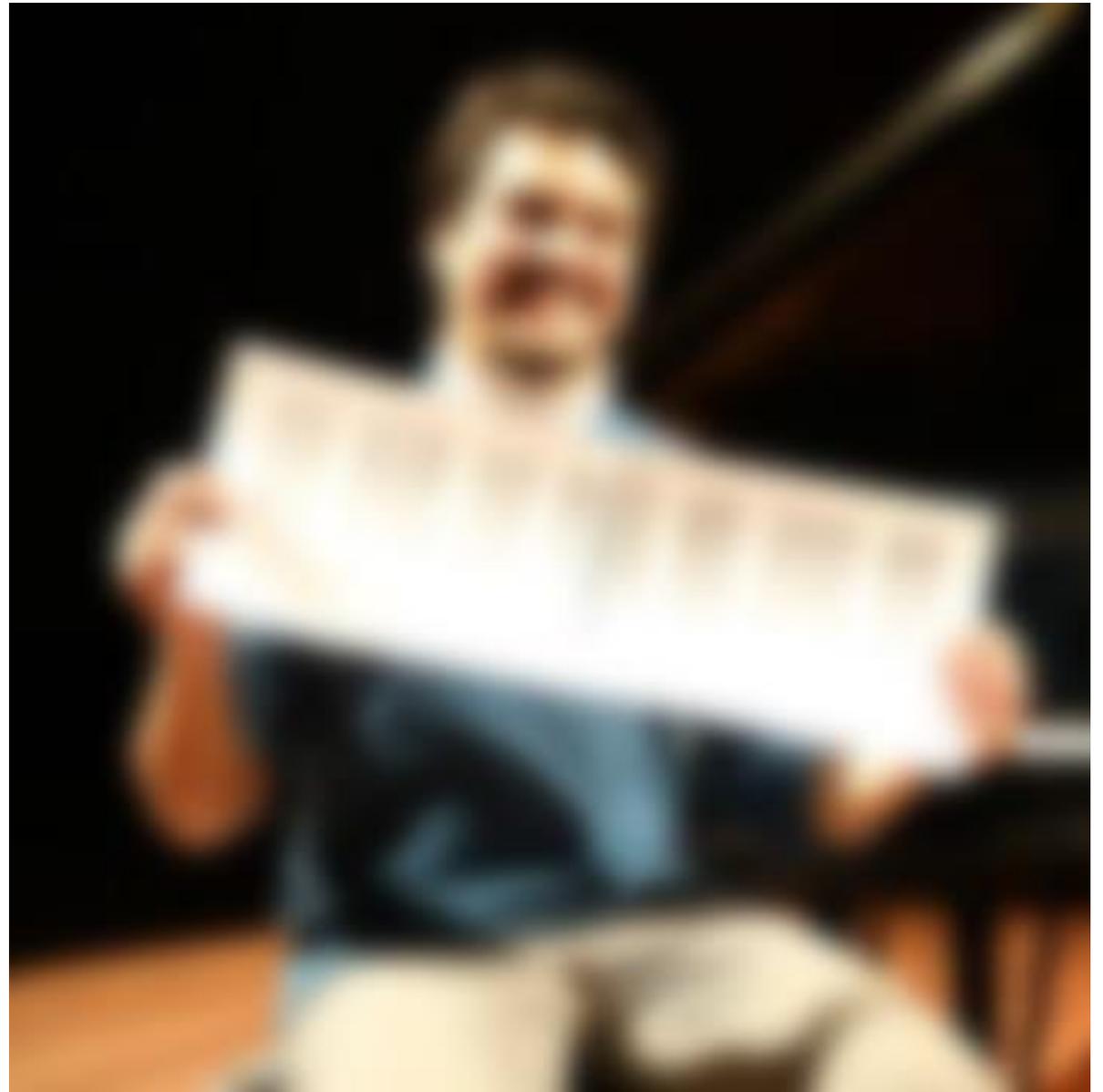


④  
*Magnolia*  
One of the world's first  
flowering plants

⑤  
*Common Reed*  
Used to thatch buildings

⑥  
*Oak*  
Home to more animals than  
any other European tree







He would make himself  
a paper piano!

As soon as he got home,  
he found pencils and paper,  
scissors and sticky tape.

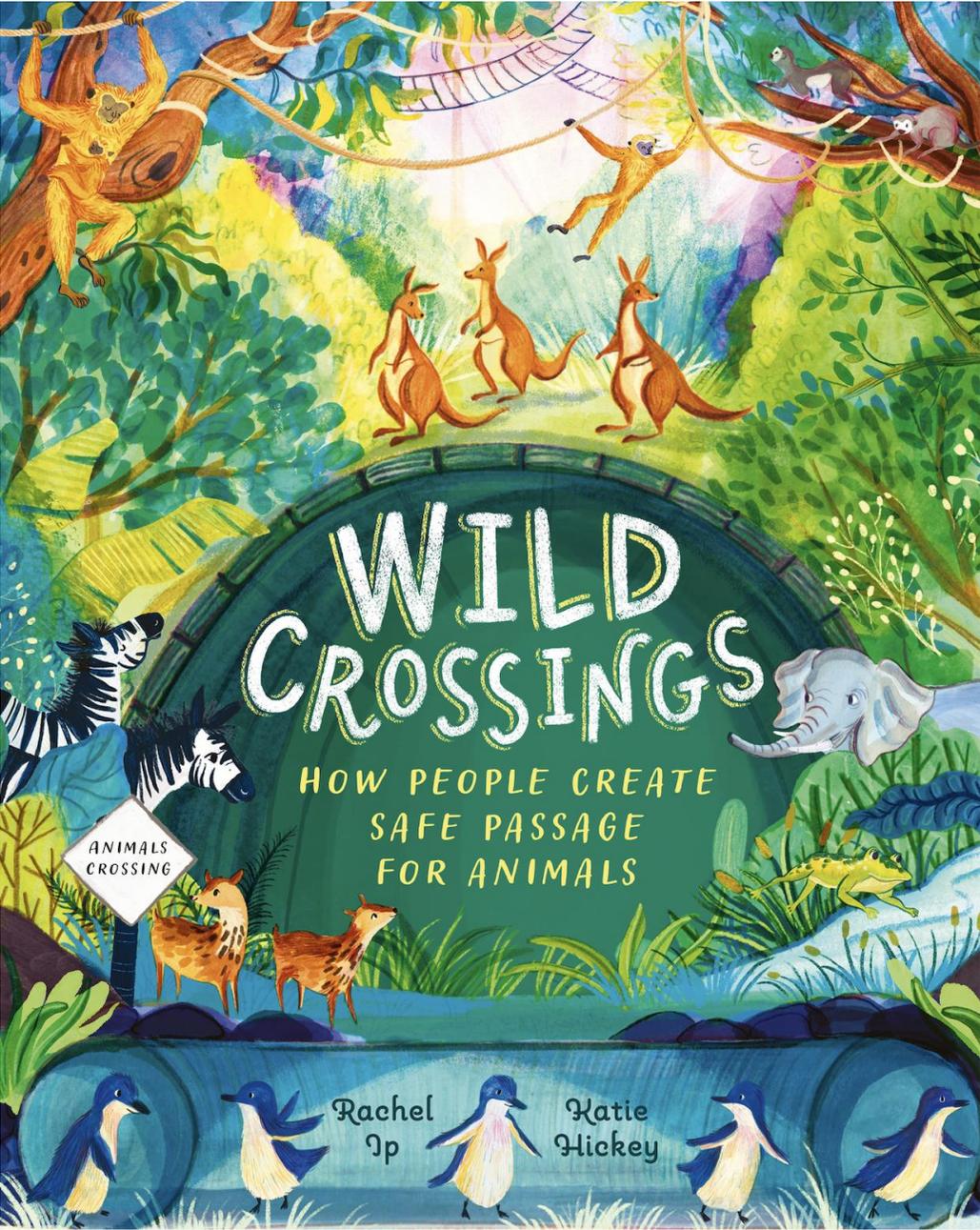
Carefully, he measured  
and drew each key.

Black and white.  
Slightly smudged here and there.  
Some of the lines not quite straight.



An almost perfect  
paper piano.







## SEEKING SAFE PASSAGE

All over the world, animals are constantly on the move. But what happens when man-made barriers get in the way? From motorways and railways to housing developments and gas pipelines, humans have made it harder for animals to follow their natural migration routes, forage for food, find mates and seek safety and shelter.

Ecologists, landscape engineers, conservationists and experts around the world are creating solutions. They're reconnecting wild spaces and helping animals of all shapes and sizes find safe passage.

From tiny toadlets to the world's largest mammals, animals cross over and under, up above and down below, using overpasses, underpasses, rope bridges and ingenious engineering to move between fragmented forests and habitats.





There are fewer than 40 Hainan Gibbons left in the world

One of numerous landslides in the gibbon forest of Bawangling three months after Super Typhoon Rammasun, taken on 24 October 2014.

Photograph taken by L.G.

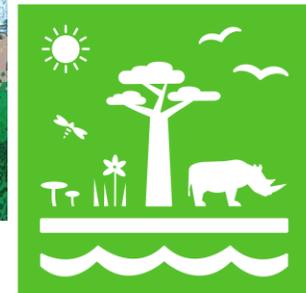


**TARGET 15·C**



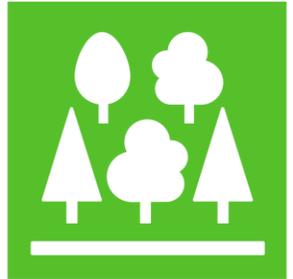
**COMBAT GLOBAL  
POACHING AND  
TRAFFICKING**

**TARGET 15·5**



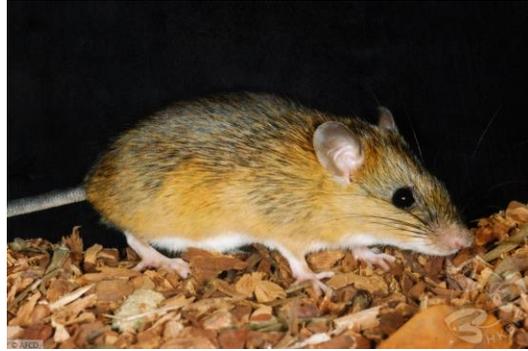
**PROTECT BIODIVERSITY  
AND NATURAL  
HABITATS**

**TARGET 15·2**



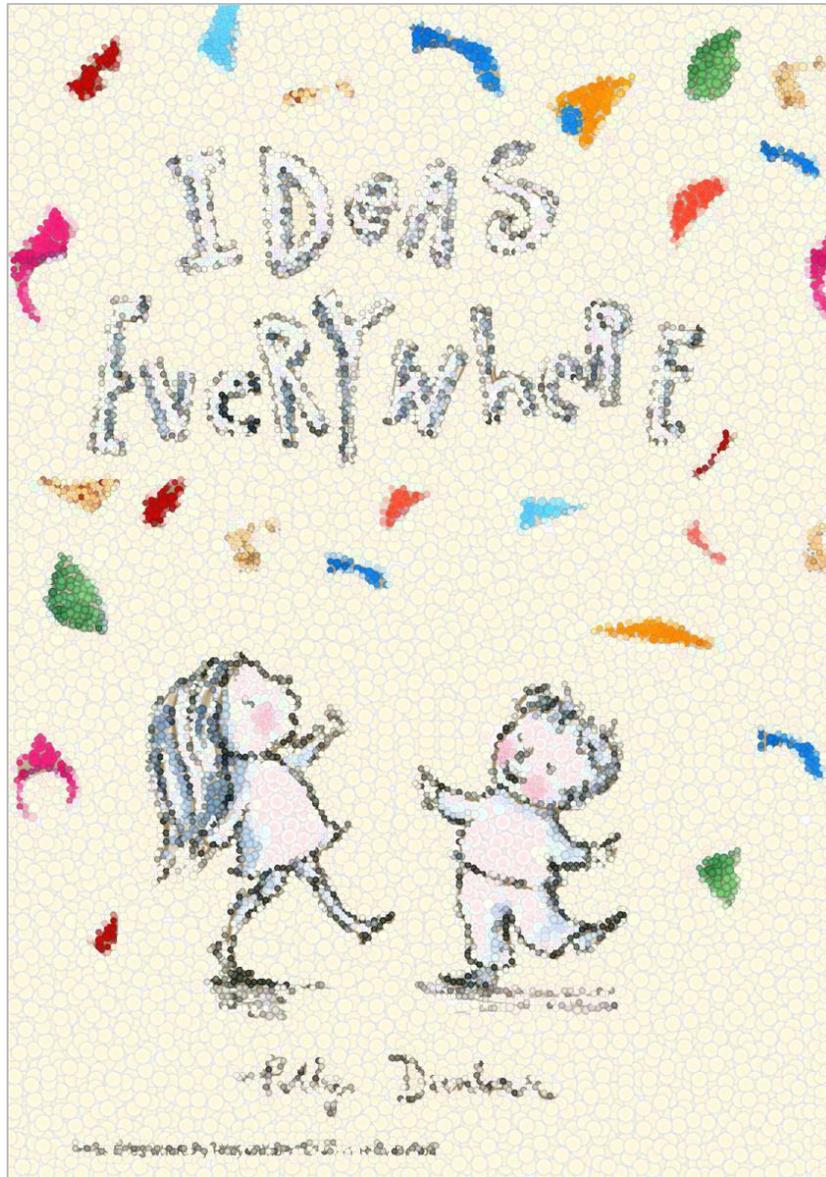
**END DEFORESTATION  
AND RESTORE  
DEGRADED FORESTS**





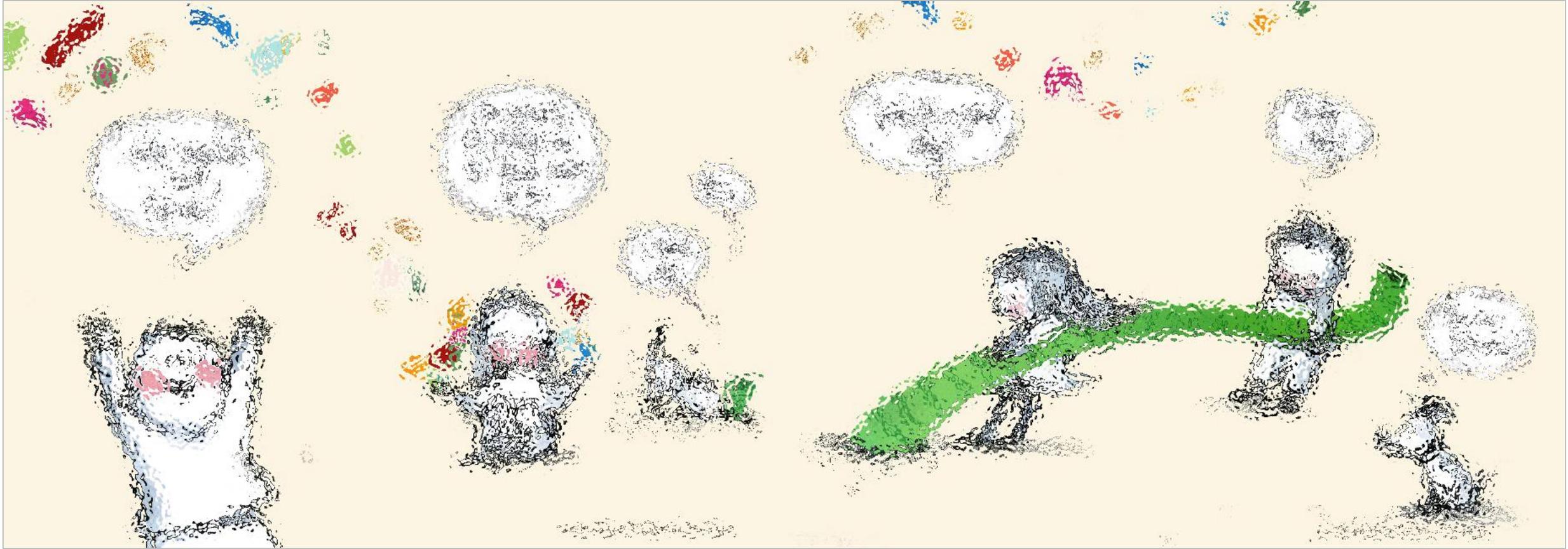






**Ideas Everywhere  
By Polly Dunbar**







# Agenda



Ideas everywhere!



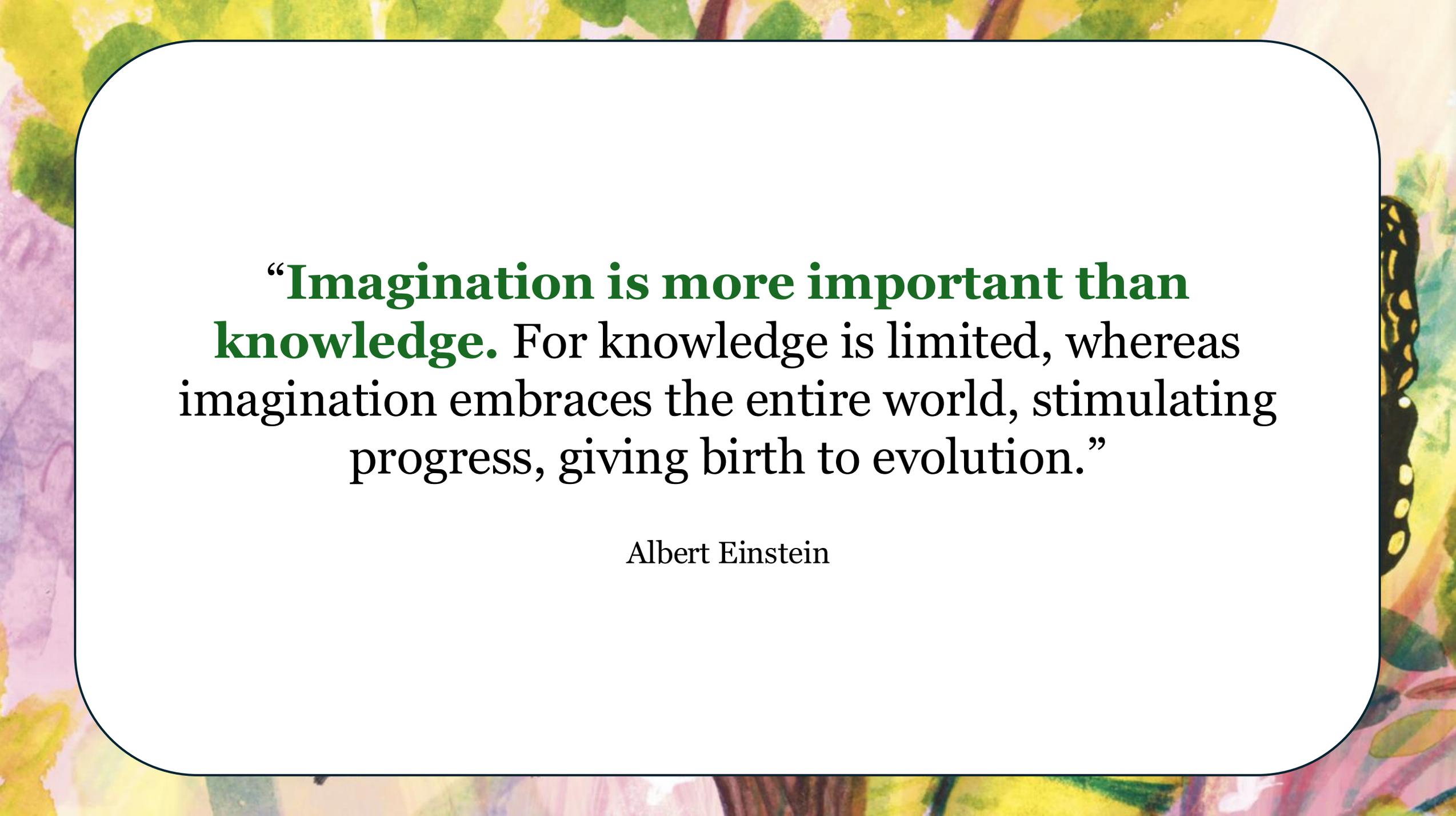
**How stories foster imagination,  
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Finding your voice and connecting with others

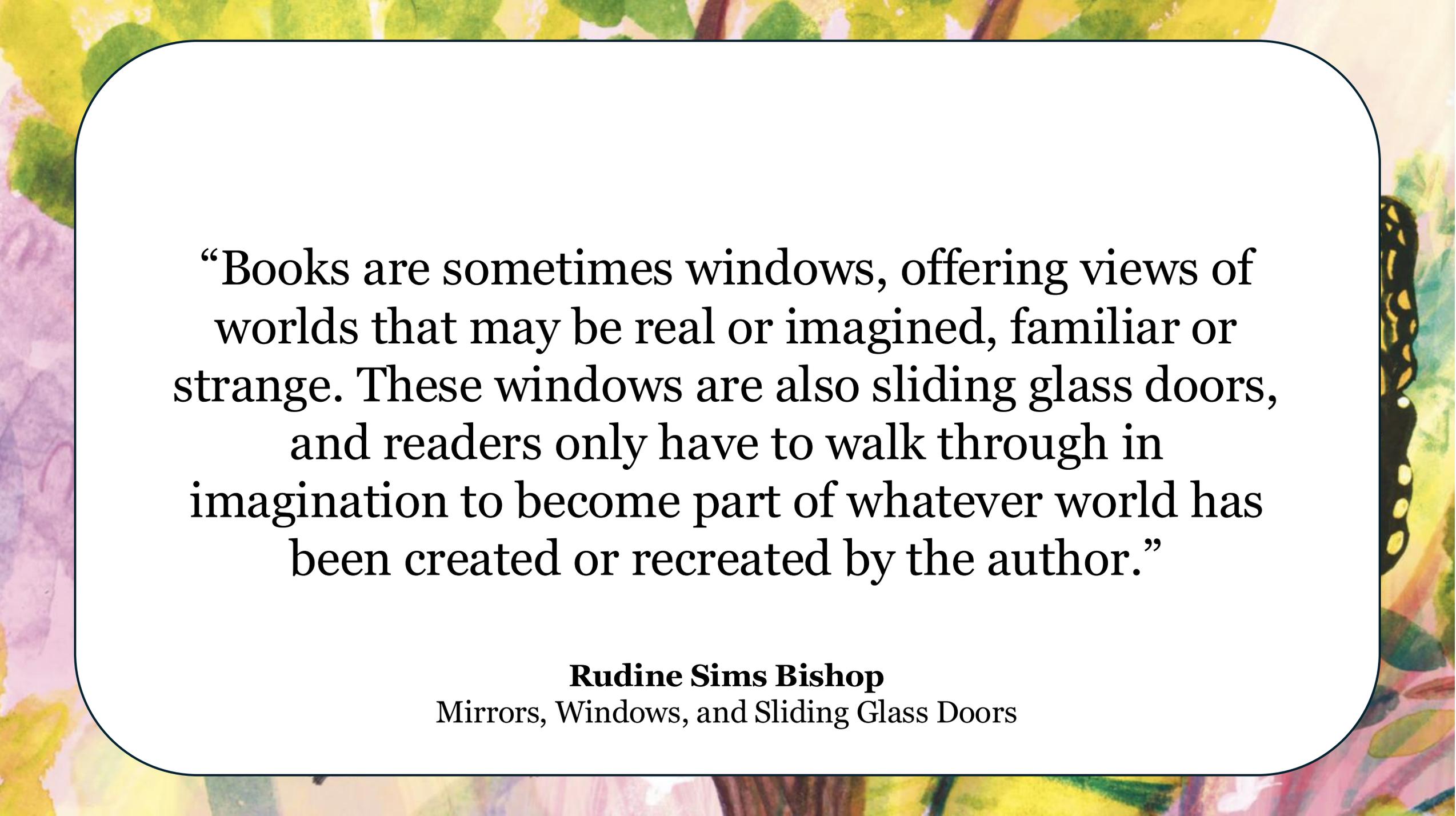


Reading for pleasure



**“Imagination is more important than knowledge.** For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution.”

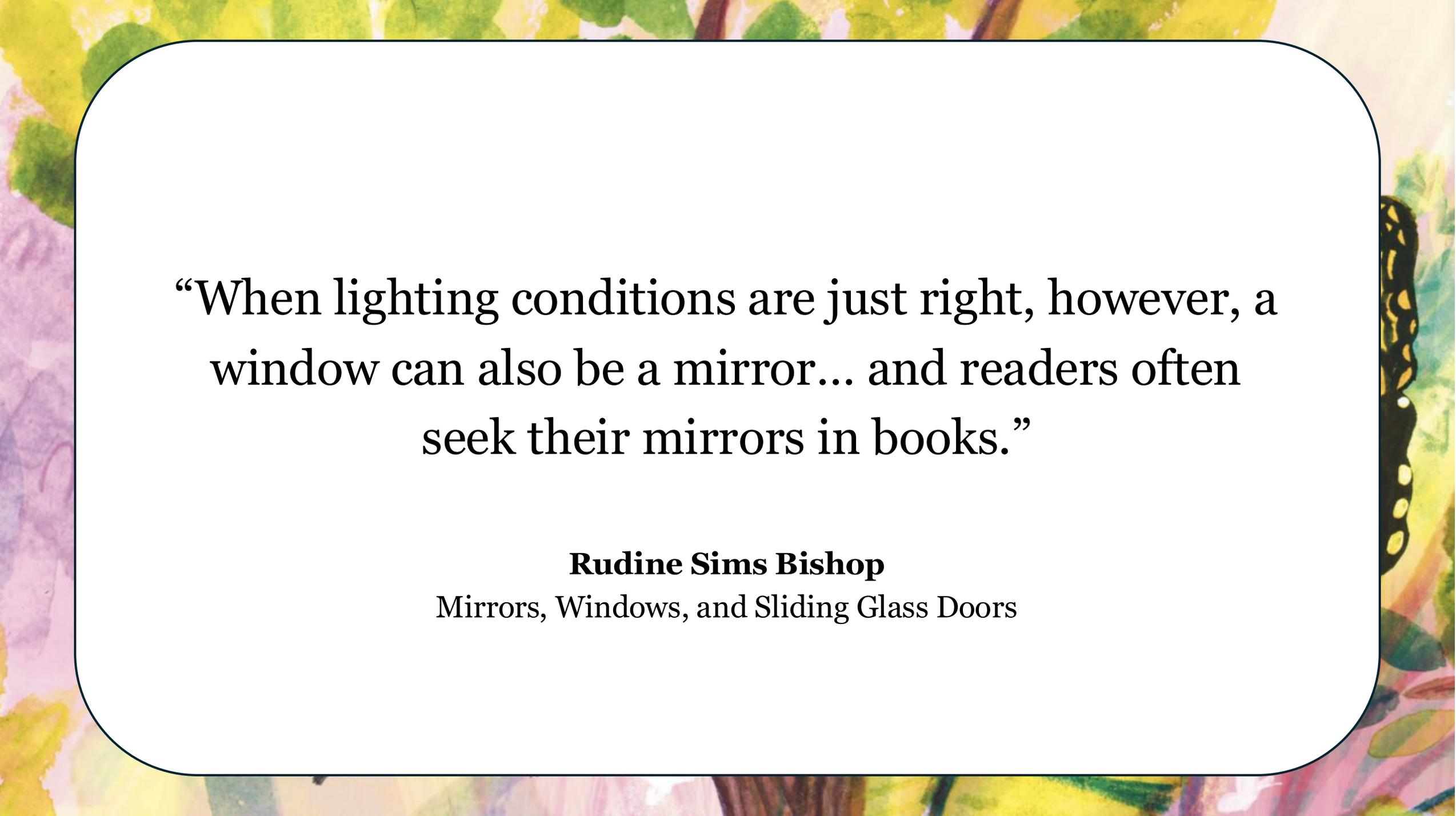
Albert Einstein



“Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers only have to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created or recreated by the author.”

**Rudine Sims Bishop**

Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors

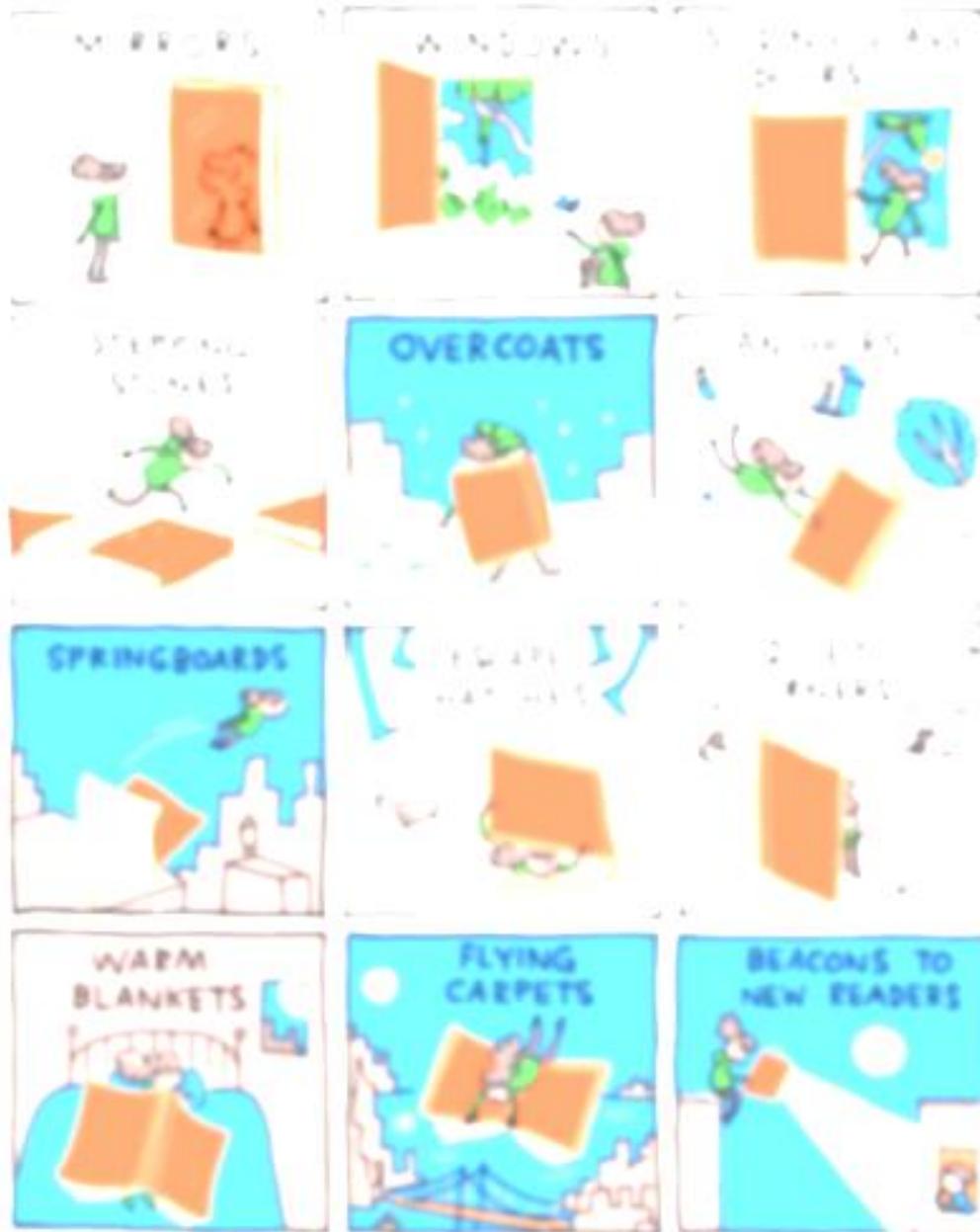


“When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror... and readers often seek their mirrors in books.”

**Rudine Sims Bishop**

Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors

# BOOKS ARE...



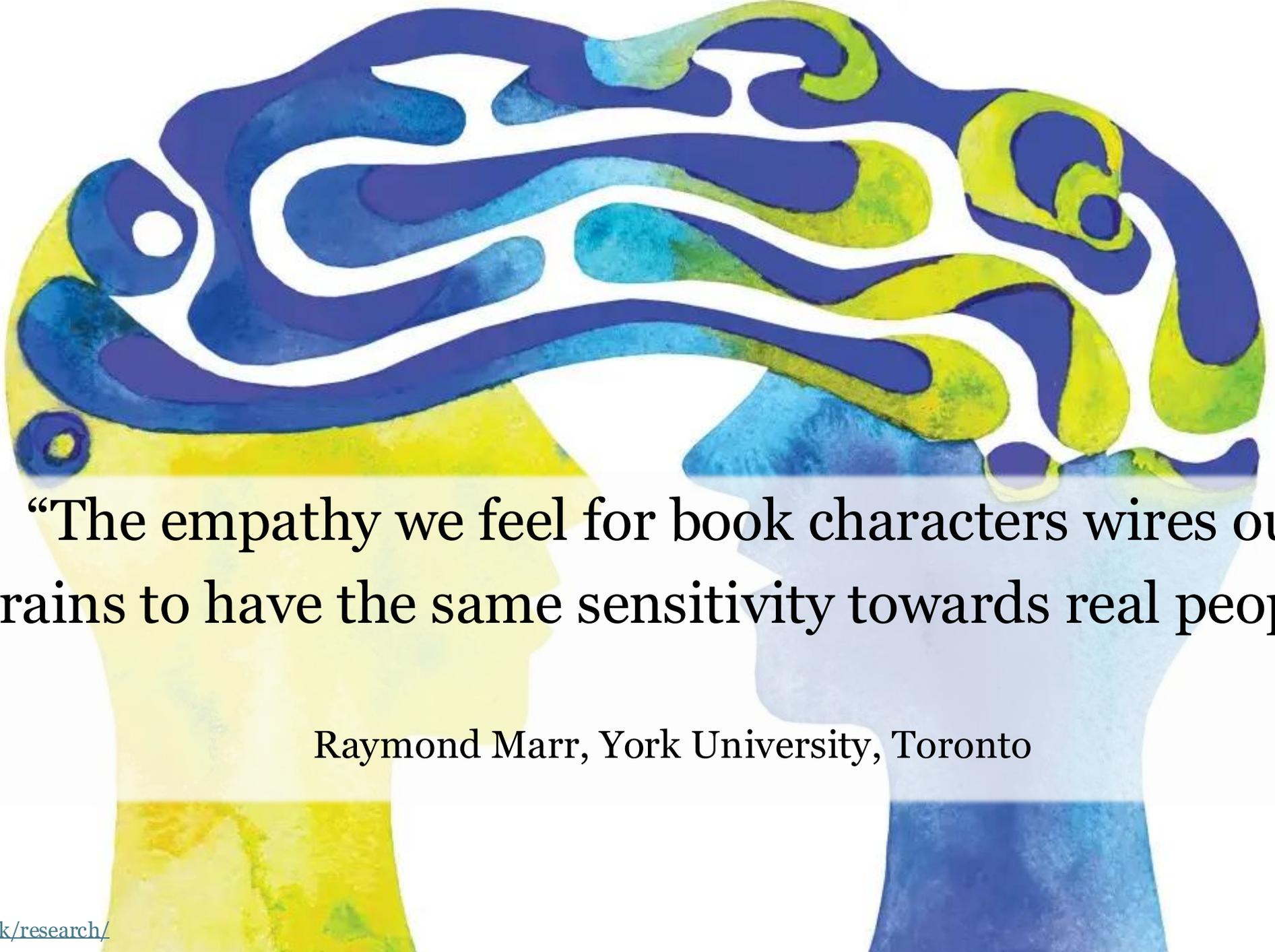
## Poster

BOOKS ARE...

(By Grant Snider)

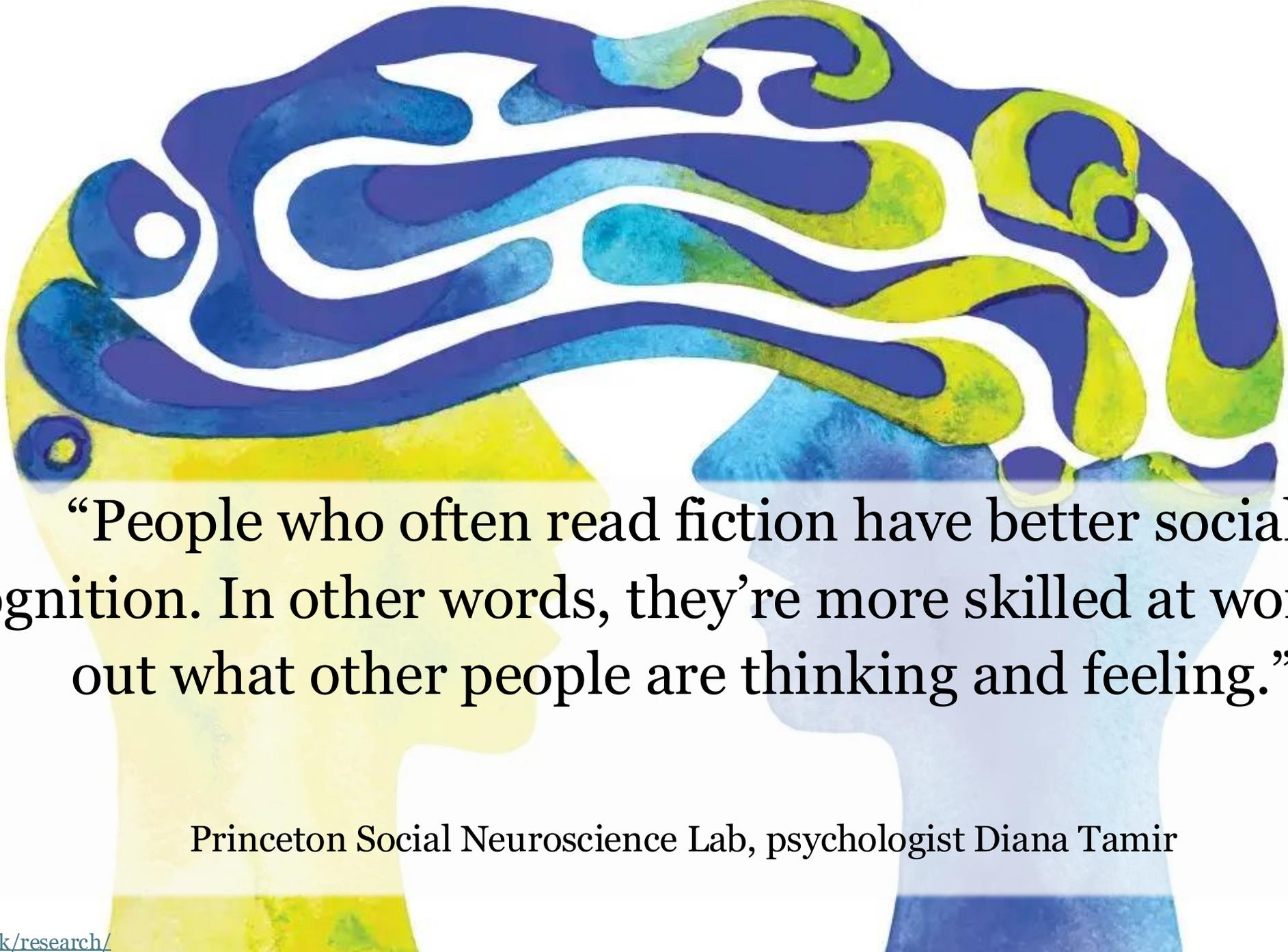
Source:

<https://www.grantsnider.com/>



“The empathy we feel for book characters wires our brains to have the same sensitivity towards real people”

Raymond Marr, York University, Toronto



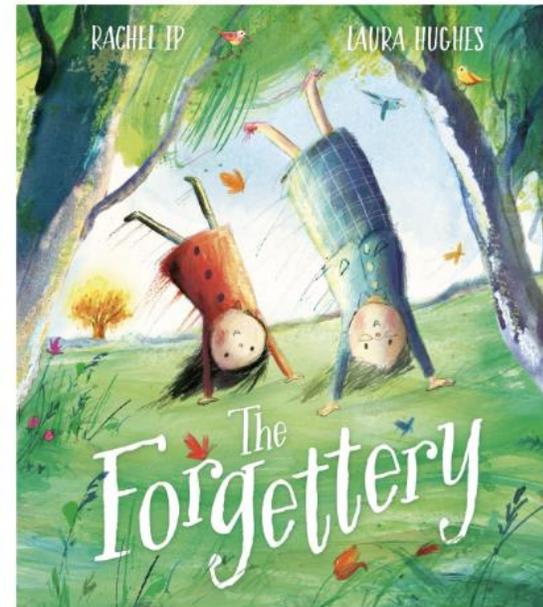
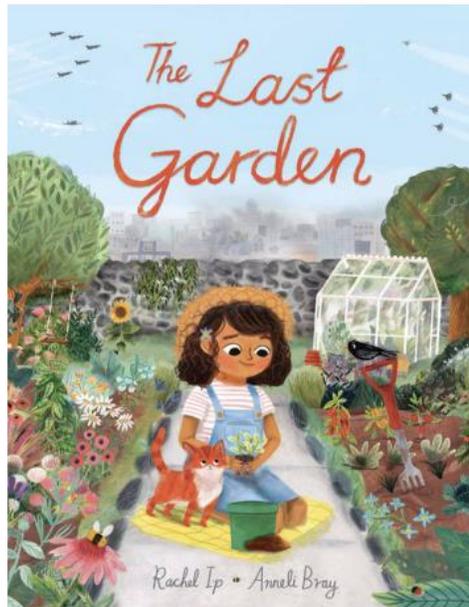
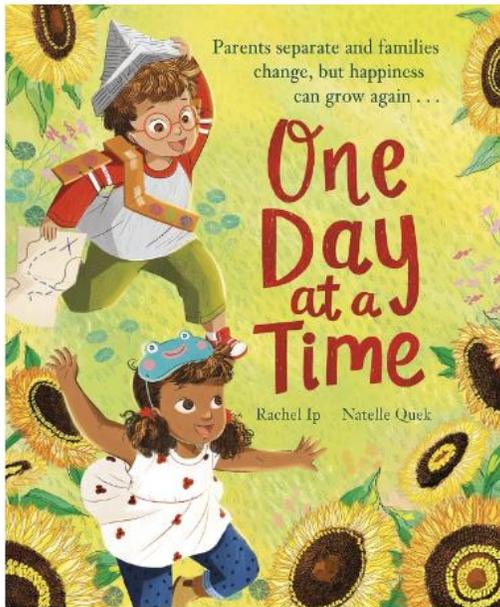
“People who often read fiction have better social cognition. In other words, they’re more skilled at working out what other people are thinking and feeling.”

Princeton Social Neuroscience Lab, psychologist Diana Tamir



“Fiction is the lie through which we tell the truth.”

Albert Camus\*





MARCH 10, 2017



**Life among devastation.** Mohamed Ataya, a 31-year-old known as "Abu Maher", tends to his plants on the rooftop of his damaged building in the Syrian rebel-held town of Arbin, on the outskirts of the capital Damascus. Ataya, who was a professional soccer player before the war, cultivates seeds for sale. Photo: AFP

In the middle of our country there was a city.  
In the middle of the city there was a garden.

The city was grey and sad, but the garden was bright and beautiful.  
Once, before the war came, there were trees on every corner.



Now, this was the last garden left.



She let us climb trees and build dens.

Sometimes we picked fruit and  
helped her water the plants.



We took Zara's flowers home to our broken houses.

We brought her figs and pears  
to our friends in hospital.





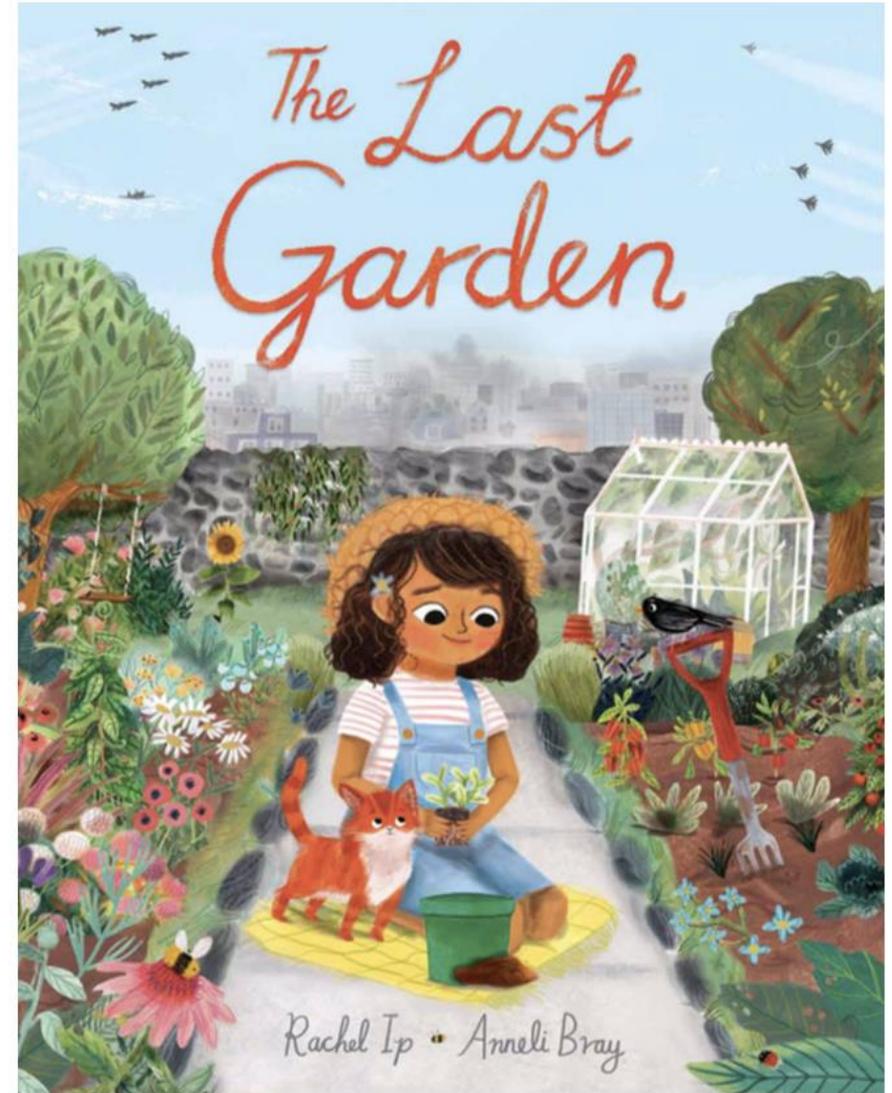
Then one day, we weren't allowed in Zara's garden any more. It wasn't safe to play outside.

Bombs were falling every day and nowhere was safe in our city. Everyone was leaving. We packed up our things because we were leaving too.

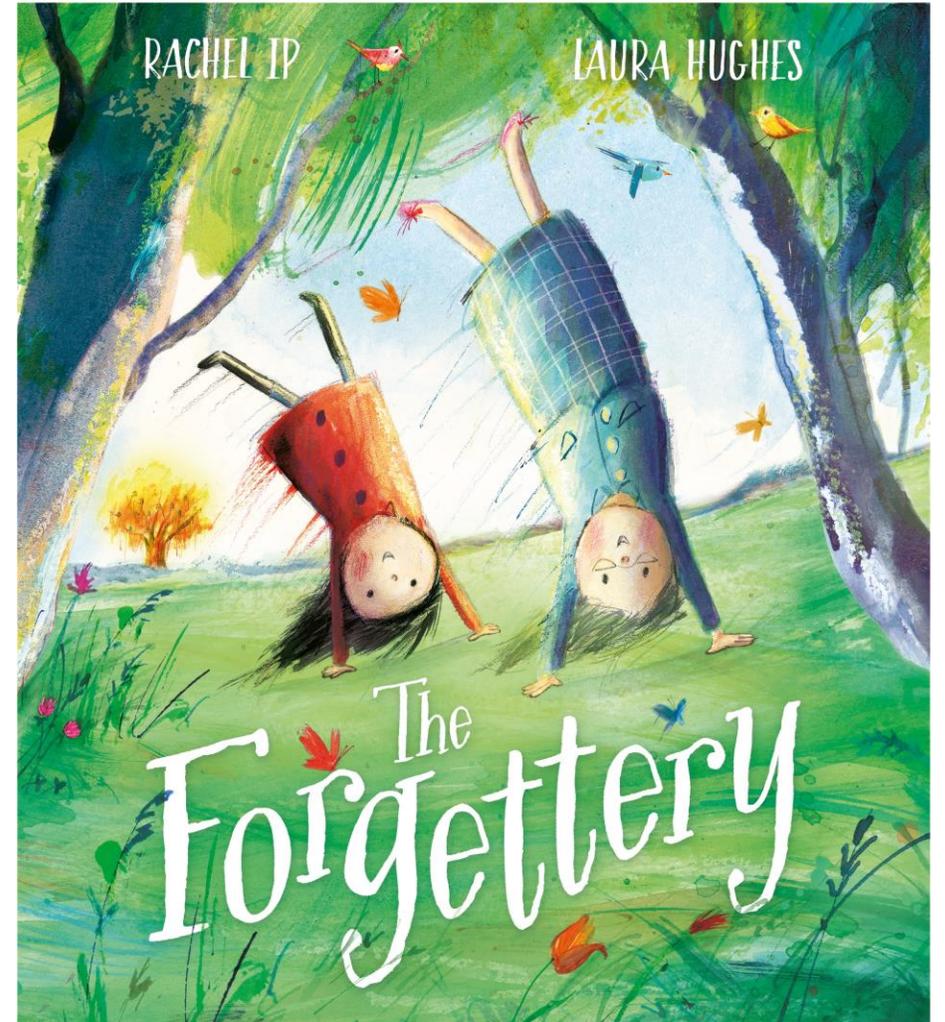


# Migrant or refugee?

- Migrant - A person who moves from one place to another, especially in order to find work or better living conditions.
- Refugee - A refugee is someone who has had to leave their country because it is not safe for them to live there.



Where do forgotten things go?



Granny's Forgettery was huge because she was very forgetful.

*She smiled as her memories washed around her.*



Moments of delight,  
lost and forgotten, fluttering in the room  
like butterflies. Paper thin and delicate.

When they got home, Amelia started making a book with all the memories Granny had collected at The Forgettery.

She added names and photos to help Granny remember.



# Agenda



Ideas everywhere!



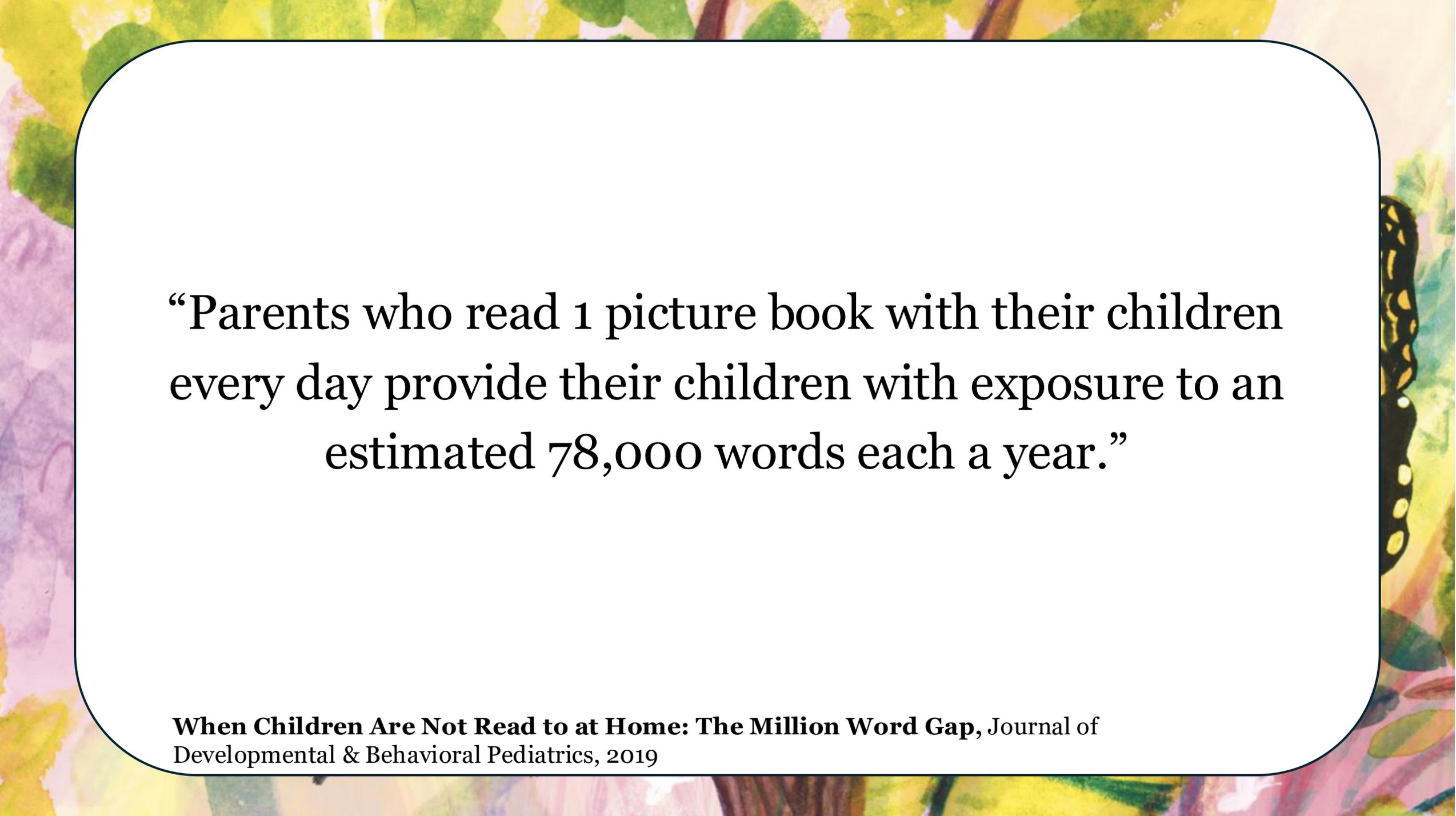
How stories foster imagination, empathy  
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**Finding your voice and connecting with others**



Reading for pleasure

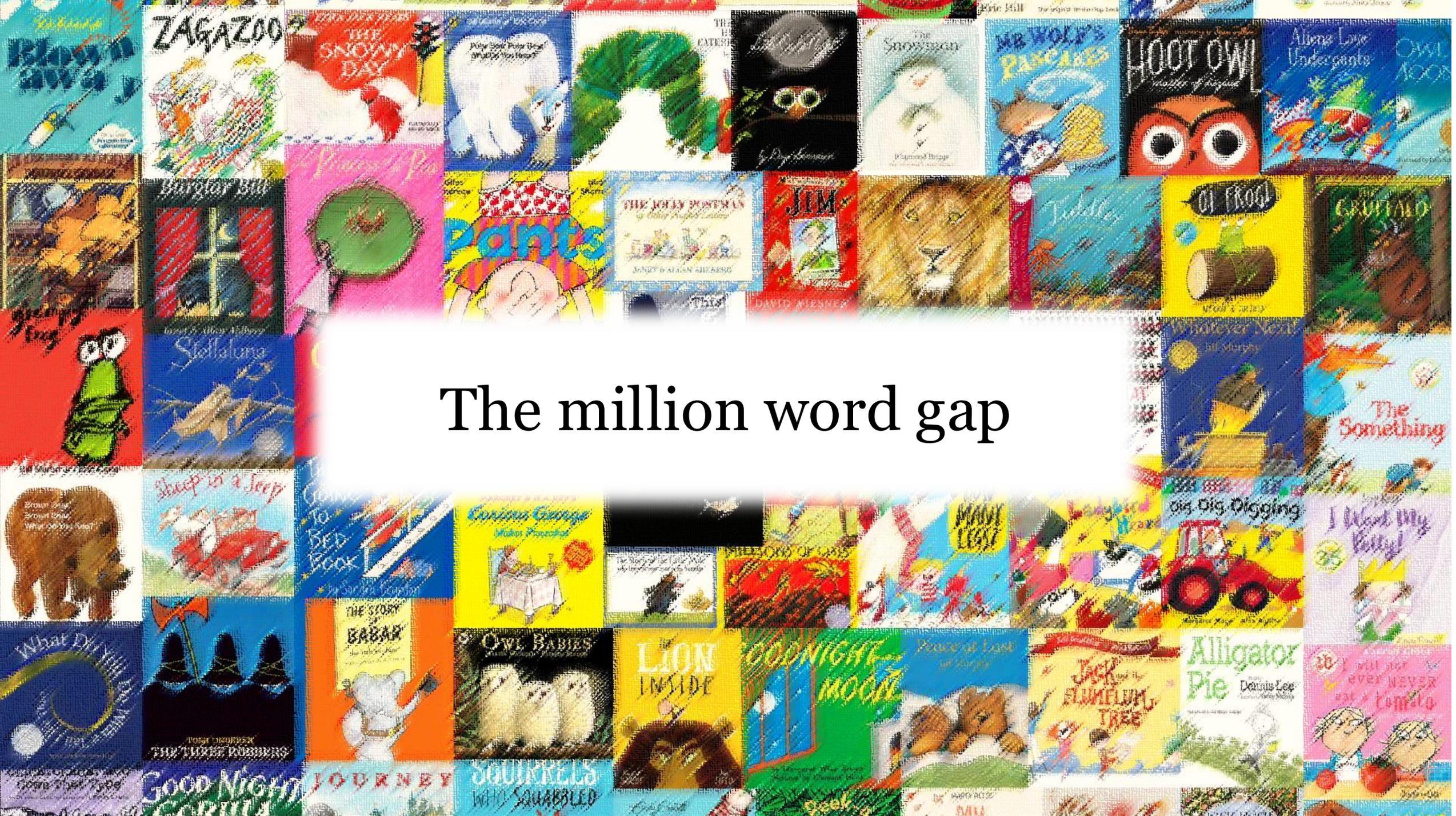


“Parents who read 1 picture book with their children every day provide their children with exposure to an estimated 78,000 words each a year.”

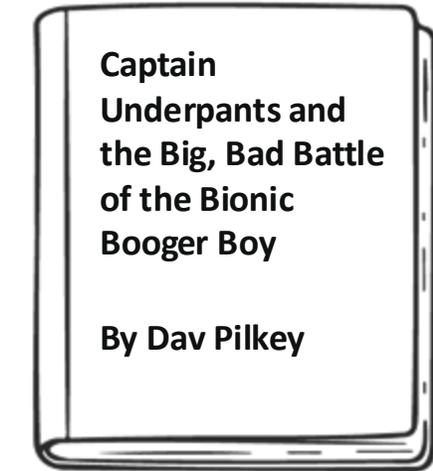
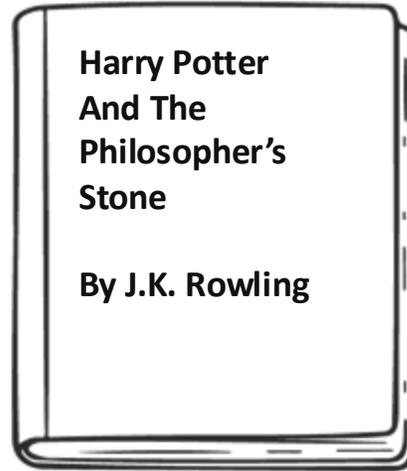
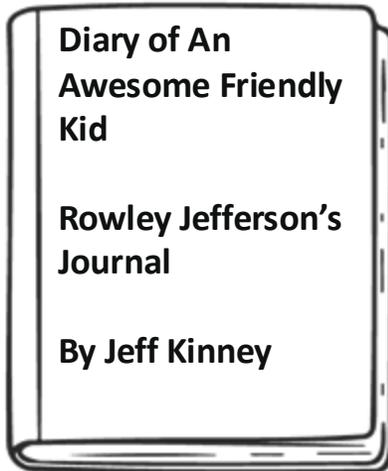
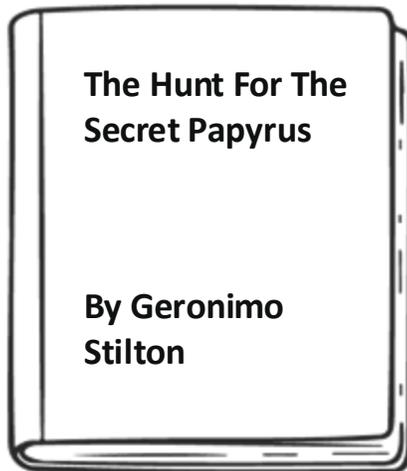
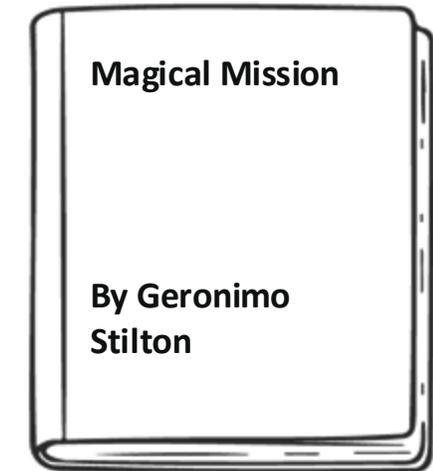
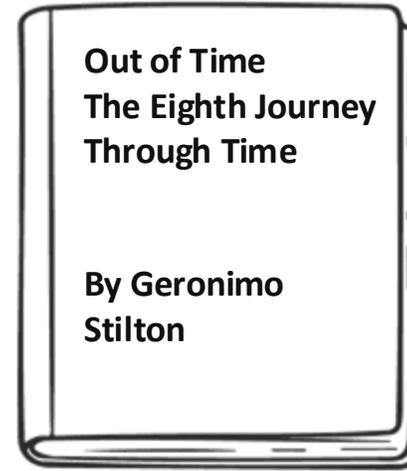
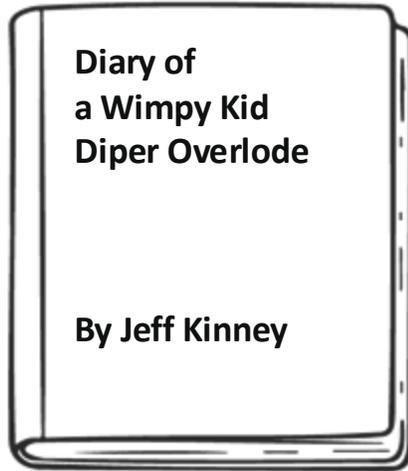
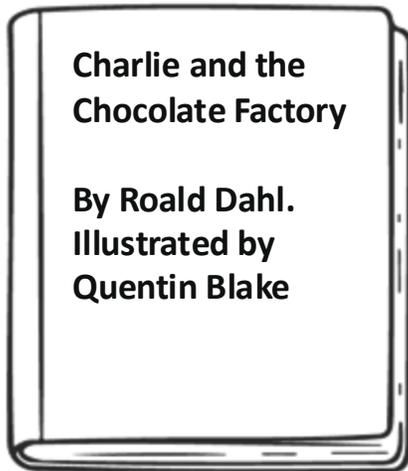
**When Children Are Not Read to at Home: The Million Word Gap**, Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, 2019

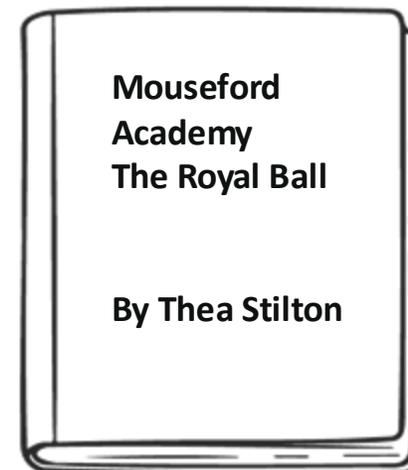
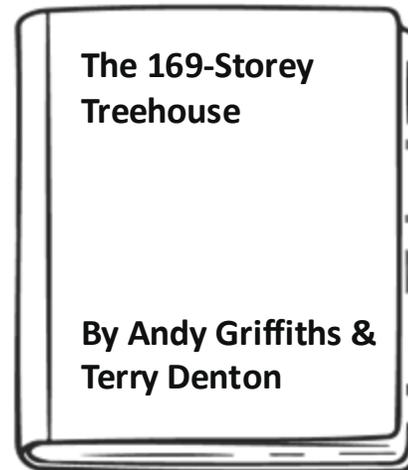
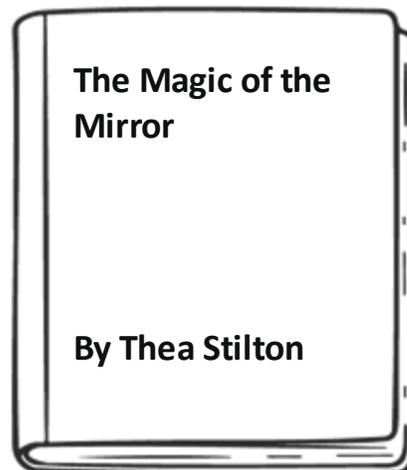
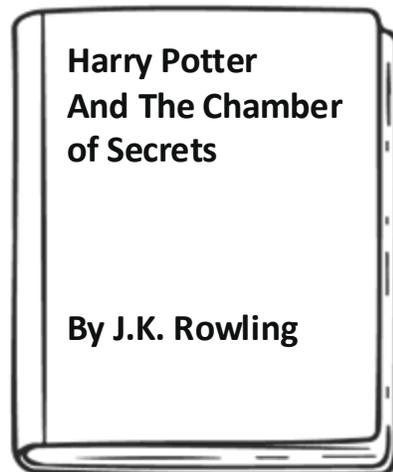
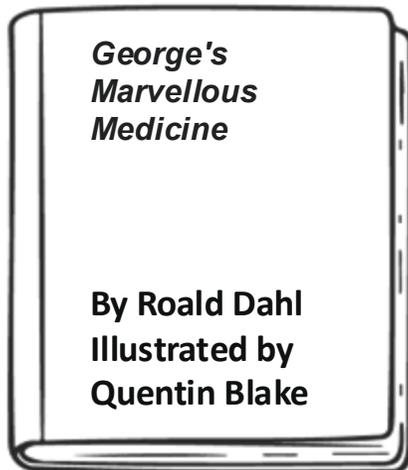
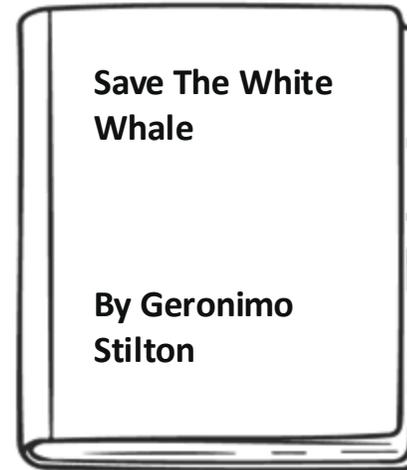
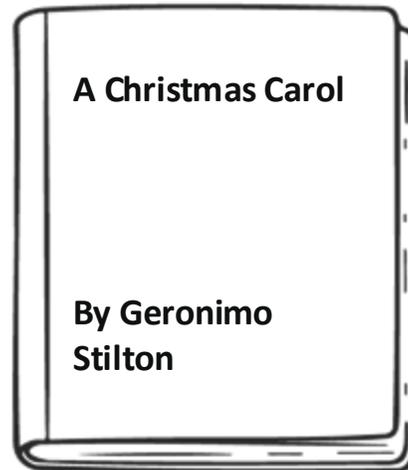
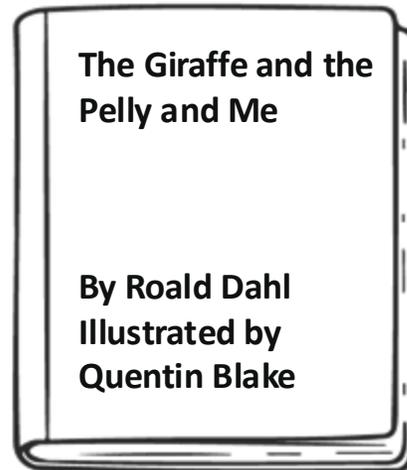
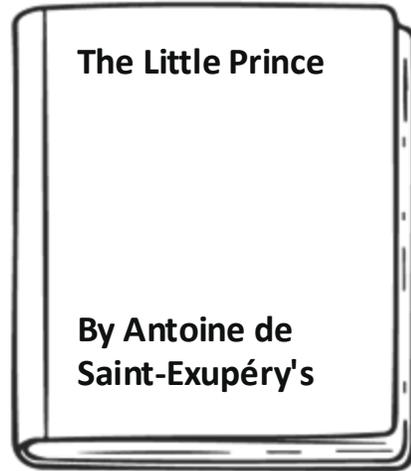
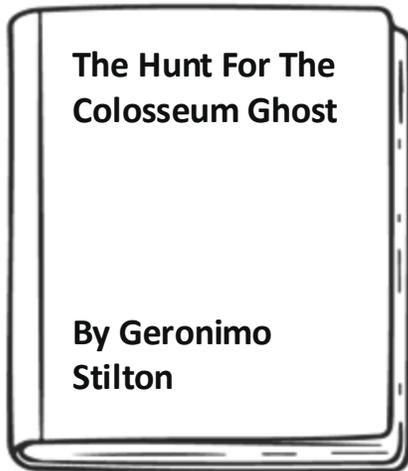
“Cumulatively, over the 5 years before kindergarten entry, we estimate that **children from literacy-rich homes hear a cumulative 1.4 million more words during storybook reading than children who are never read to.**”

**When Children Are Not Read to at Home: The Million Word Gap**, Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, 2019



# The million word gap





# Environmental print



What do we read  
in 24 hours?



Newspapers



Magazines



Books



Posters



Signs



Packaging

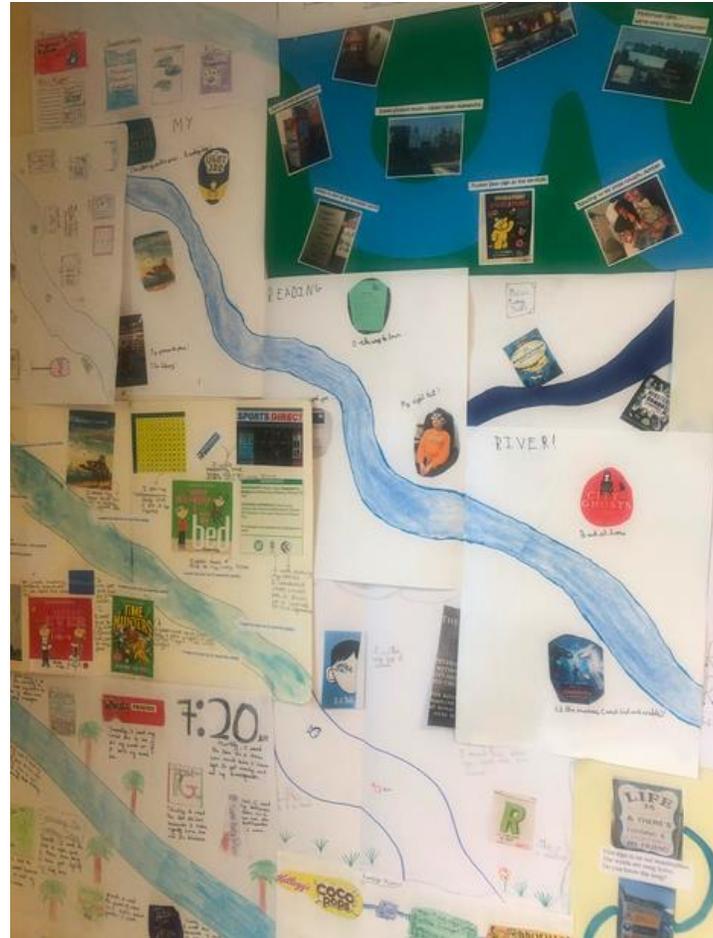
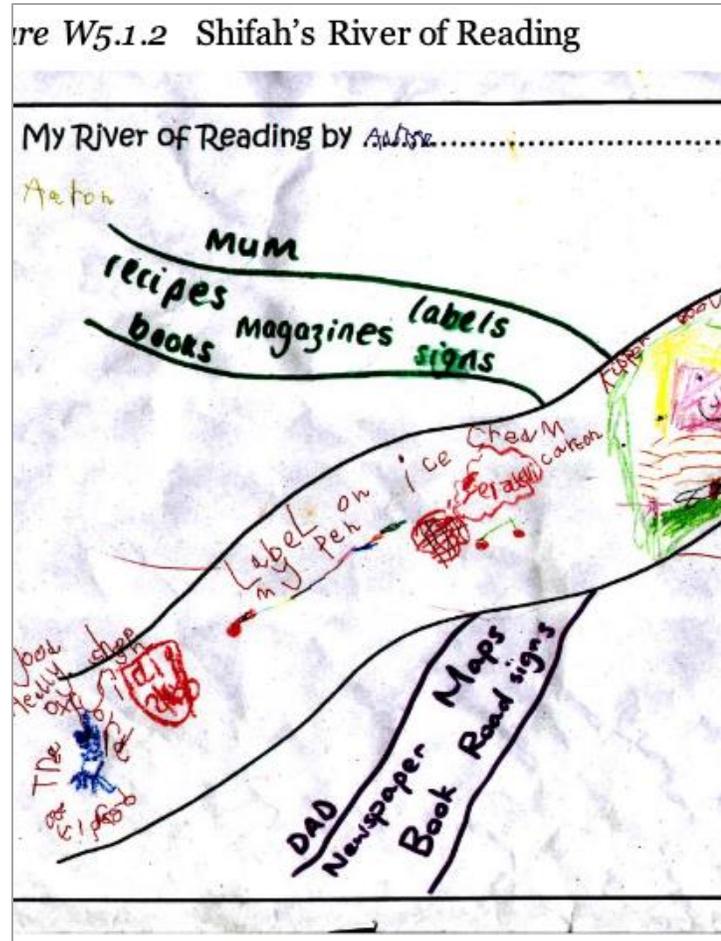


Email



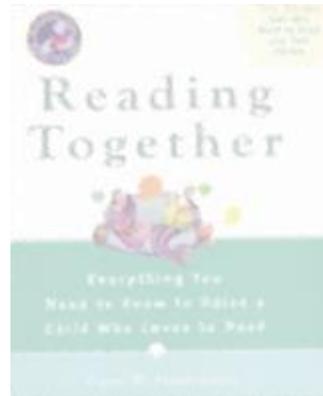
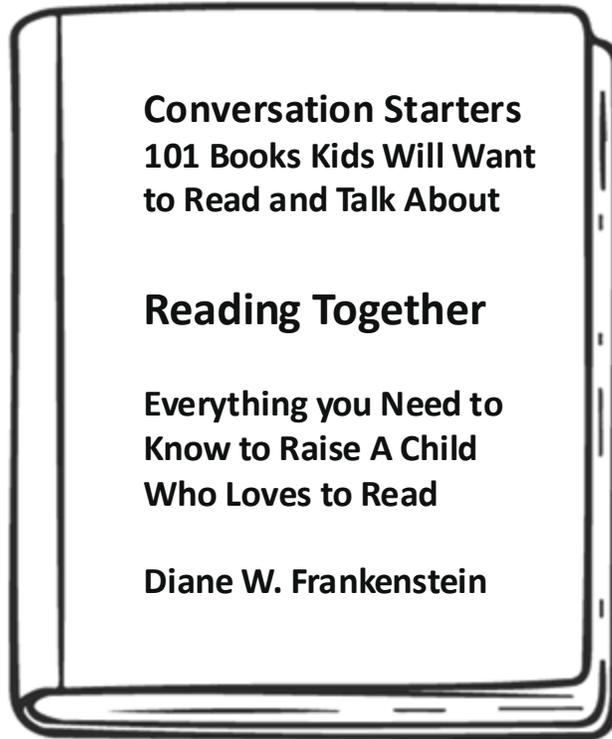
Social  
media

# Reading rivers



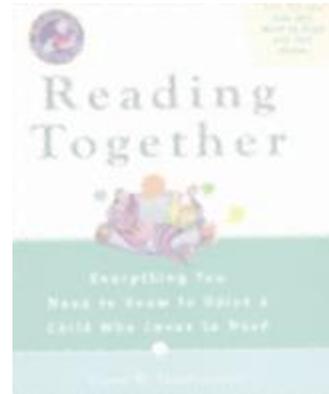
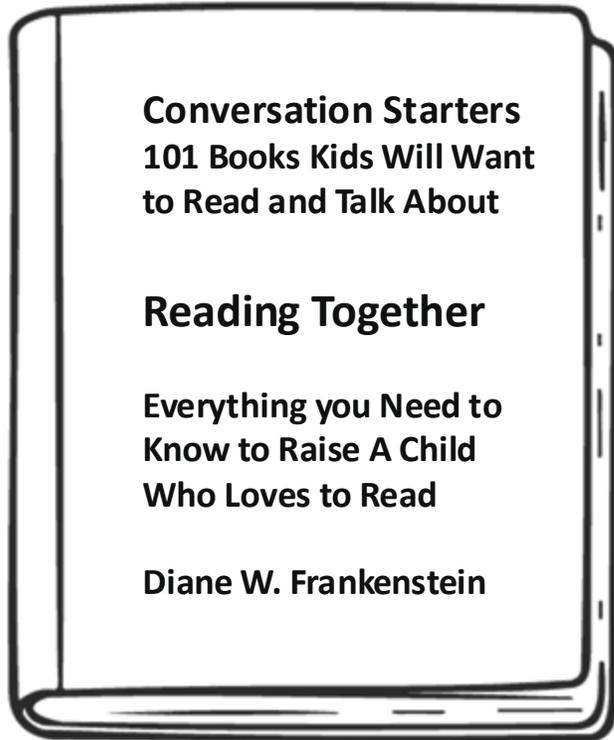
What do we read  
in 24 hours?

# Conversation starters



- Tell the story just by looking at the pictures
- What on the first page keeps you reading?
- Which character are you most curious about?
- Tell me the story in your own words
- How do the characters change from the beginning of the story to the end?
- Which character changes most in the story?
- Which character has not changed?
- How would the story be different if...?
- Which character would you want to be your friend?
- Is there a character you dislike?
- If you could invite one character to dinner, who would it be?
- Who is the most important character in the story?

# Conversation starters

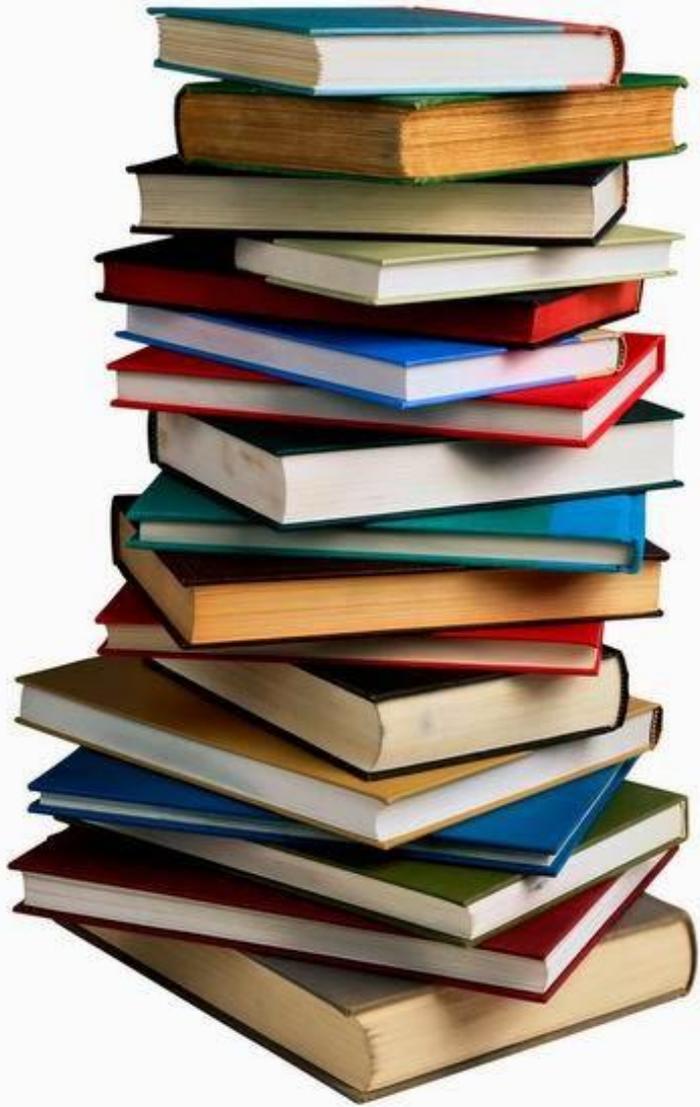


- Who is telling the story? How would another character tell the story?
- How would the story be different if a boy/girl told the story?
- What would you do in this situation?
- What title would you give the story?
- Using only eight words, what is the plot of this story? Do you like the ending of the story? If not, How would you end the story?
- Does the ending fit the story?
- Does the story call for a sequel?
- What other books does this story make you think of?
- What are you curious about at the end of the story?

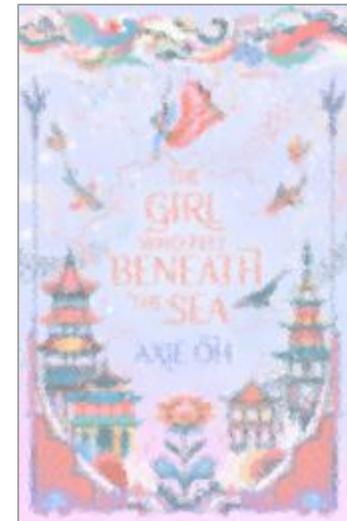
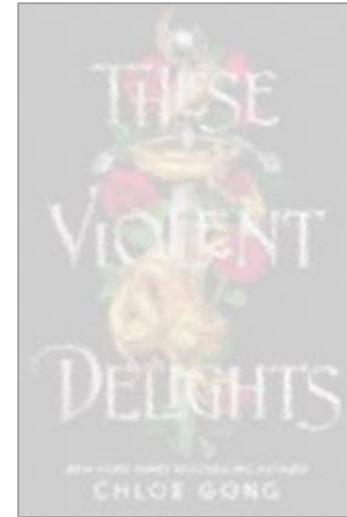
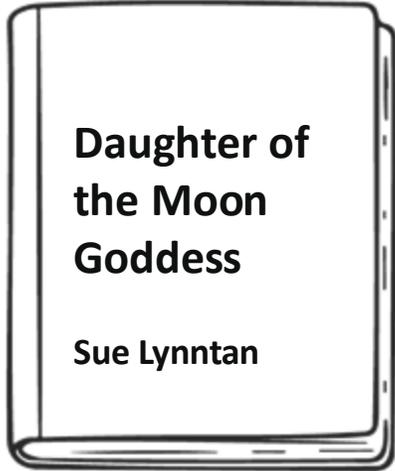
# Reading for Pleasure

“These questions generated in a group will enable us to access meanings, ideas and feelings that are expressed in a book. We can always feed into this talk or follow this talk with information, knowledge, categories and terminologies that we, as teachers and adults have. **This kind of free exploration does not preclude the kinds of knowledge that are required by the curriculum or by exams. It’s a bridge to it, if needed or necessary.**”

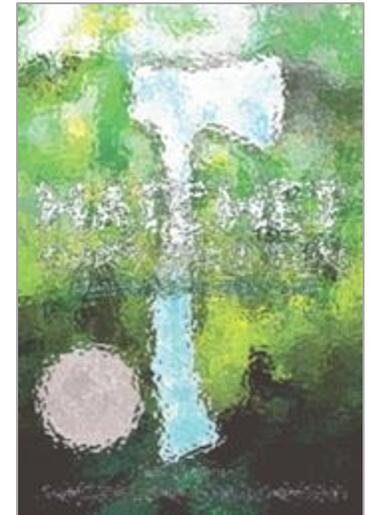
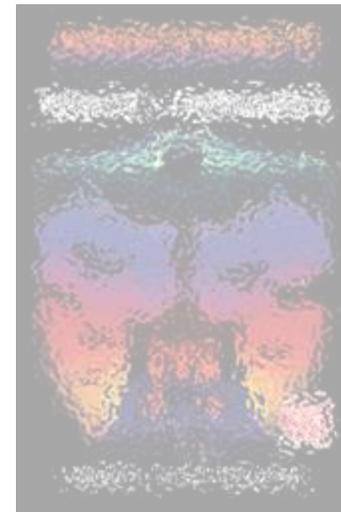
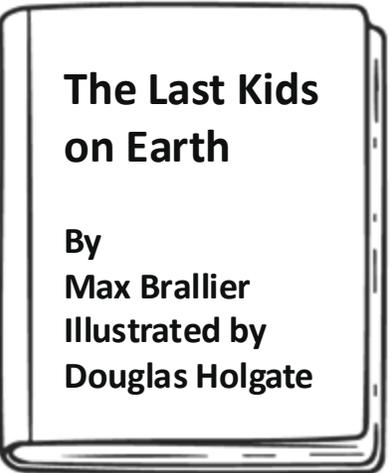
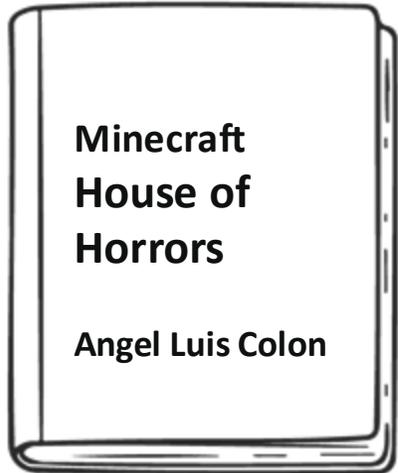
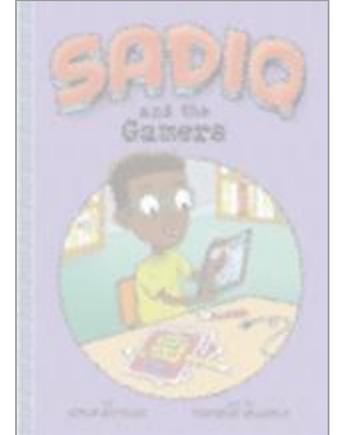
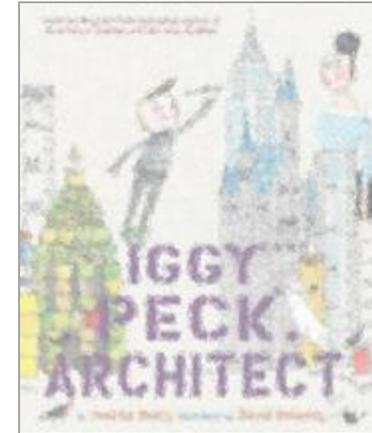
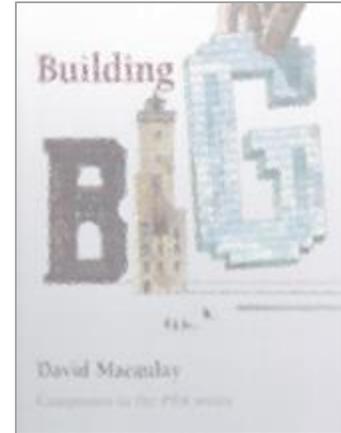
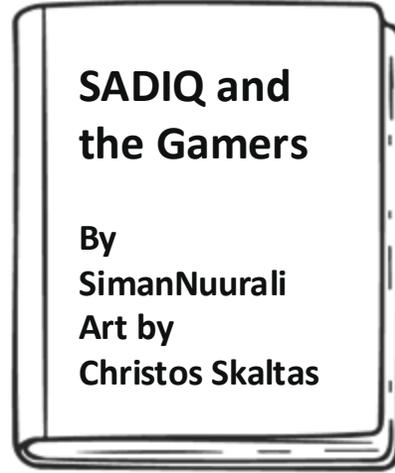
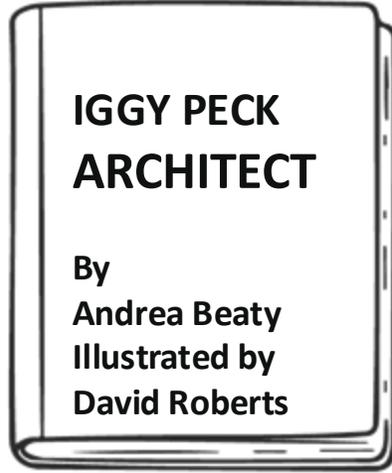
Michael Rosen



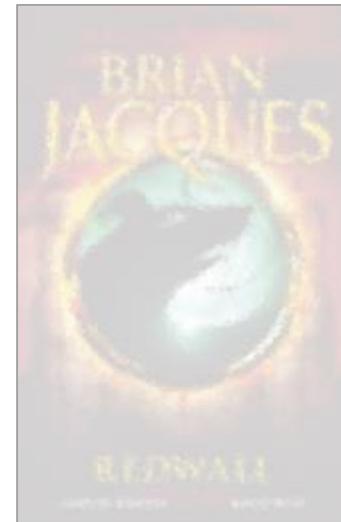
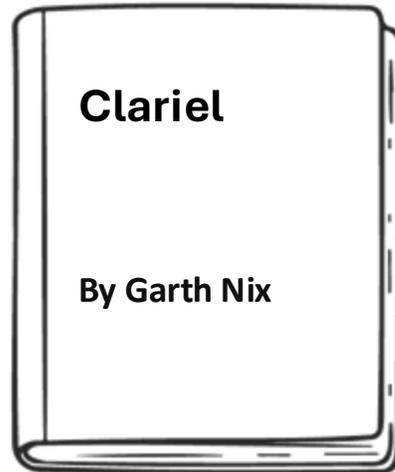
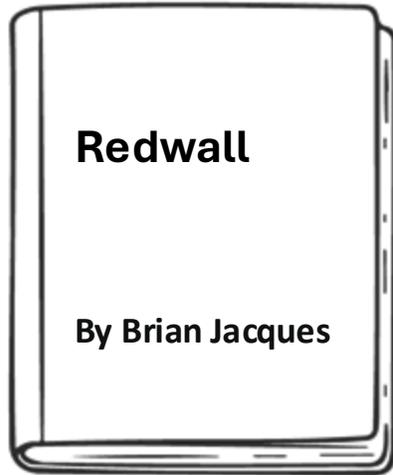
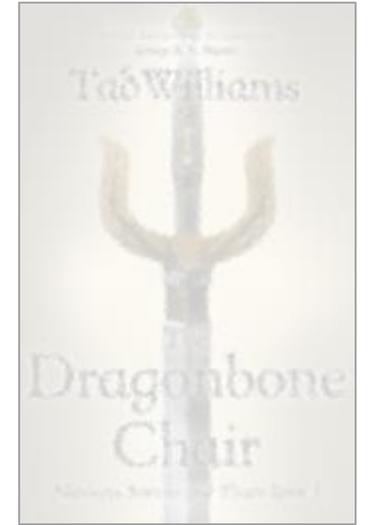
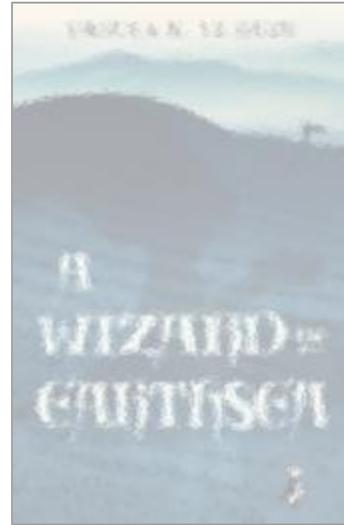
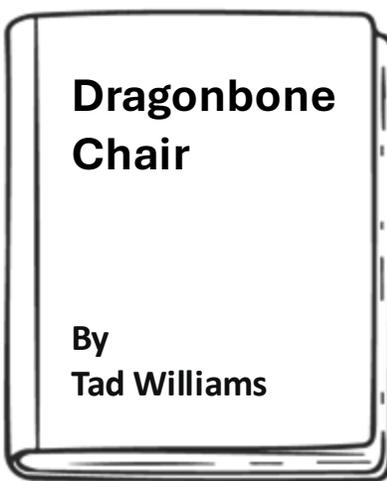
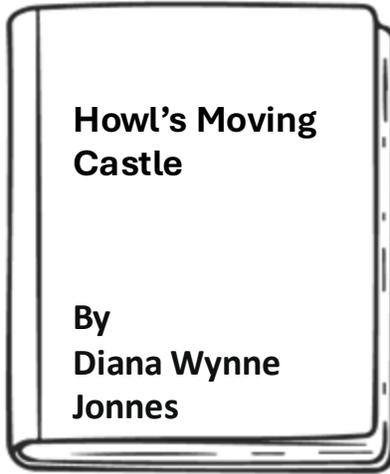
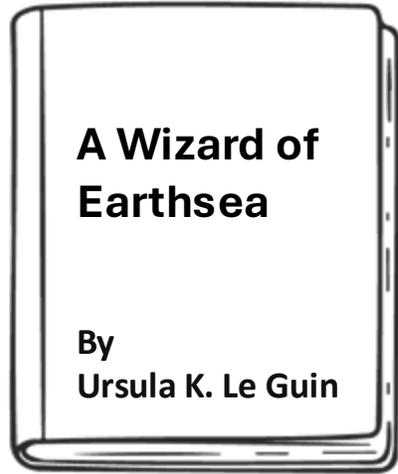
K-Pop Demon Hunters &  
Books that explore Korean or Chinese mythology



Minecraft &  
Books about Construction and Gaming



Zelda &  
Quest Stories



# Agenda



Ideas everywhere!



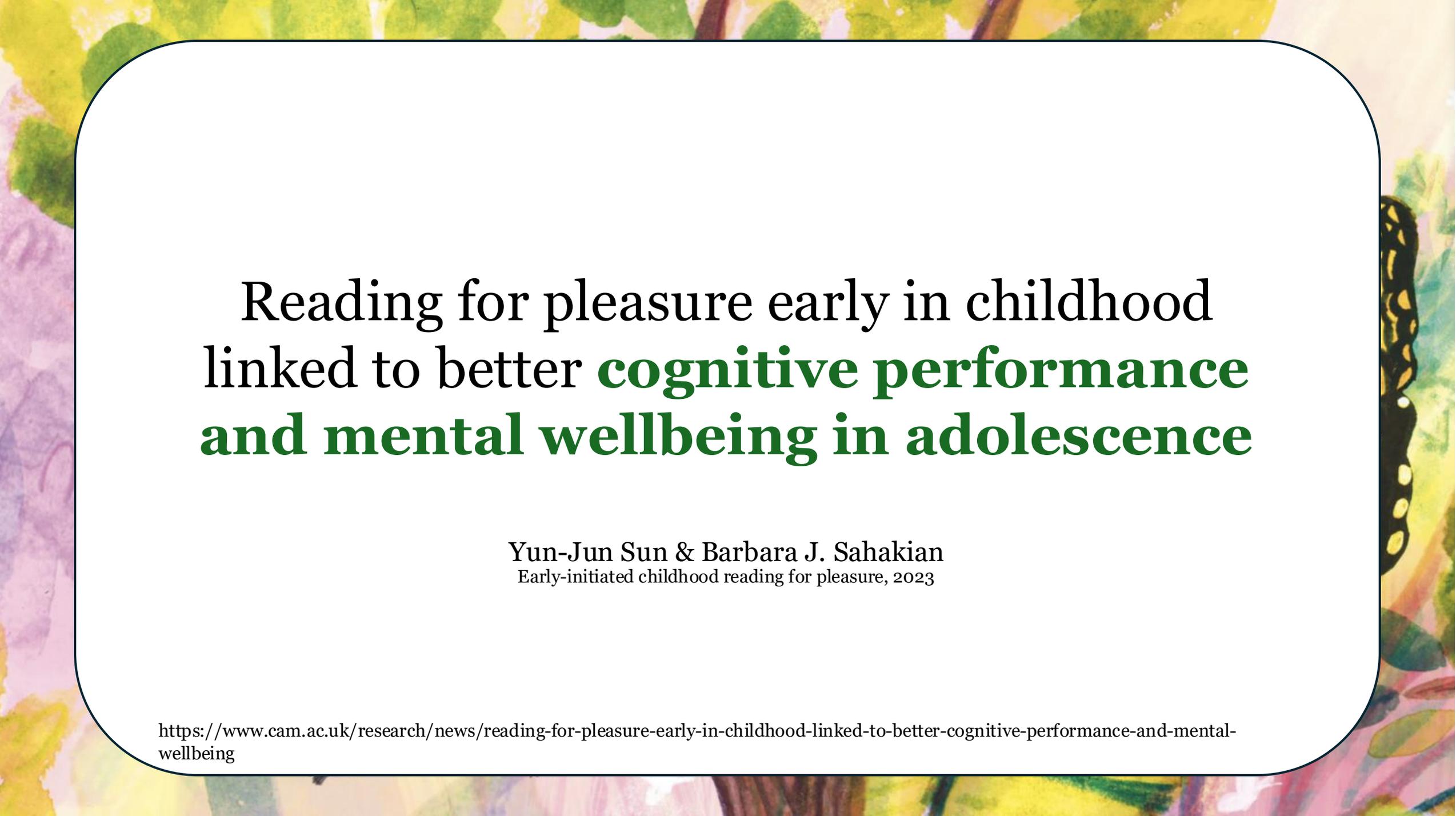
How stories foster imagination, empathy  
and curiosity



Finding your voice and connecting with others



**Reading for pleasure**



# Reading for pleasure early in childhood linked to better **cognitive performance and mental wellbeing in adolescence**

Yun-Jun Sun & Barbara J. Sahakian  
Early-initiated childhood reading for pleasure, 2023

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/reading-for-pleasure-early-in-childhood-linked-to-better-cognitive-performance-and-mental-wellbeing>

Children who began reading for pleasure earlier also tended to spend **less screen time** – for example watching TV or using their smartphone or tablet – during the week and at weekends in their adolescence, and also **tended to sleep longer**.

“On top of this, we found significant evidence that it’s linked to important developmental factors in children, **improving their cognition, mental health, and brain structure, which are cornerstones for future learning and well-being.**”

Professor Barbara Sahakian  
Department of Psychiatry, University of Cambridge

## **Classroom libraries**

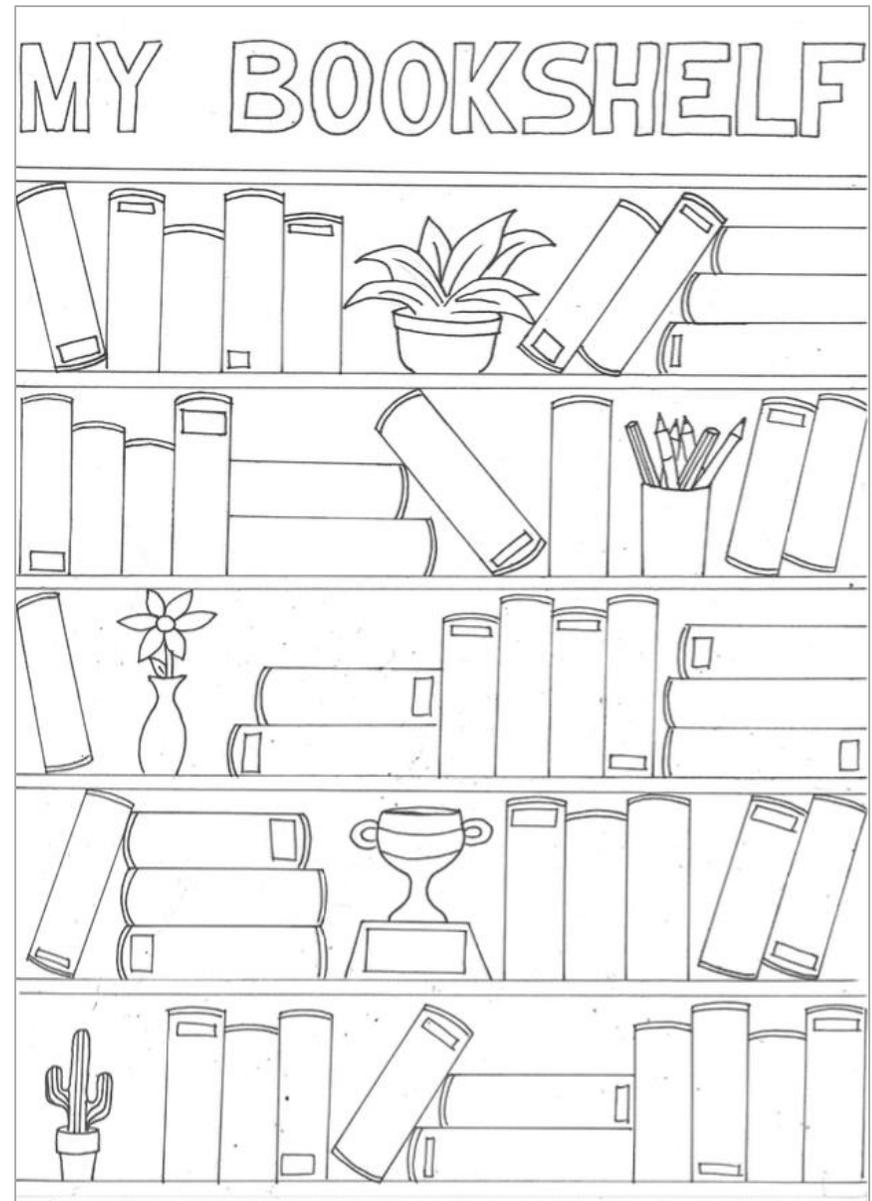
Students who have access to quality books in their classrooms read 50–60 percent more than students without classroom libraries\*

The Power of Authentic Texts, Penguin Random House  
Capatano, Fleming, & Elias, 2009; Neuman, 1999.

# Mystery book box







Resource credit: Jon Biddle and Miss Fuller.

# BOOKFLIX

ASK FOR IT

## New Releases



## Trending Now



## Suggestions for You





What was the last book you  
loved and why?



Don't tell me the moon is shining. Show me  
the glint of light on broken glass.

Anton Chekov



Thank you



