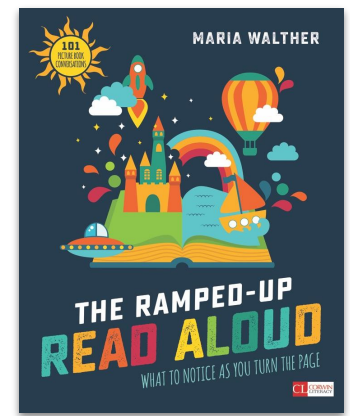




The Ramped-Up Read Aloud

NEW

Key Vocabulary Word Cards
with Kid-Friendly Definitions
Created by: Maria Walther



Copy the word cards back-to-back (flip on short edge), cut, and laminate them. Then, store the words in a library pocket in the back of the book.

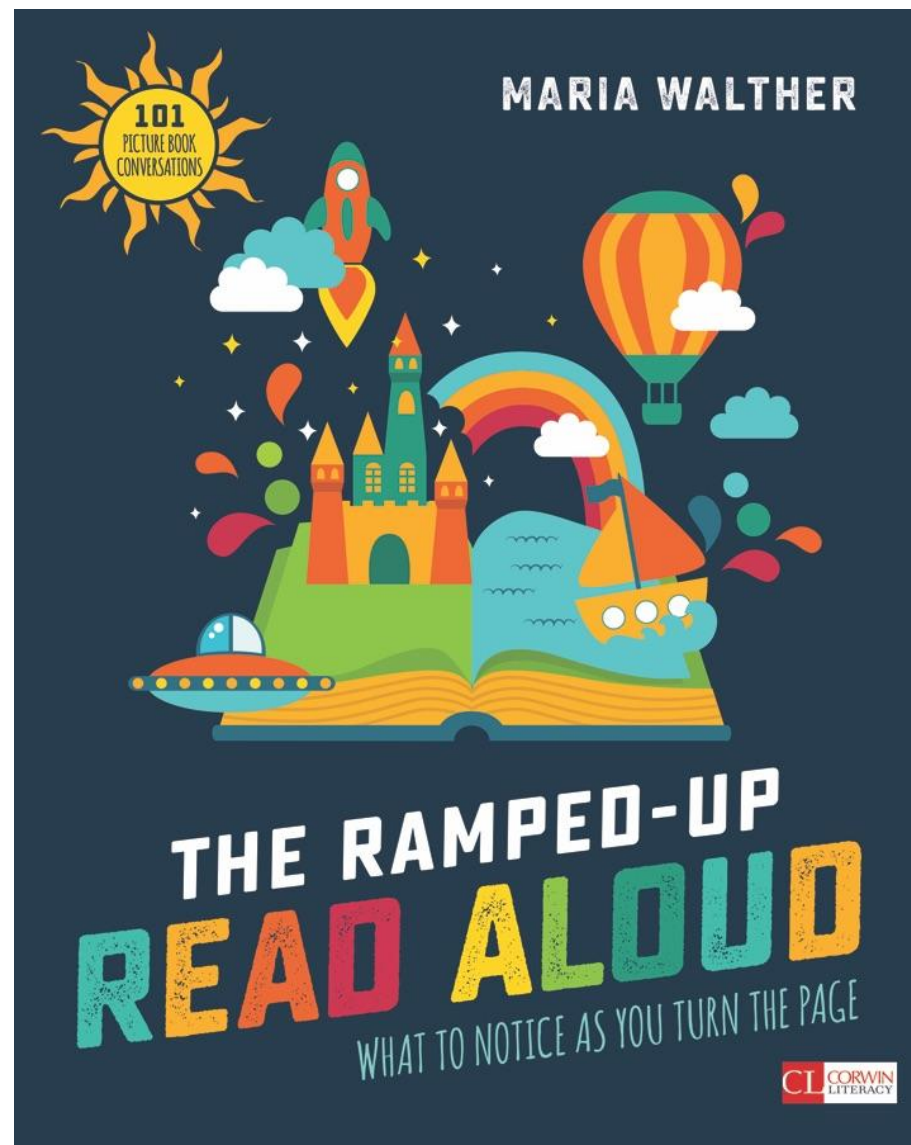
	assortment
	dwindling
	ravenous
	assortment: a group of different things
	dwindling: becoming smaller or less
	ravenous: very, very hungry



During the read aloud experience, display the words and use the instructional sequence found on Page 10 in *The Ramped-Up Read Aloud*.



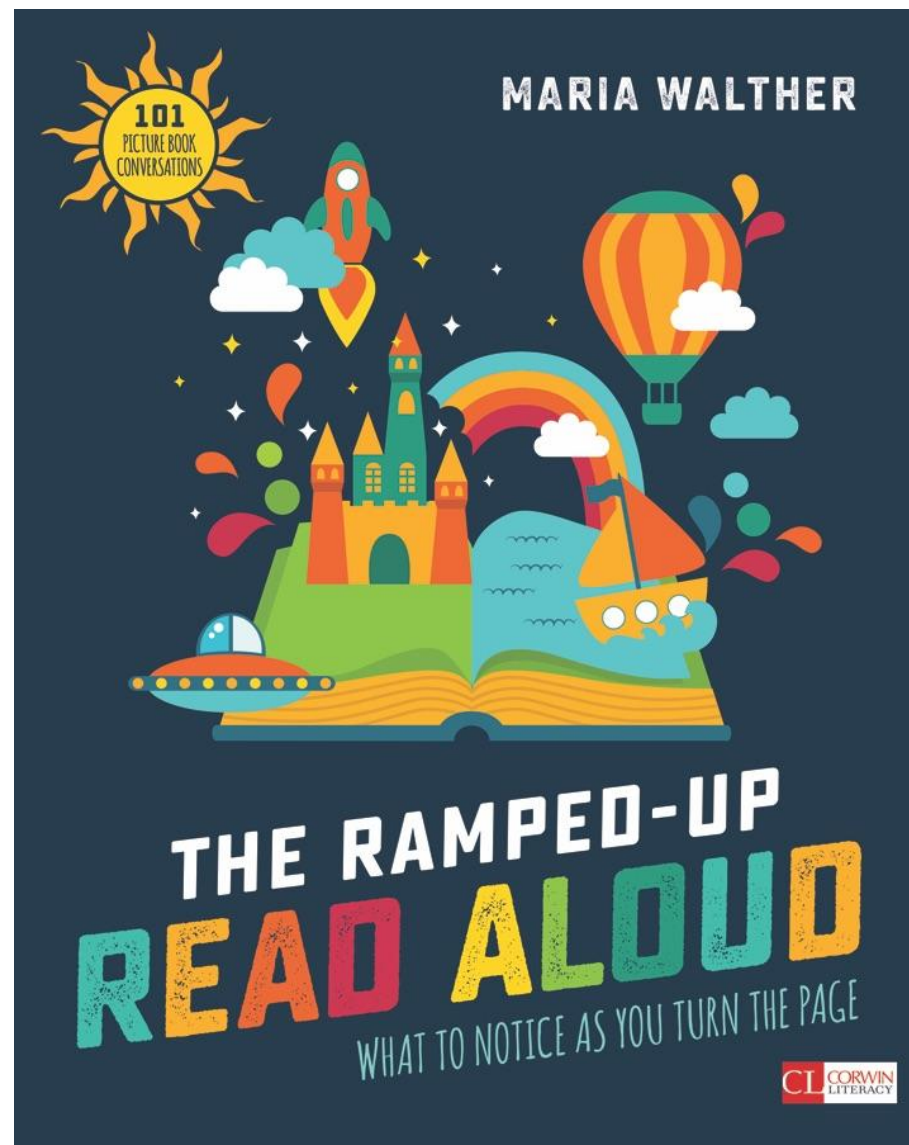
After the read aloud experience, display the words on a bulletin board or in a pocket chart affixed to the wall.



The Ramped-Up Read Aloud

NEW Key Vocabulary Word Cards with
Kid-Friendly Definitions
Created by: Maria Walther

Revised 10/2026



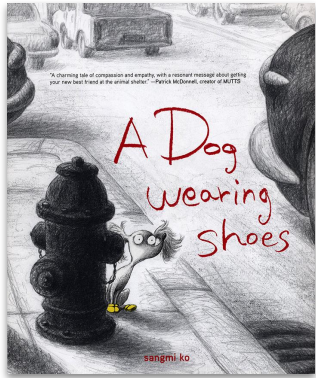
The Ramped-Up Read Aloud

Chapter 1: Create a Joyful Classroom Community

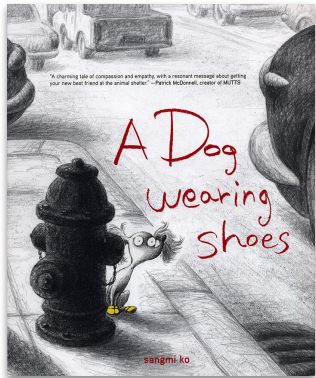
Key Vocabulary Word Cards and Kid-Friendly Definitions

Created by: Maria Walther

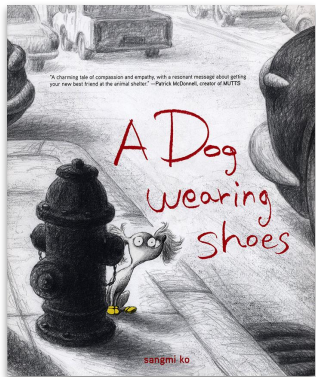
Revised 10/2026



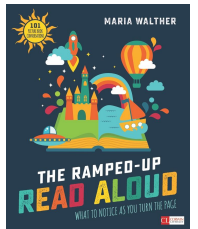
attracted

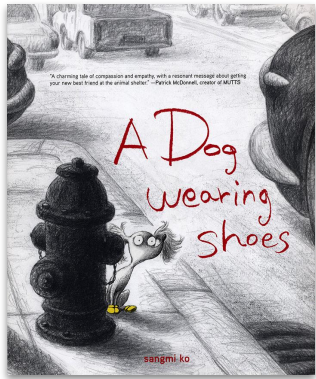


mood

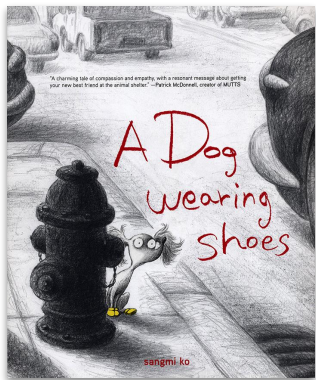


pranced

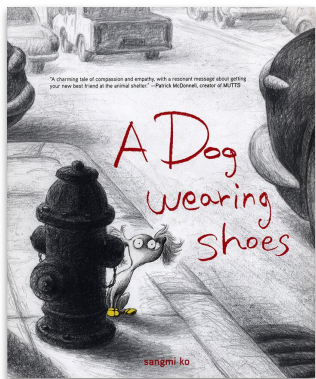




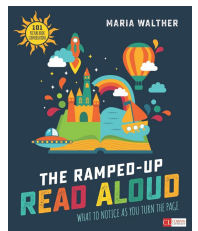
attracted: wanted to be near something you like

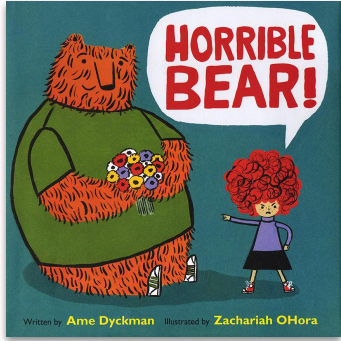


mood: the way someone feels at a certain time

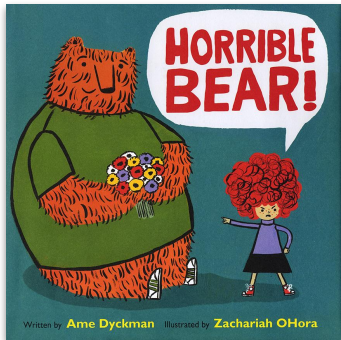


pranced: walked or moved with bouncy steps

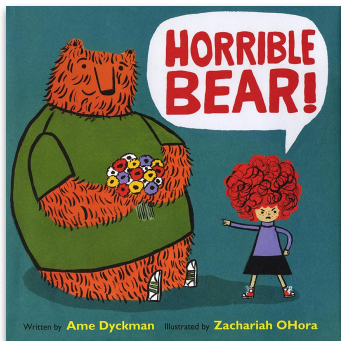




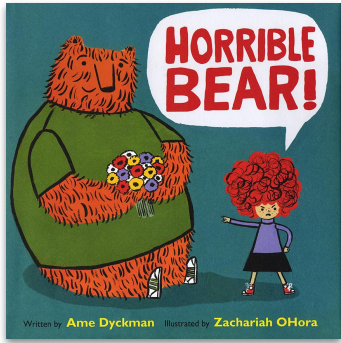
barged



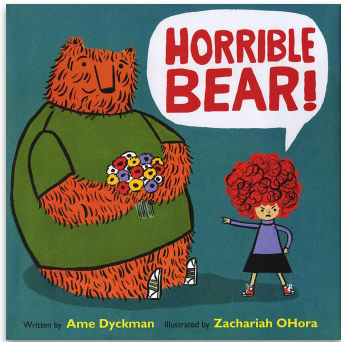
horrible



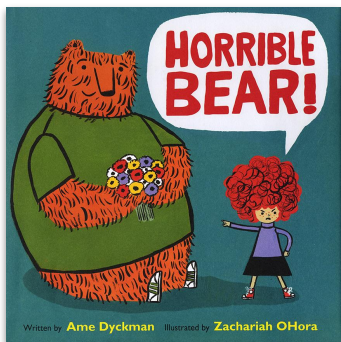
ruckus



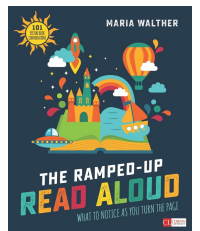
barged: to enter or interrupt in a rude way

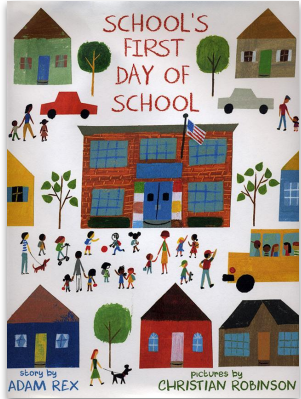


horrible: very bad or upsetting

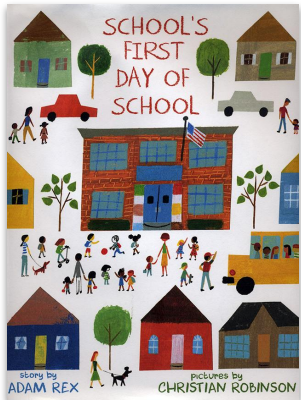


ruckus: a loud, noisy action

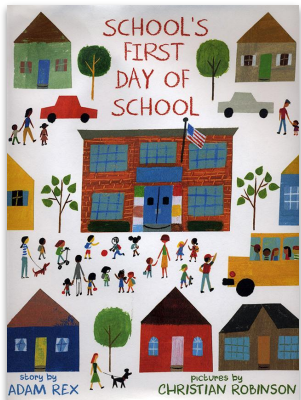




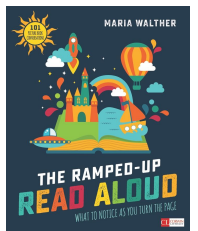
bored

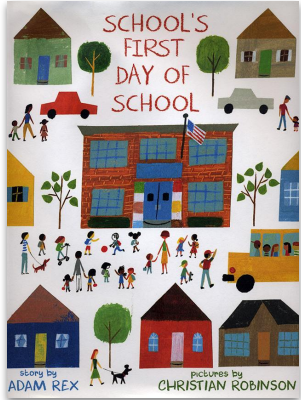


embarrassed

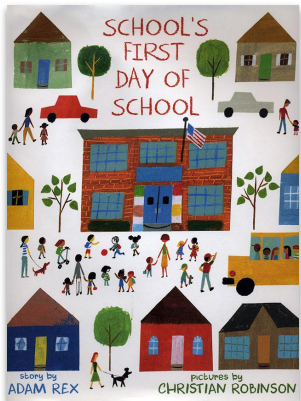


worry

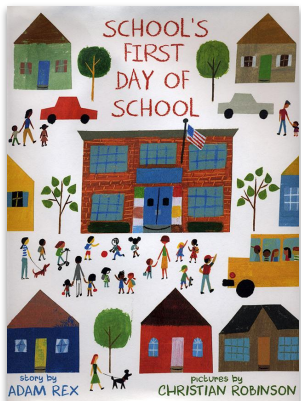




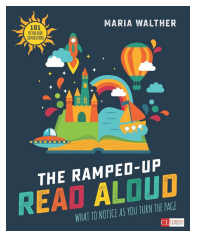
bored: feeling like you have nothing fun or interesting to do

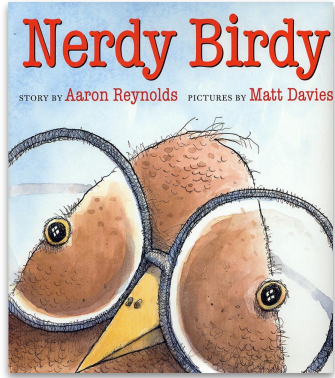


embarrassed: feeling uncomfortable or funny about something that happened

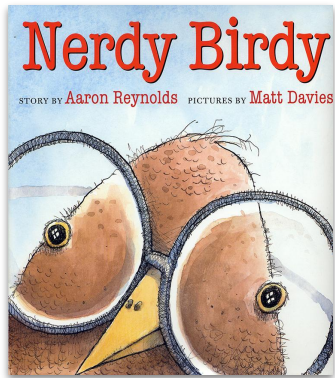


worry: to feel afraid or concerned about something

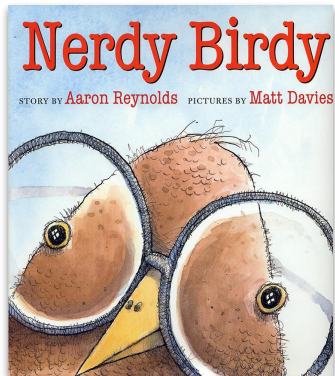




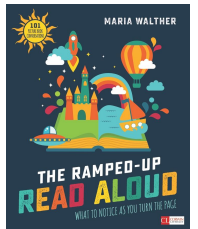
confused

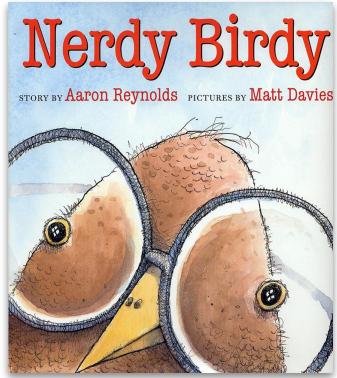


exhausting

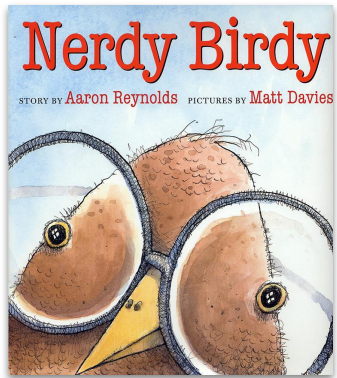


lonely

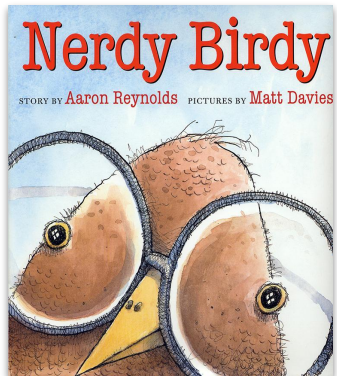




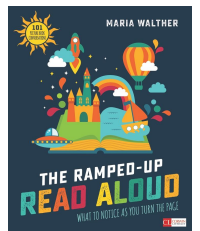
confused: having trouble understanding

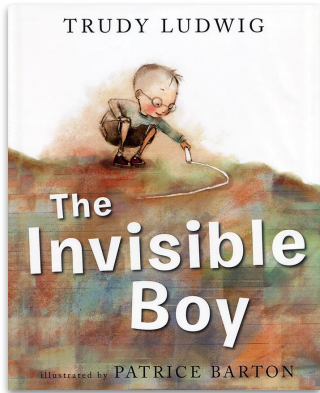


exhausting: making you very tired

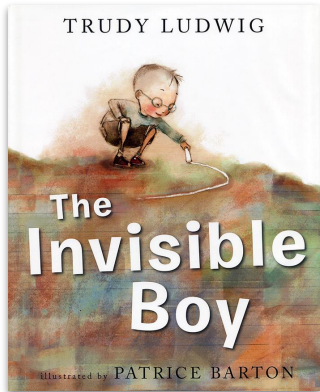


lonely: feeling sad then you are by yourself

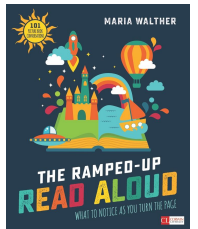
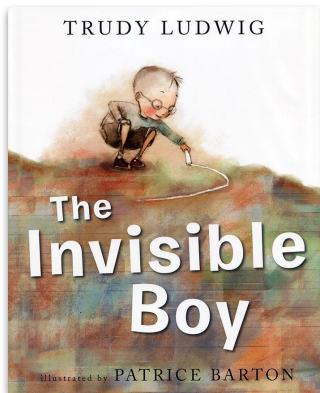


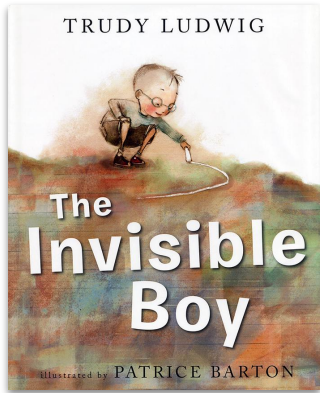


invisible

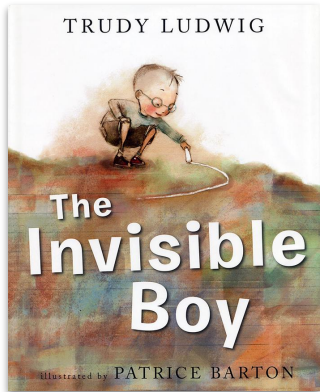


glances

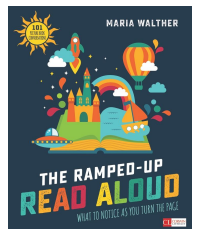
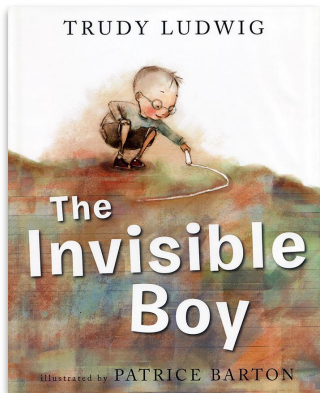


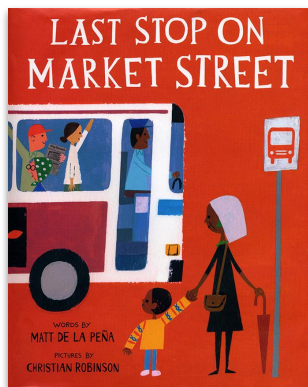


invisible: not able to be seen

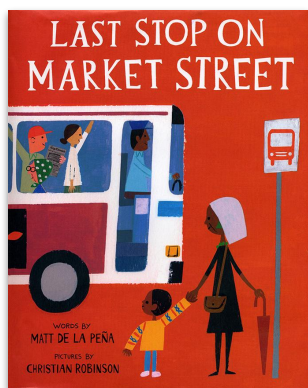


glances: quick looks

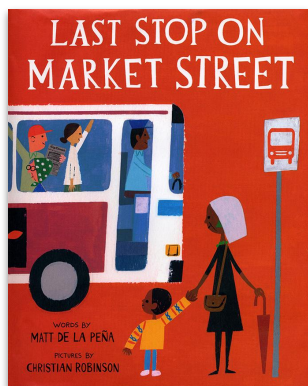




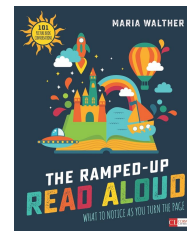
aboard

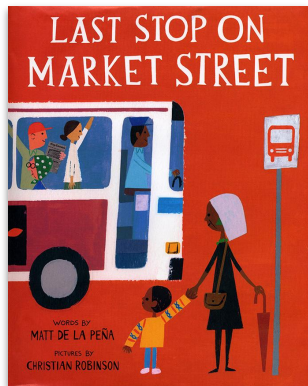


lurched

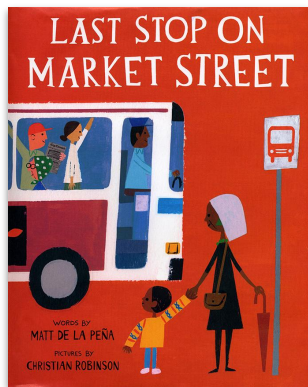


rhythm

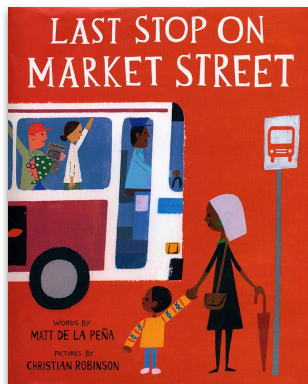




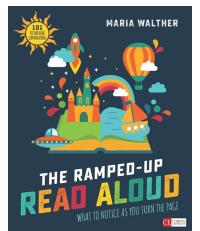
aboard: on or into a ship, train, bus, or other vehicle

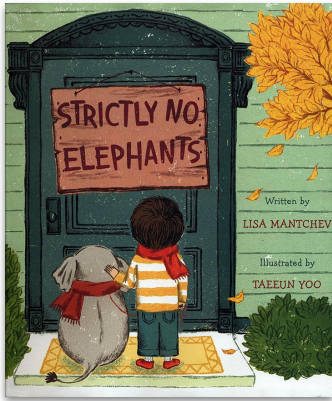


lurched: moved suddenly and not steadily

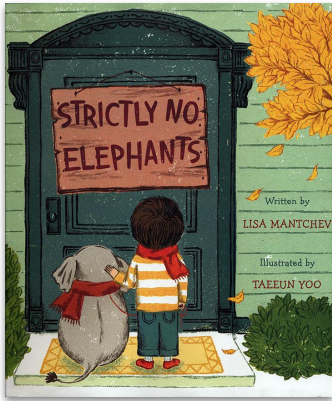


rhythm: a regular pattern of beats or movements

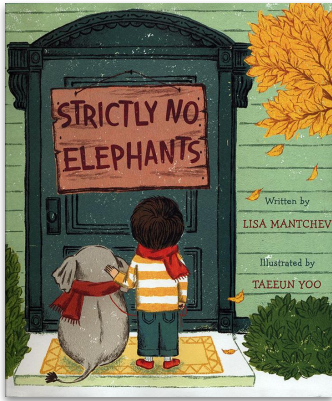




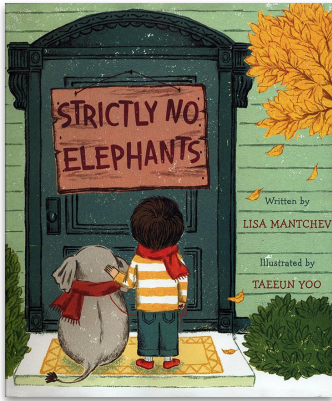
brave



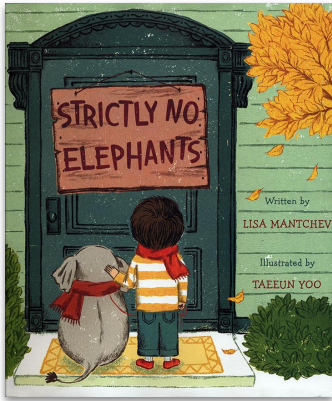
coax



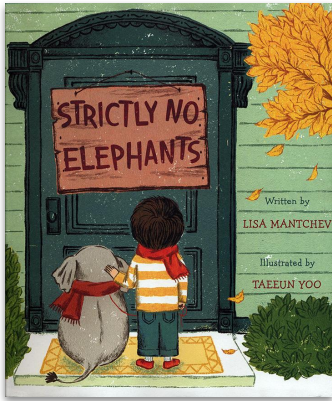
strictly



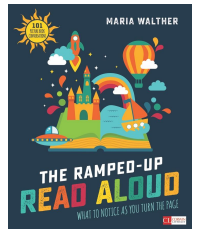
brave: ready to face danger

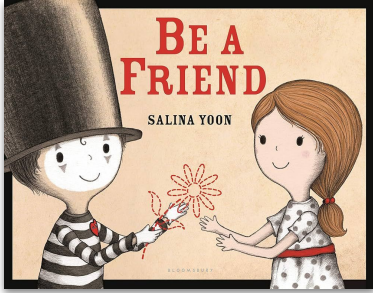


coax: moved suddenly and not steadily

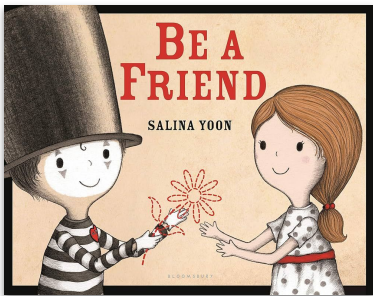


strictly: follow rules closely

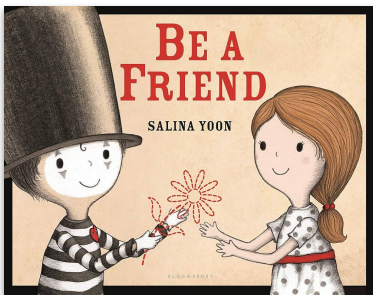




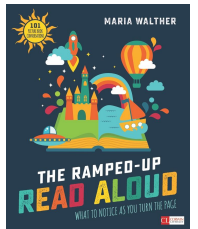
invisible

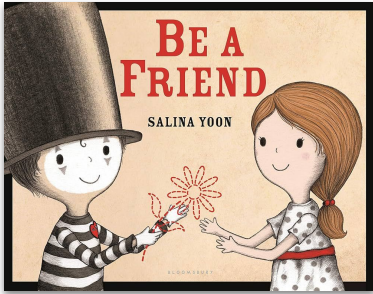


lonely

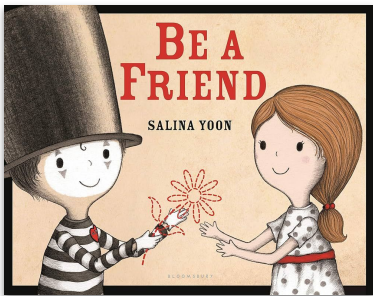


ordinary

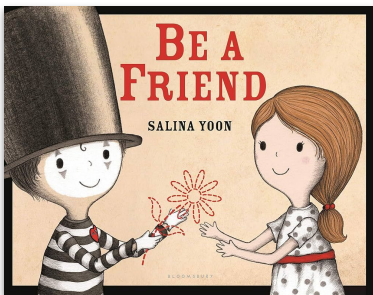




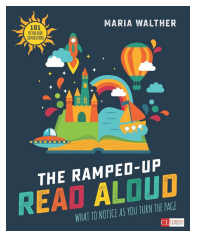
invisible: not able to be seen

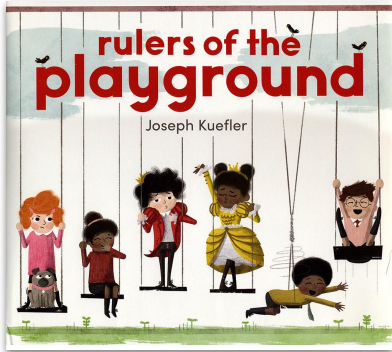


lonely: feeling sad when you are by yourself

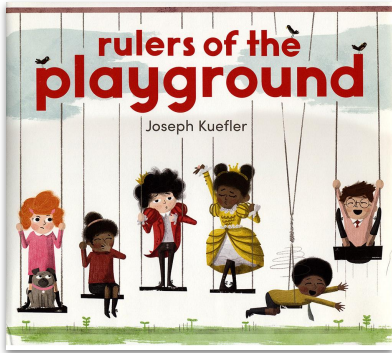


ordinary: normal or not special

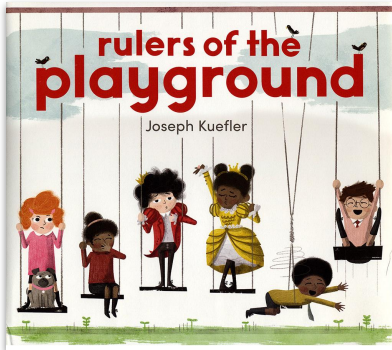




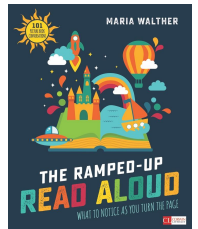
conquer

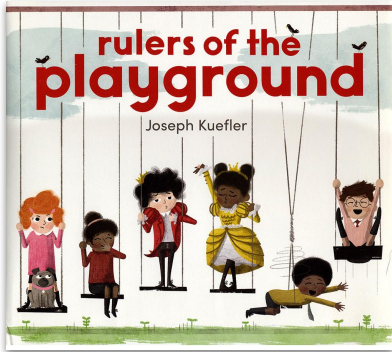


hollered

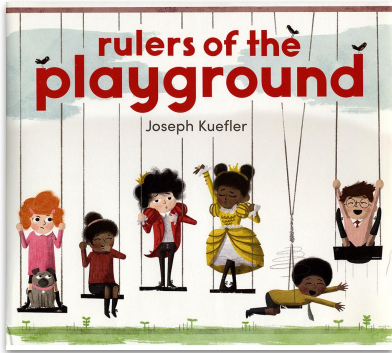


rule

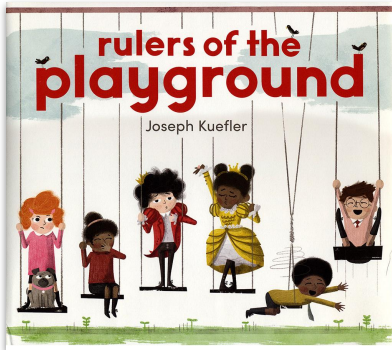




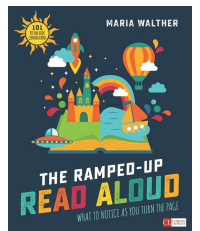
conquer: to take control of a place or people

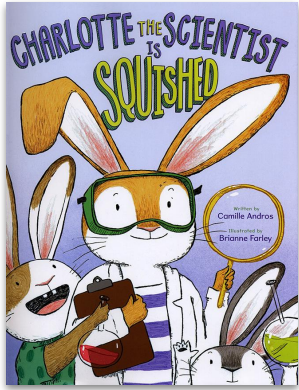


hollered: yelled or shouted

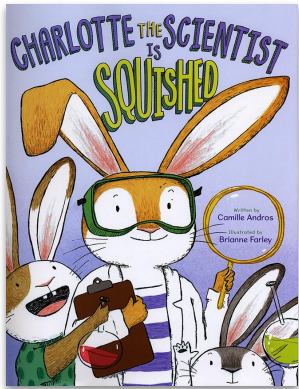


rule: to be in charge of a country or kingdom

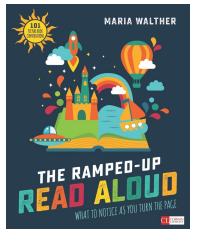
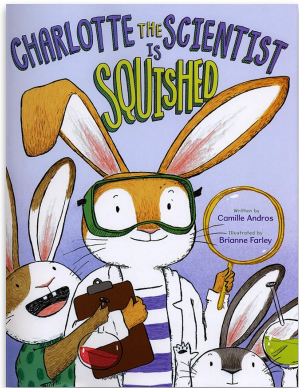


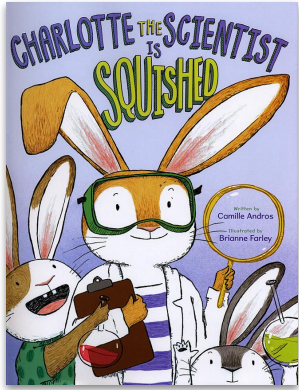


essential

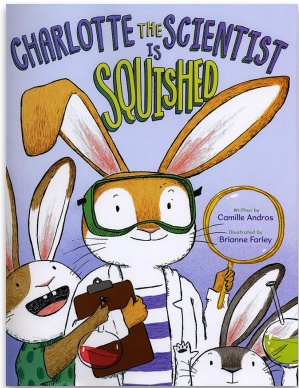


splendid

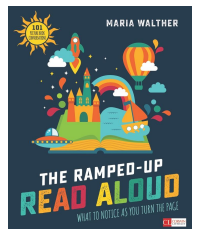
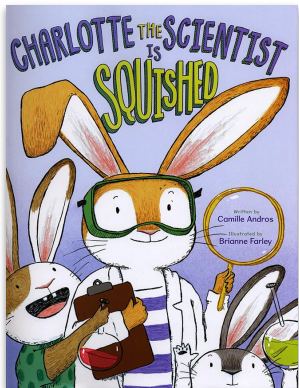


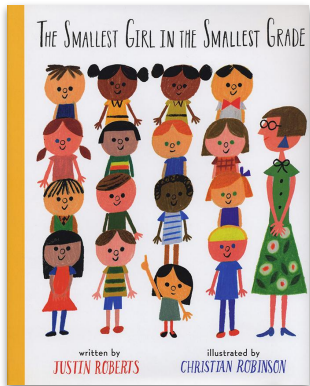


essential: something very important or something you need

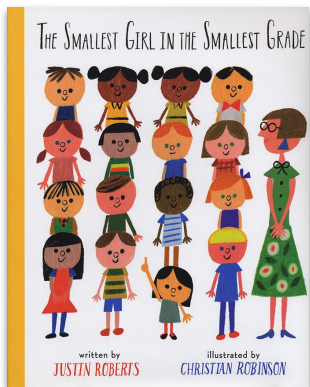


splendid: something wonderful that makes you feel happy and excited

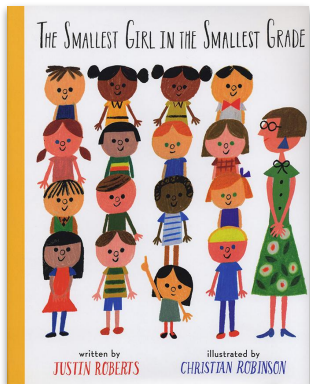




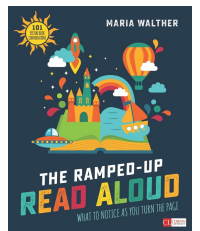
attention

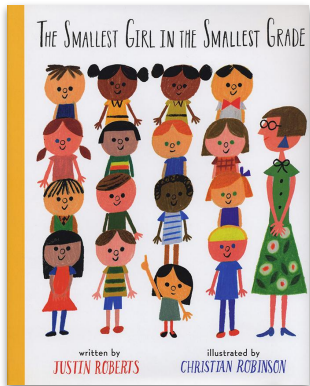


notice

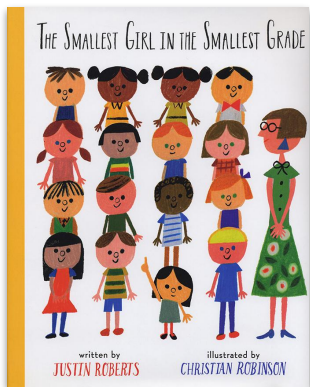


transform

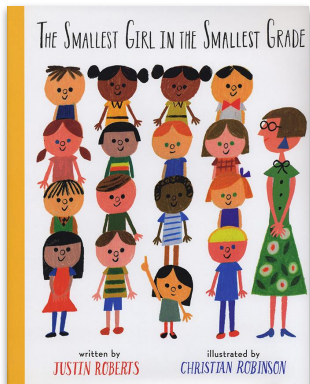




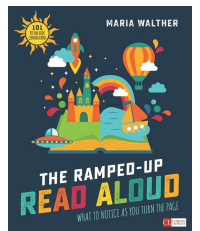
attention: to focus on something by listening or watching

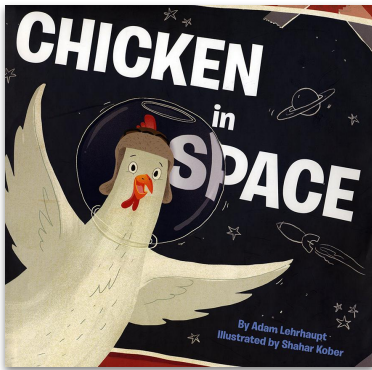


notice: to see or observe something

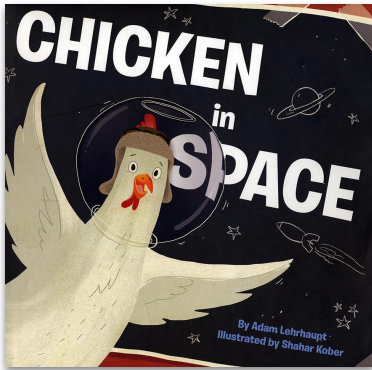


transform: to change into something different

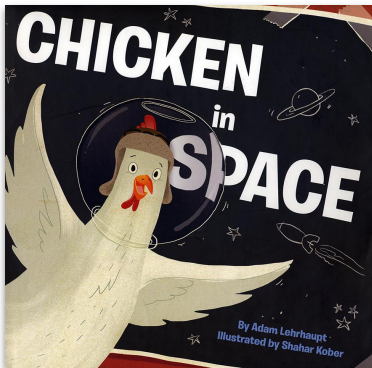




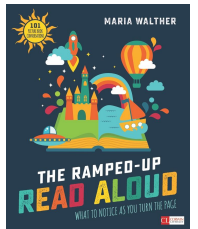
adventure

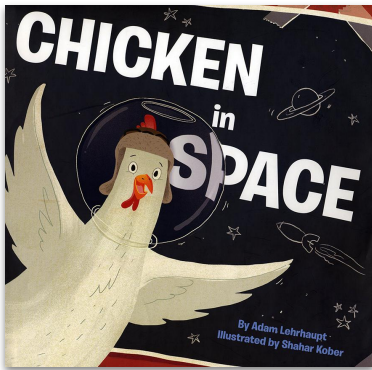


gathered

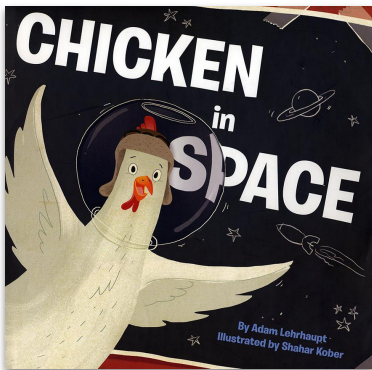


impressed

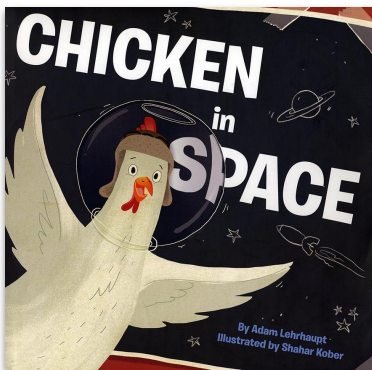




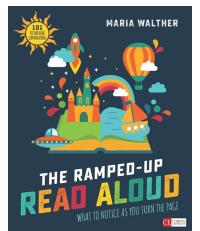
adventure: an exciting, or sometimes dangerous, trip or experience

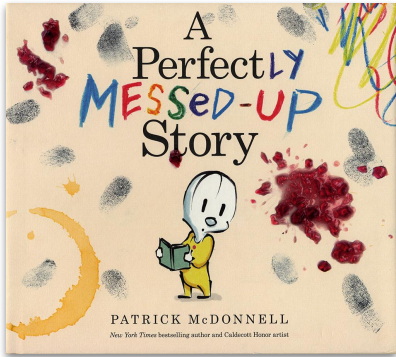


gathered: brought together or collected in one place

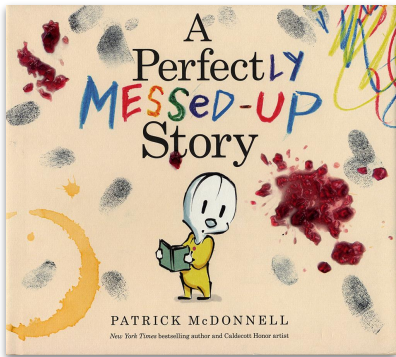


impressed: feeling amazed when you look at someone or something

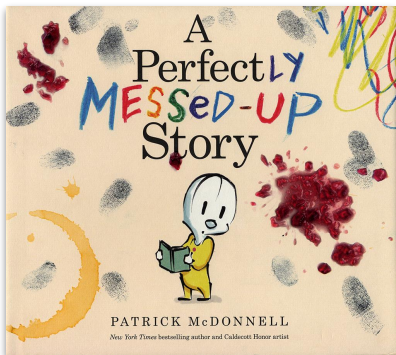




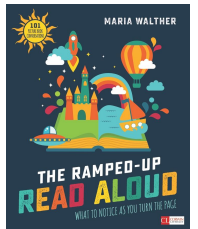
awful

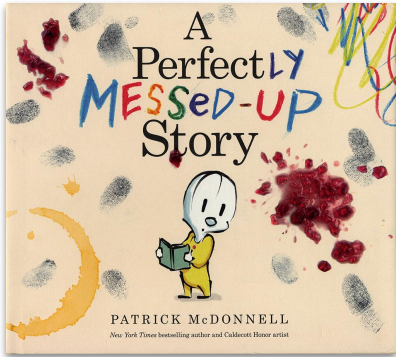


inspire

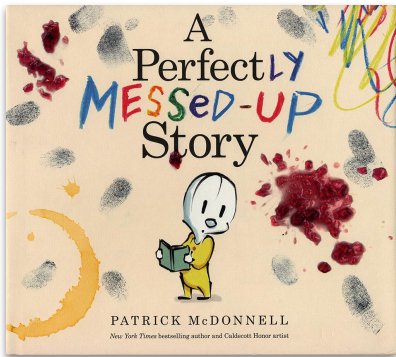


merrily

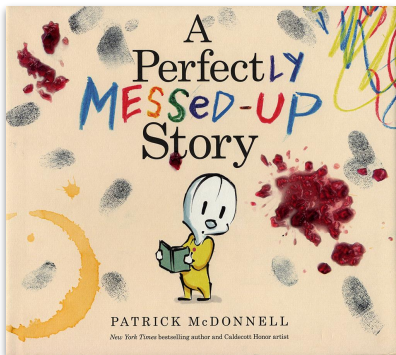




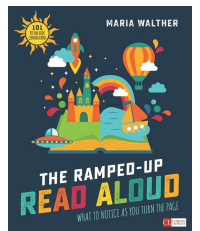
awful: very bad or terrible

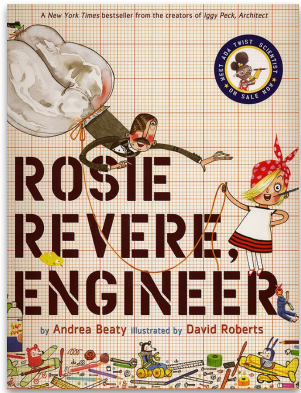


inspire: to make someone want to do or create something

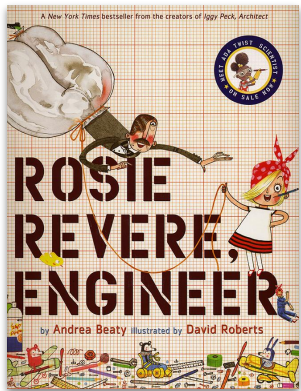


merrily: to do something in a happy or cheerful way

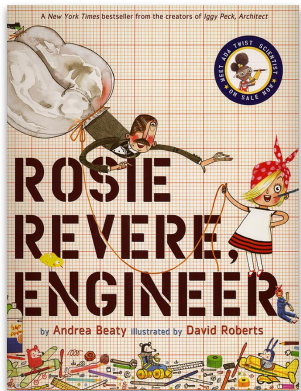




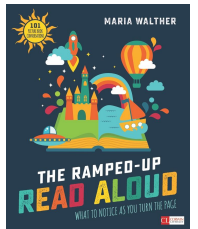
embarrassed

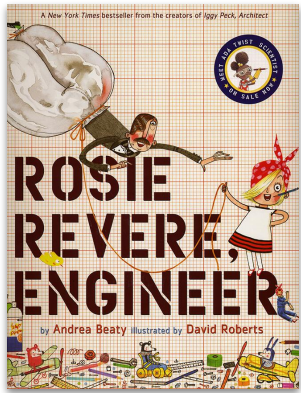


failure

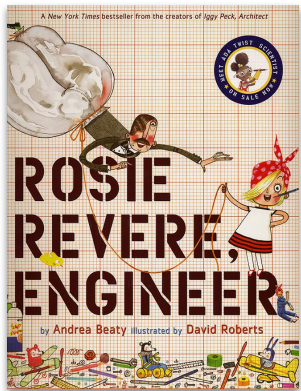


invention

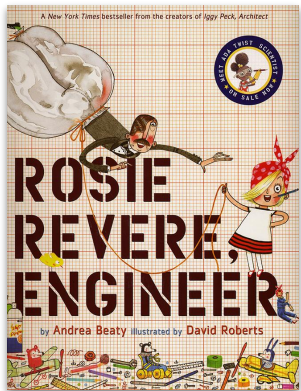




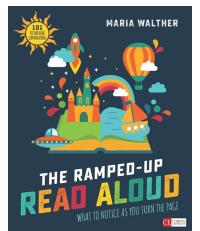
embarrassed: feeling uncomfortable or funny about something that happened

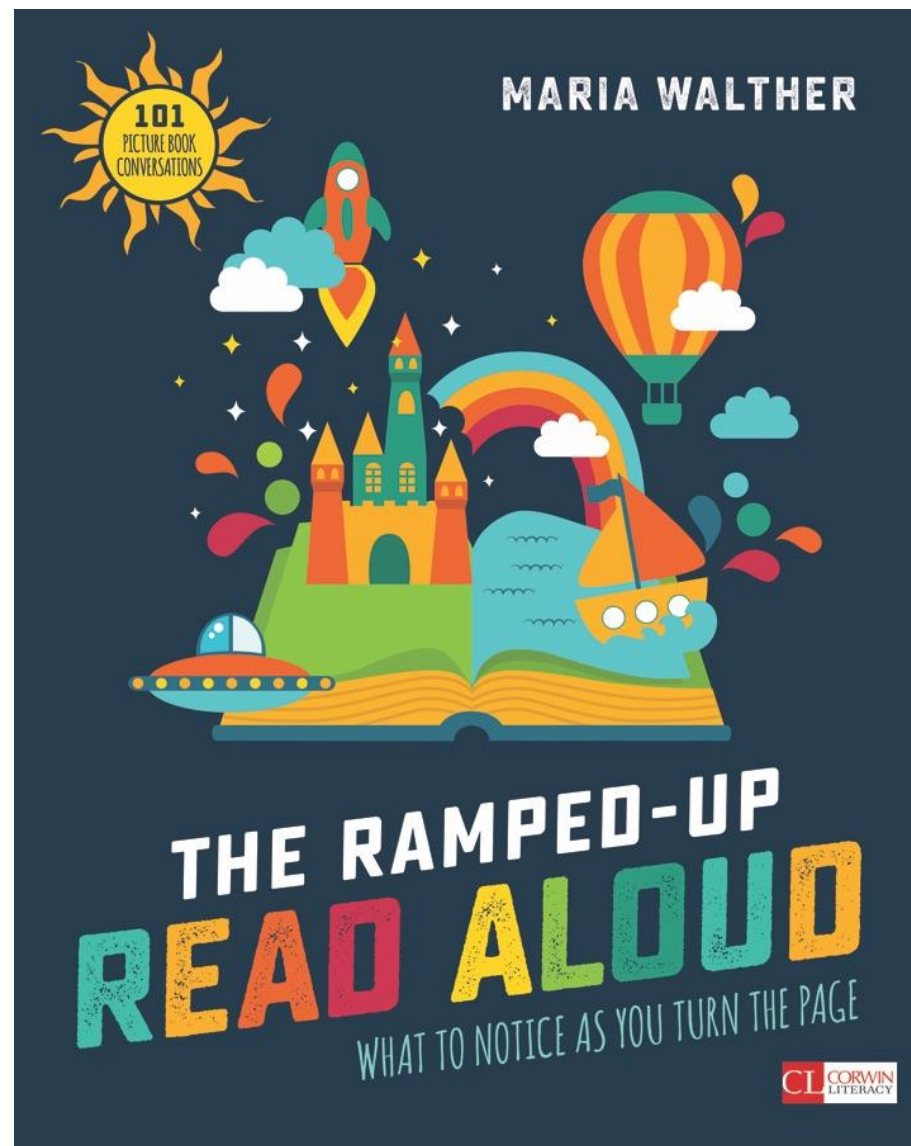


failure: a person or thing that does not work or succeed



invention: something made for the first time





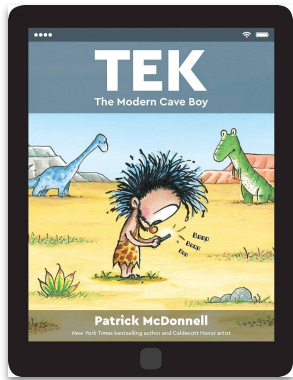
The Ramped-Up Read Aloud

Chapter 2: Converse About Literary Elements—Fiction

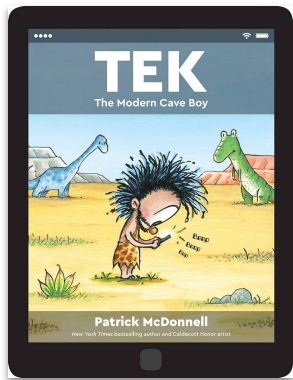
Key Vocabulary Word Cards and Kid-Friendly Definitions

Created by: Maria Walther

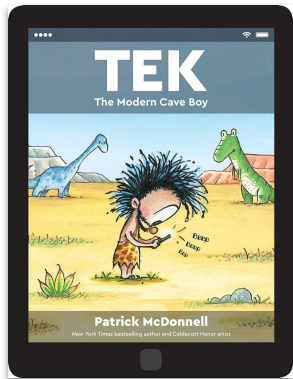
Revised 10/2026



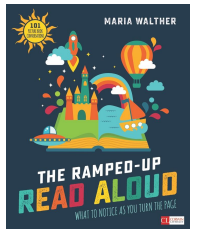
budge

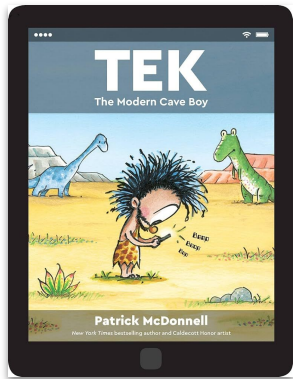


eerie

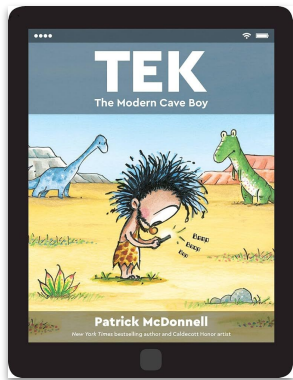


invent

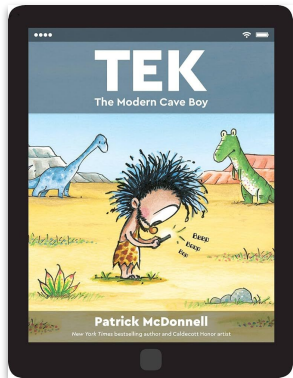




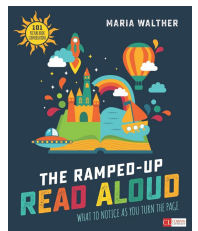
budge: to move, even a little

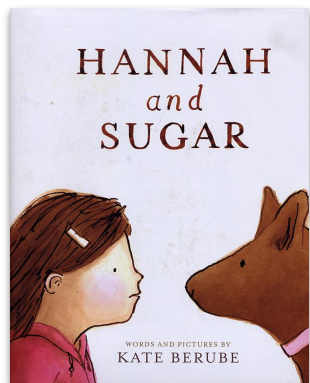


eerie: not easy to explain;
mysterious or scary

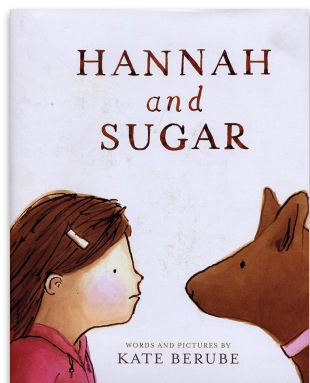


invent: to make something for
the first time

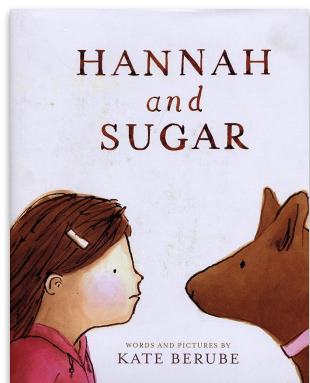




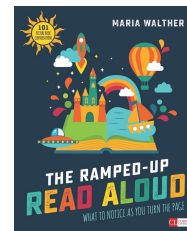
gasped

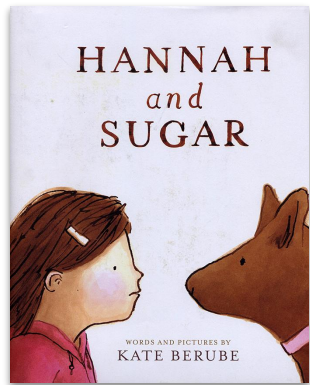


searched

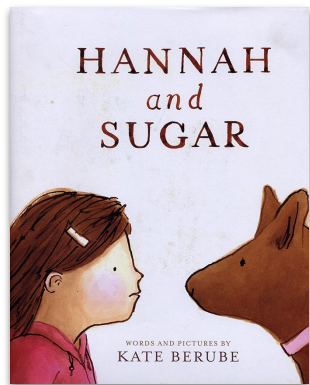


strange

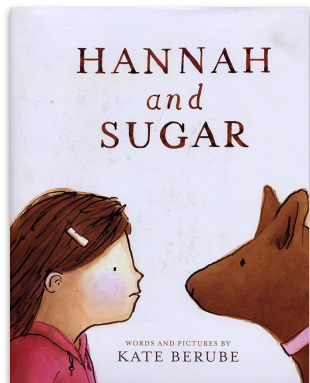




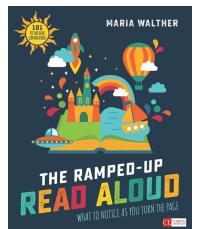
gasped: took a quick breath because of a surprise

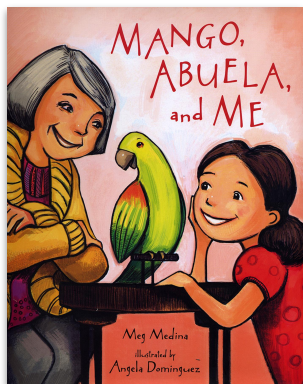


searched: looked carefully for something

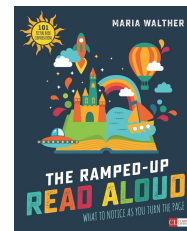
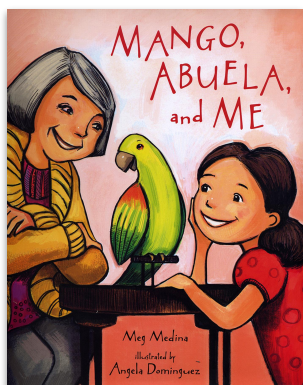
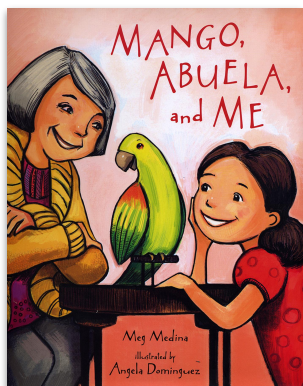


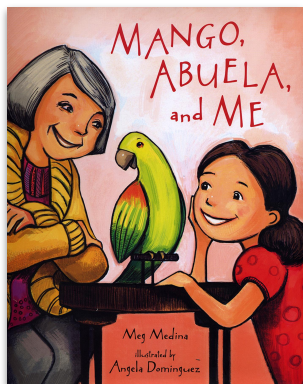
strange: not something usual or something you already know



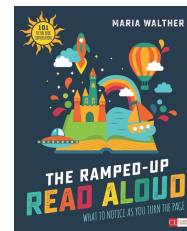
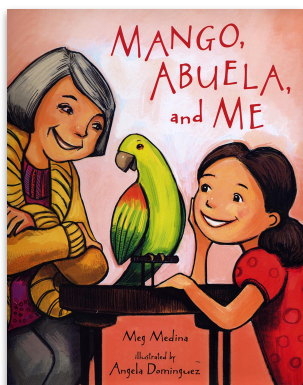
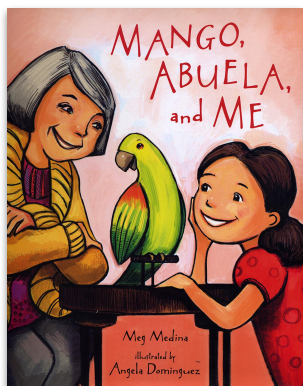


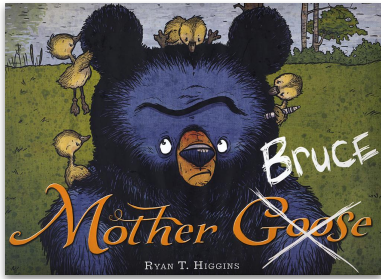
bundle



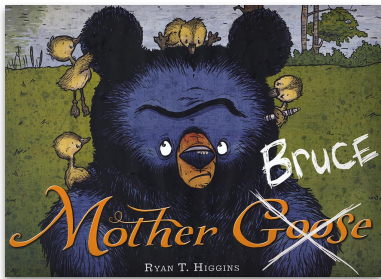


bundle: to tie or hold things together

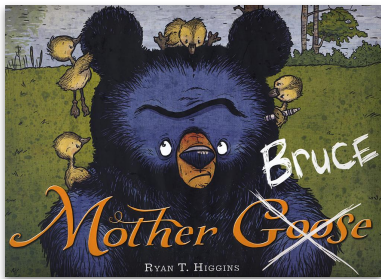




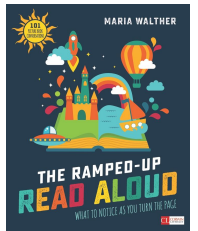
appetite

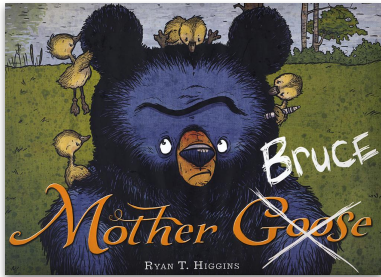


pesky

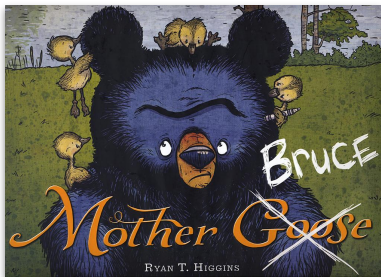


unwelcome

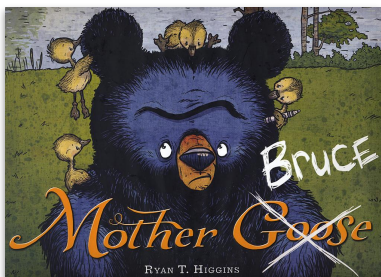




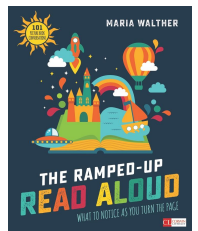
appetite: a feeling that you want to eat

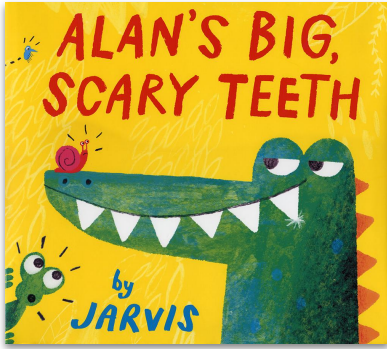


pesky: annoying or hard to get rid of

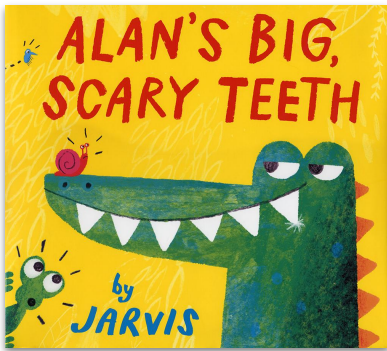


unwelcome: not wanted or invited

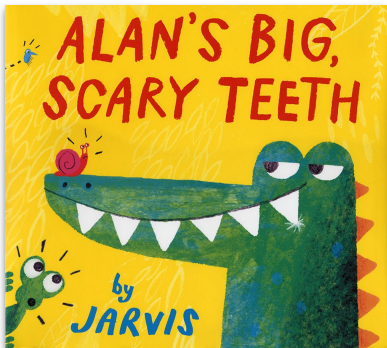




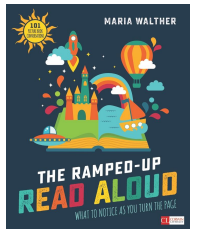
familiar

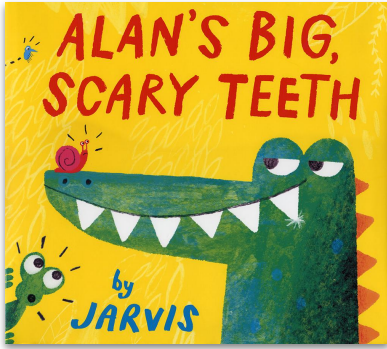


polishing

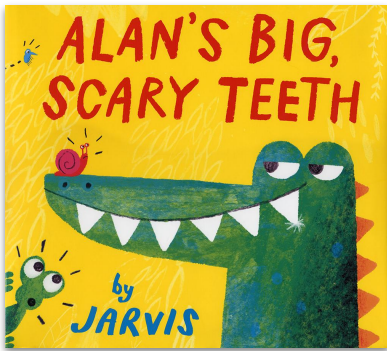


terrified

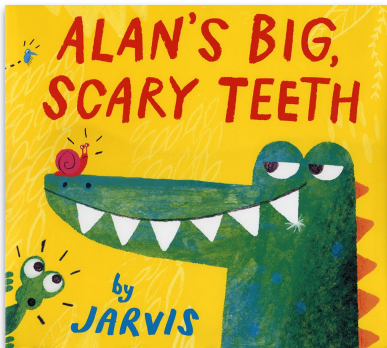




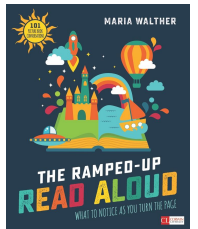
familiar: something you know well or have seen before

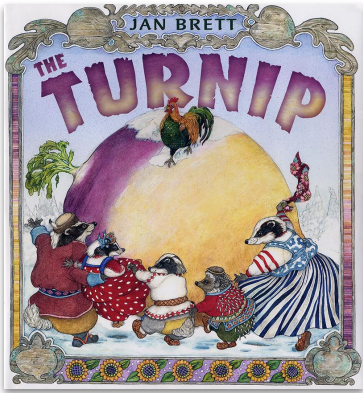


polishing: rubbing something to make it clean and shiny

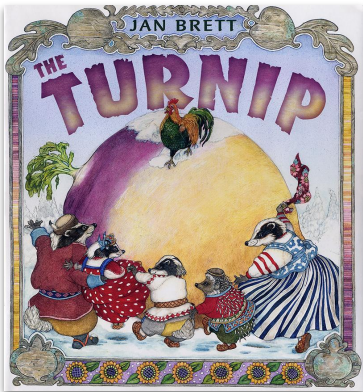


terrified: very scared

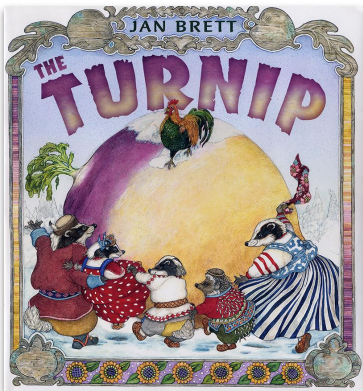




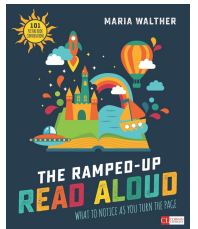
budge

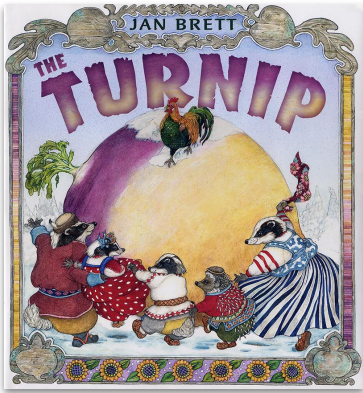


fond

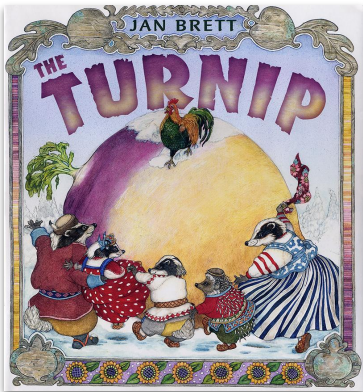


useful

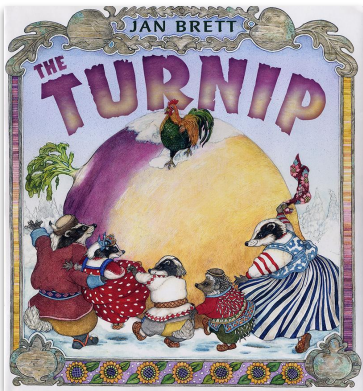




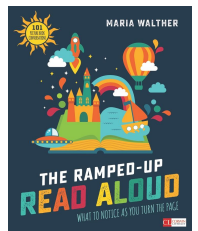
budge: to move, even a little

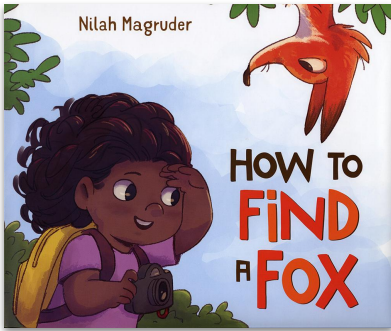


fond: liking someone or something a lot

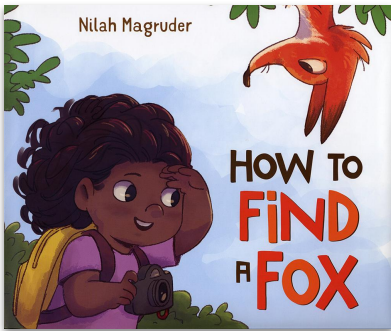


useful: helpful or good for a reason

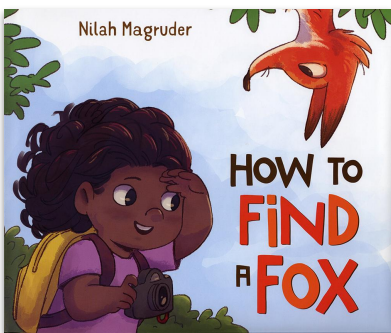




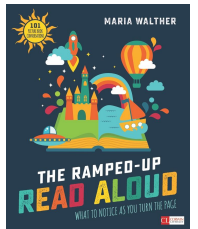
bait

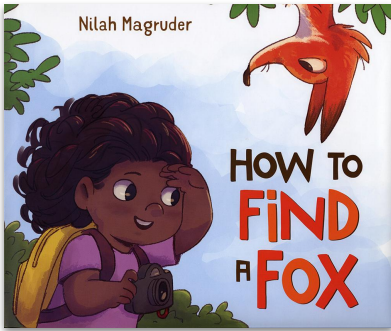


search

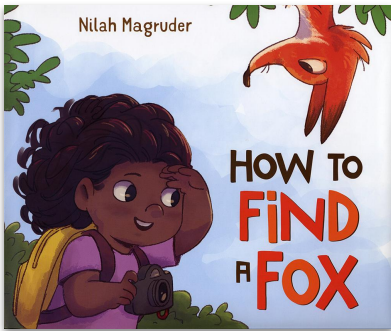


sneakier

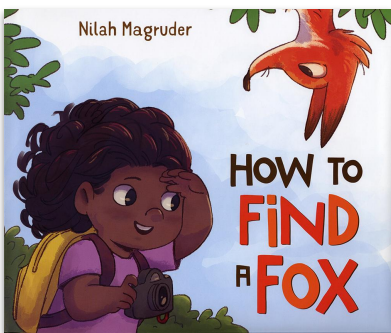




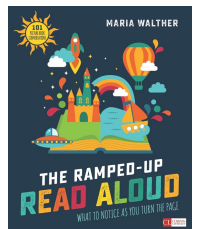
bait: food or something else to attract an animal

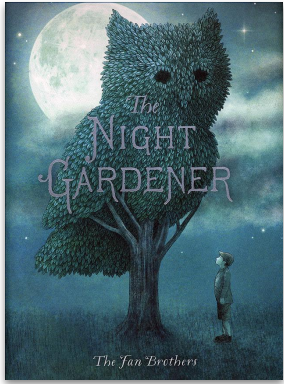


search: to look carefully for something

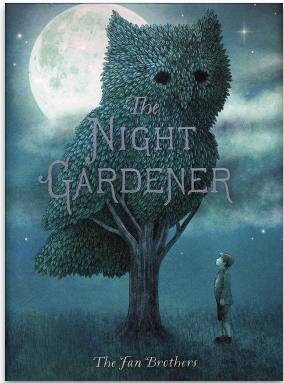


sneakier: better at moving quietly or secretly

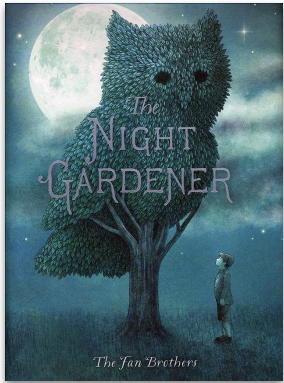




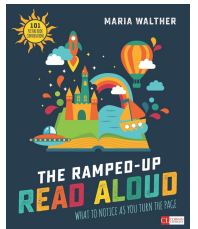
admire

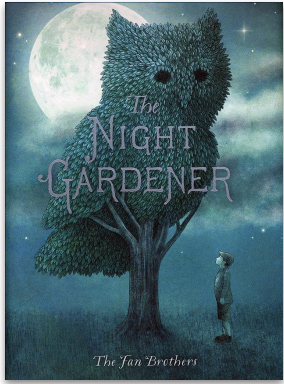


commotion

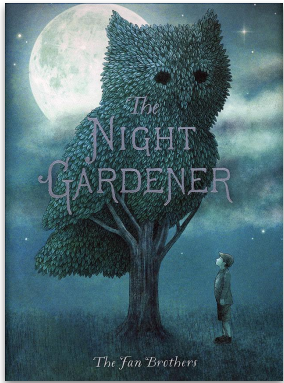


masterpiece

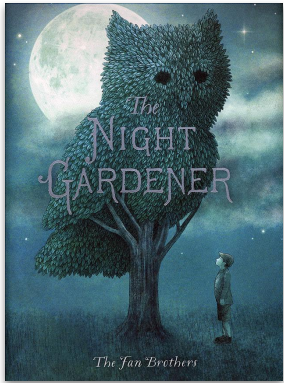




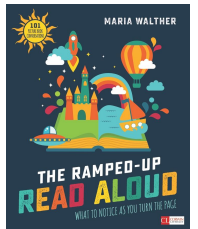
admire: to like or respect something or someone

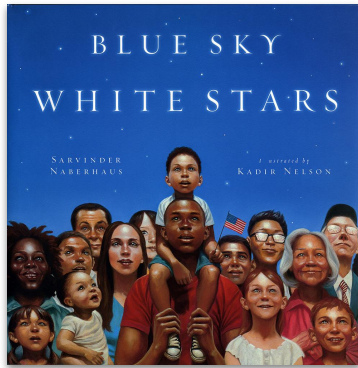


commotion: when things are busy and noisy

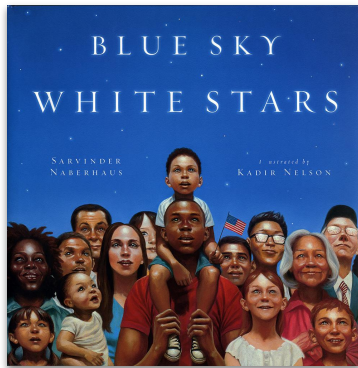


masterpiece: a work of art that is very special or well done

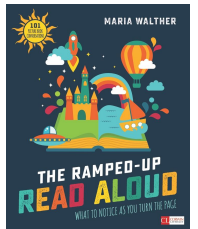
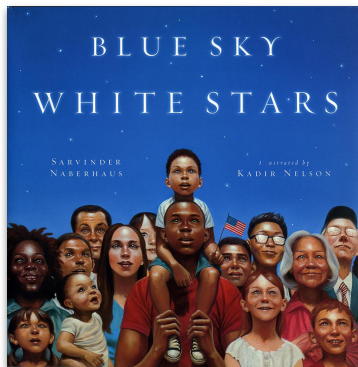


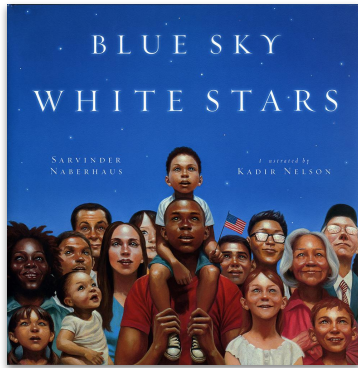


sea vs. see

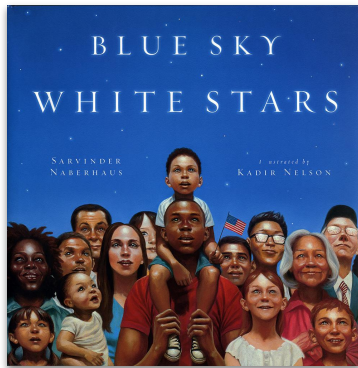


sew vs. so

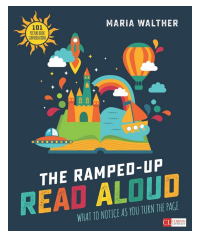
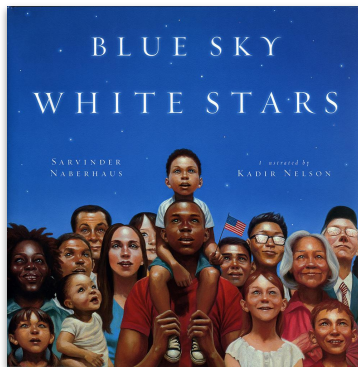


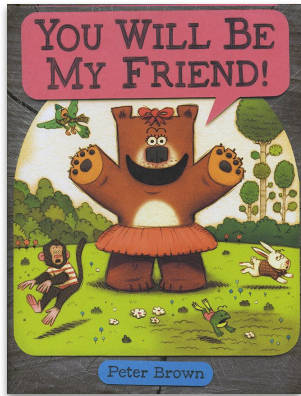


sea: a large area of salt water
see: to look at something

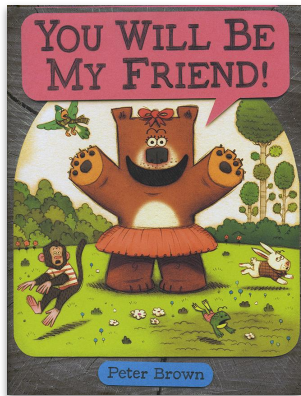


sew: to join things together with a needle and thread
so: as much as someone means or shows

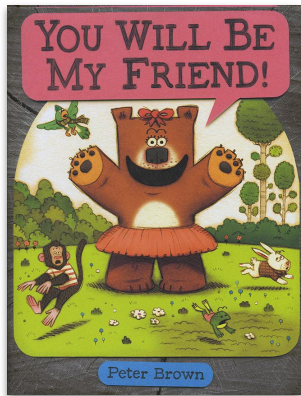




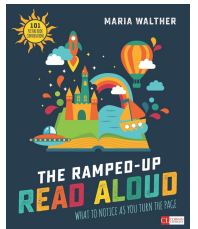
critter

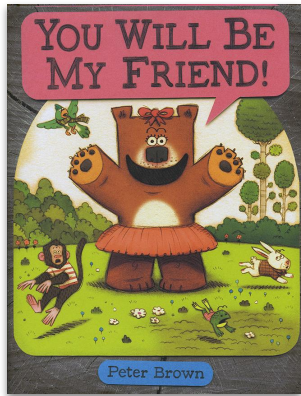


decided

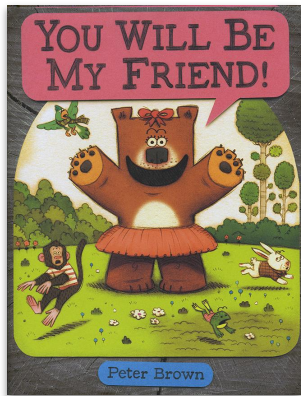


ridiculous

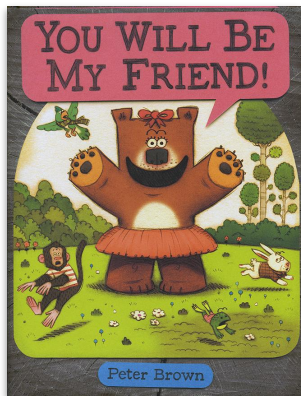




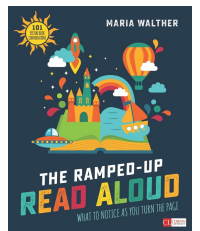
critter: a wild animal

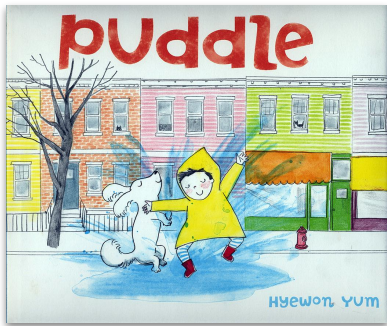


decided: made a choice

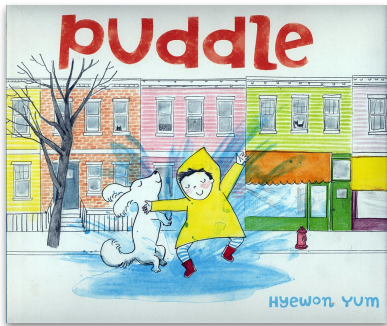


ridiculous: very silly

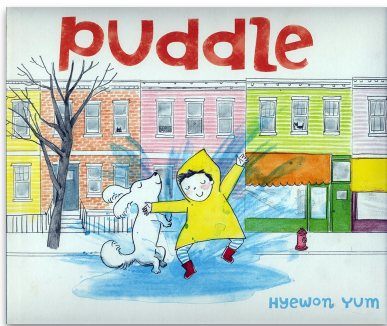




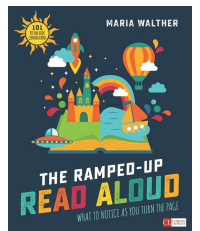
grumpy

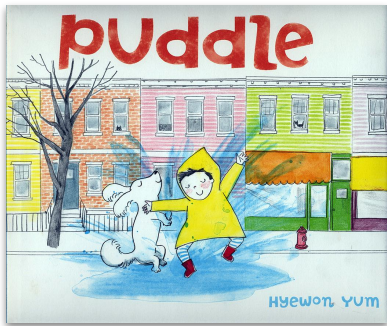


pouring

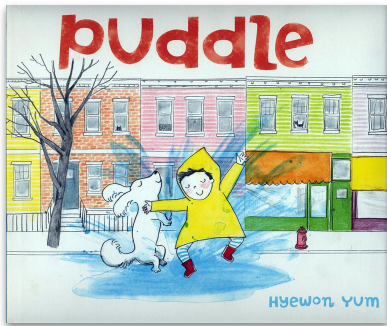


tricky

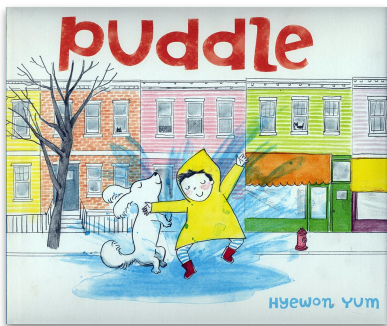




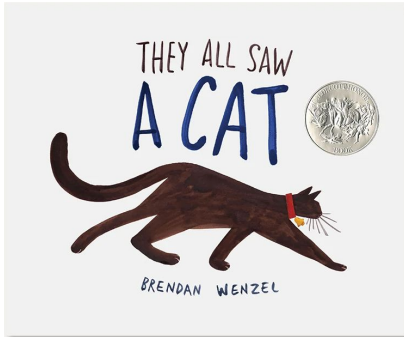
grumpy: in a bad mood



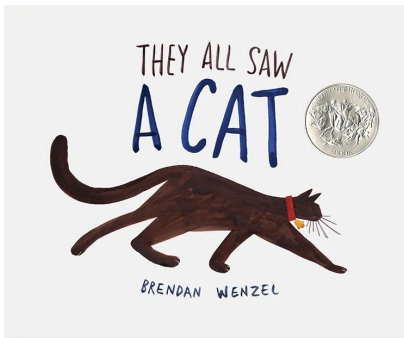
pouring: raining very hard



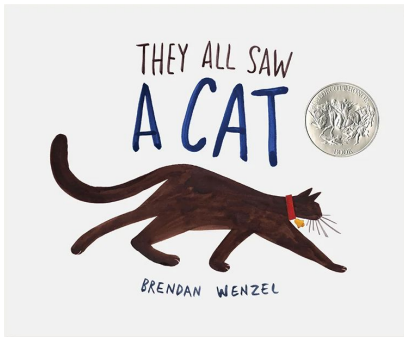
tricky: hard to do or understand



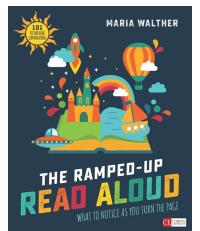
imagine

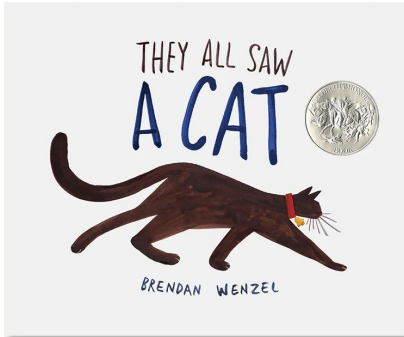


perspective*

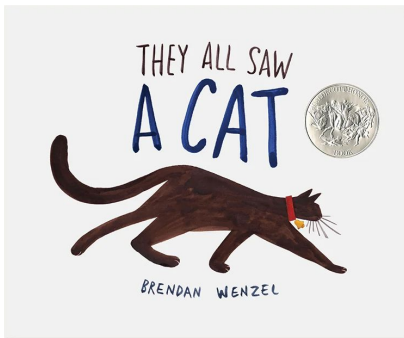


*This word does not appear in book, but will helpful when discussing the illustrations.

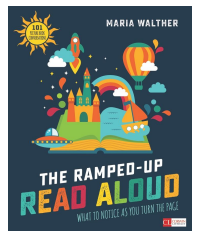
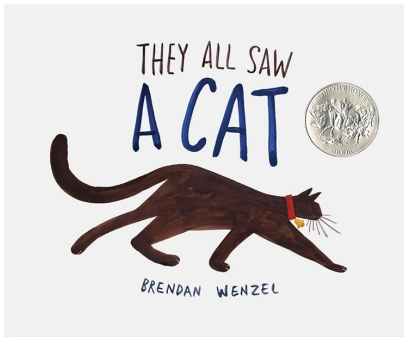


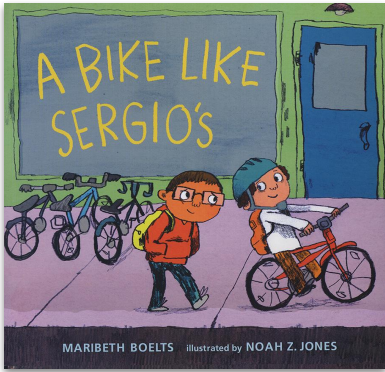


imagine: to picture something in your mind

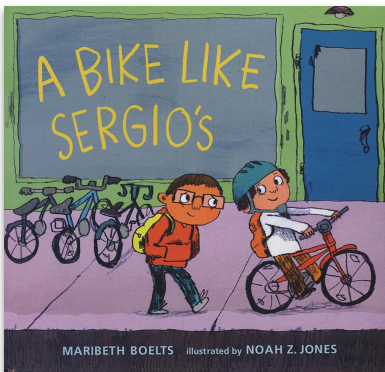


perspective: the way someone sees or thinks about something

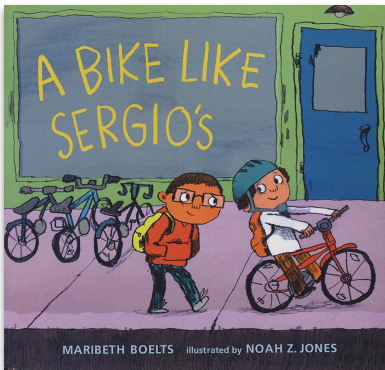




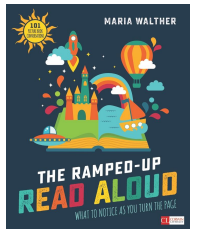
appear

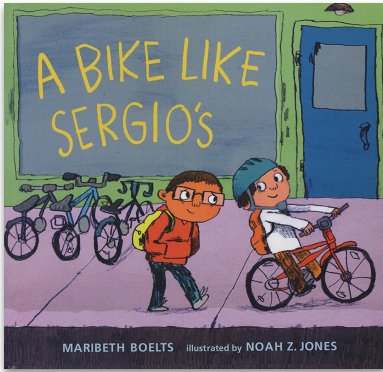


mumble

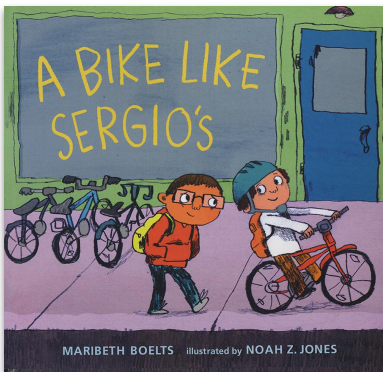


proud

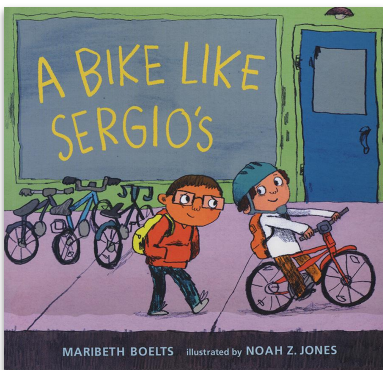




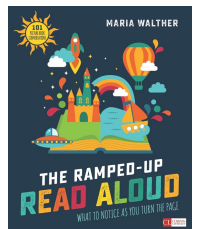
appear: to begin to be seen

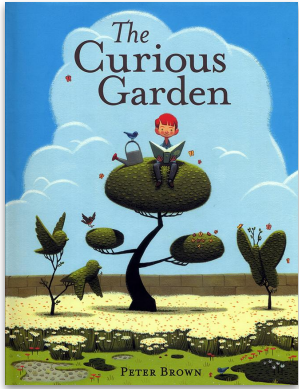


mumble: to talk softly and not very clearly

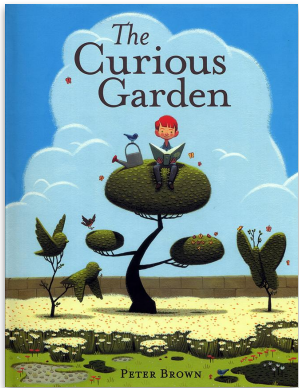


proud: feeling happy about something you have or do

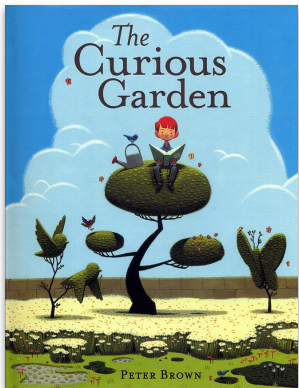




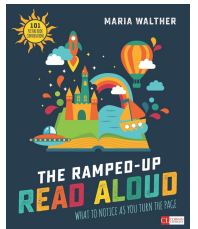
curious

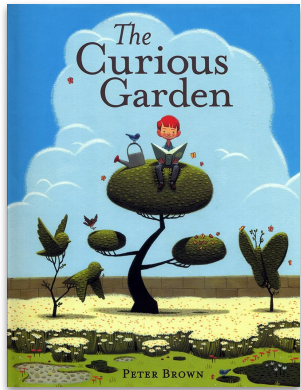


delicate

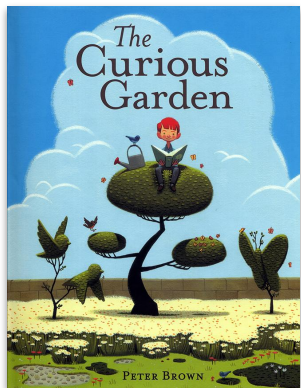


dreary

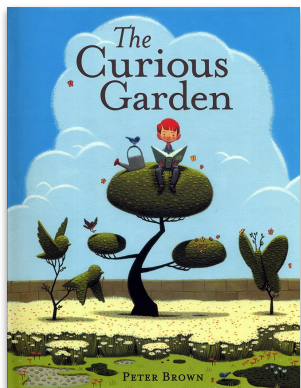




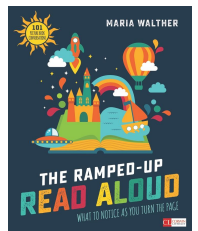
curious: asking questions, working to find answers, and wanting to learn new things

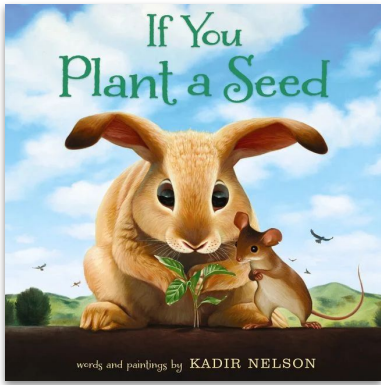


delicate: easy to break or damage

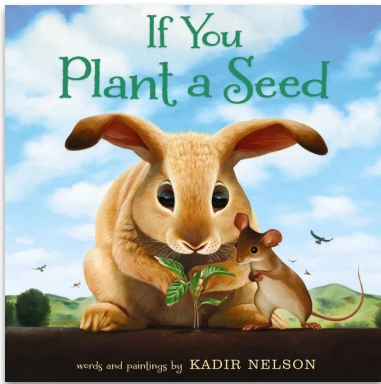


dreary: dark, gloomy, or sad

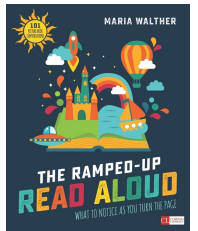
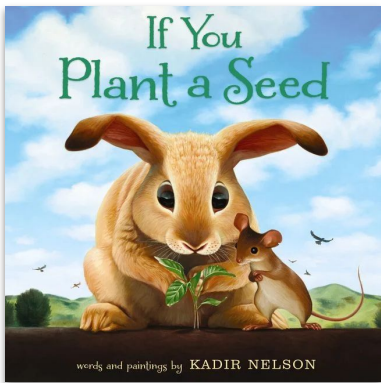


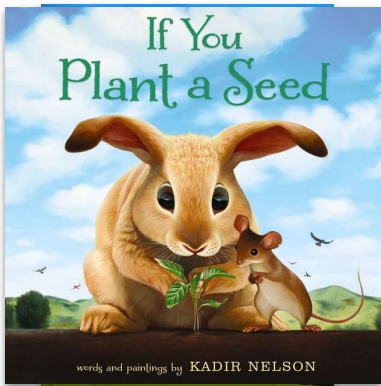


kindness

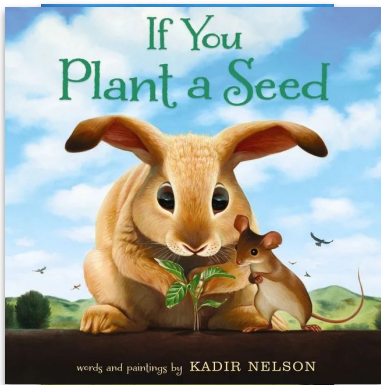


selfishness

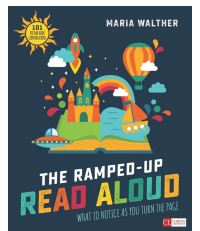
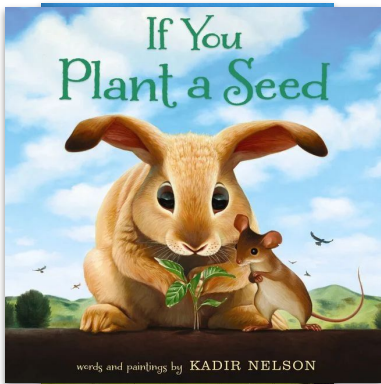


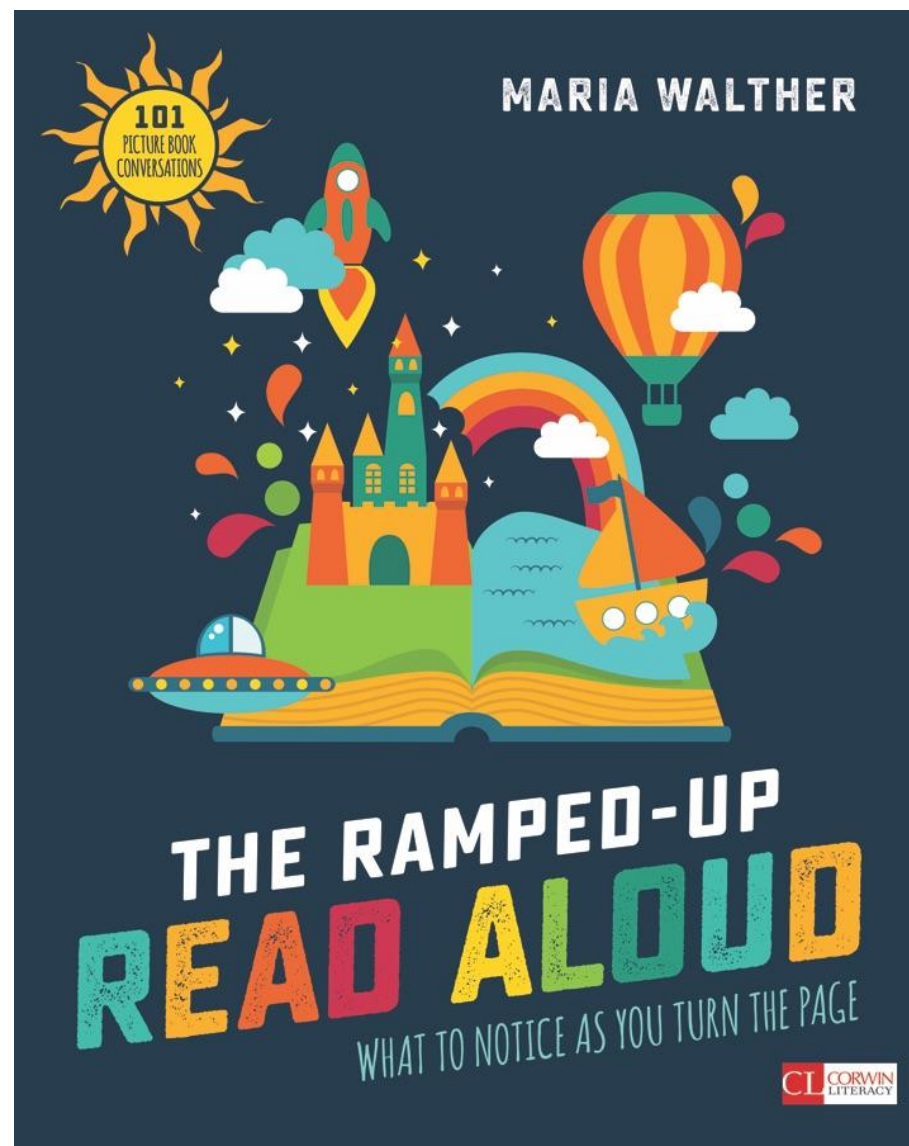


kindness: being caring and helpful to others



selfishness: caring only about what you want





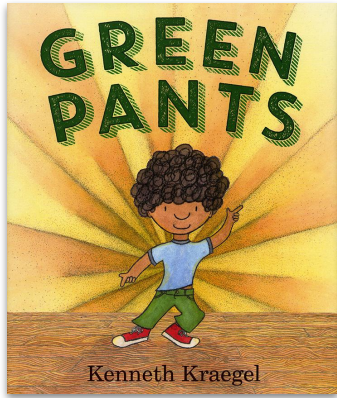
The Ramped-Up Read Aloud

Chapter 3: Converse About Comprehension—Fiction

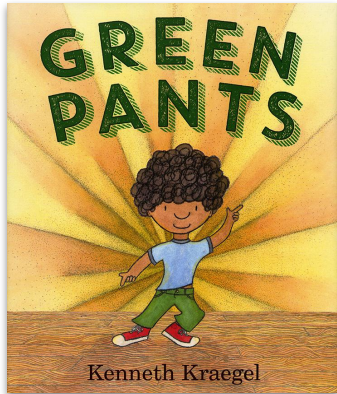
Key Vocabulary Word Cards and Kid-Friendly Definitions

Created by: Maria Walther

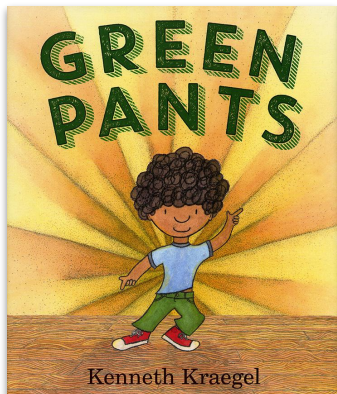
Revised 10/2026



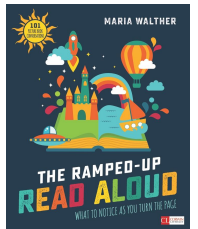
absolutely

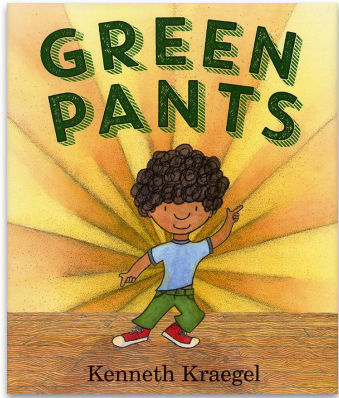


dashing

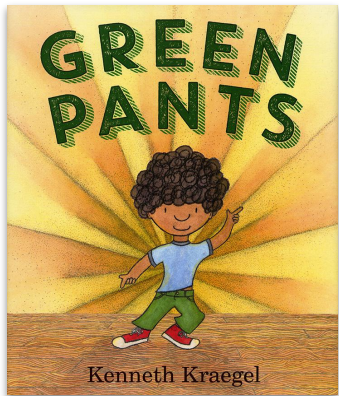


lingered

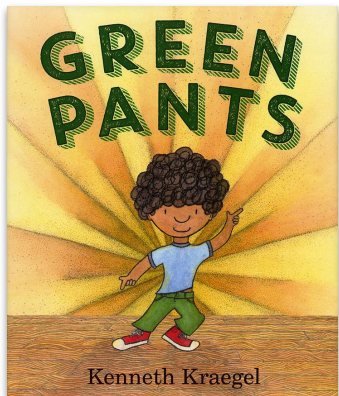




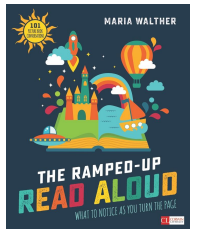
absolutely: definitely or for sure

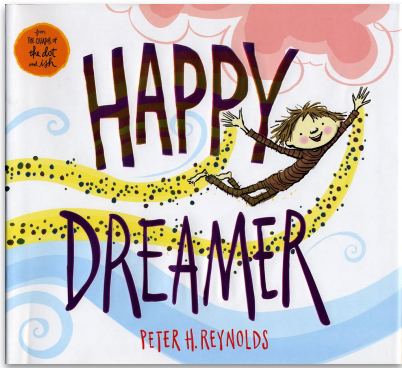


dashing: very handsome,
stylish

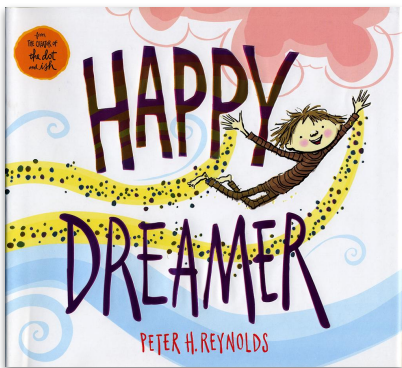


lingered: stayed longer than
expected

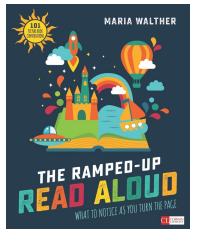
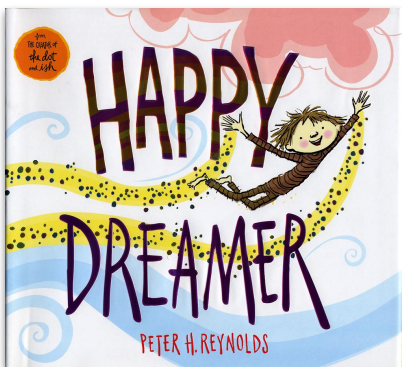


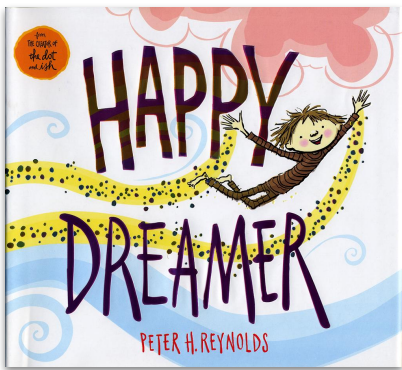


colorful

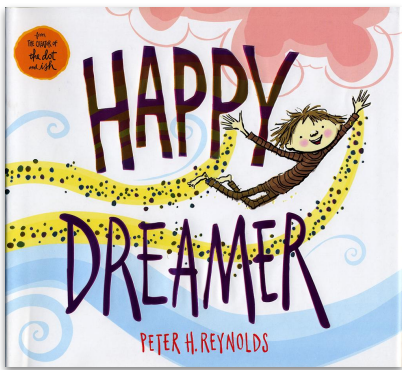


creative

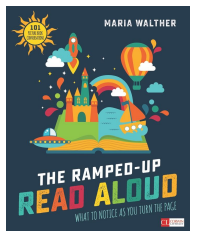
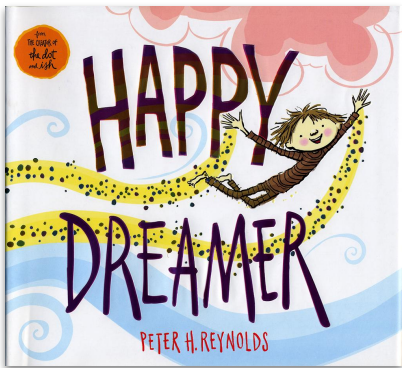


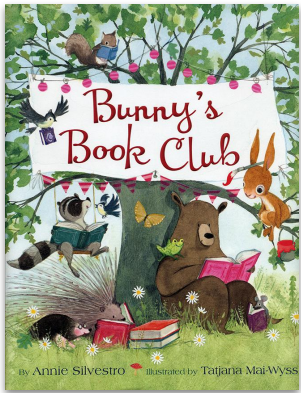


colorful: full of bright or many colors

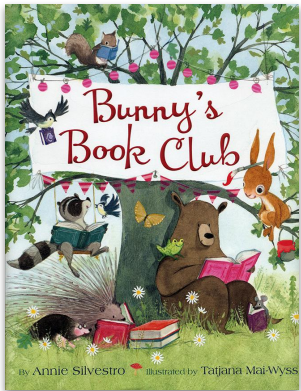


creative: good at making or thinking of new things

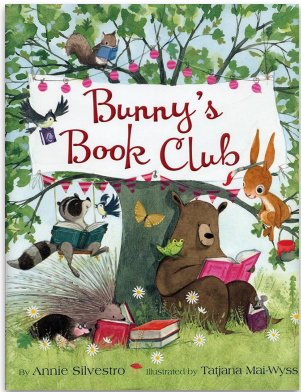




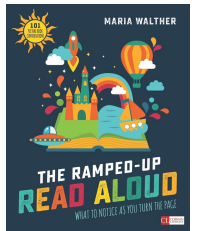
cozied

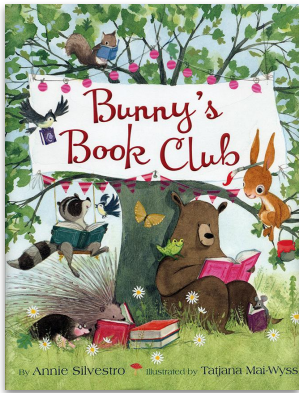


curious

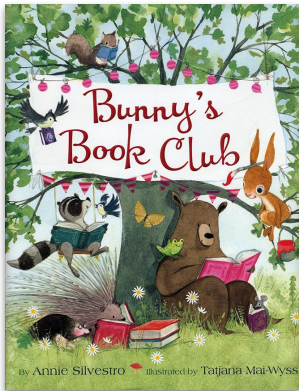


sternly

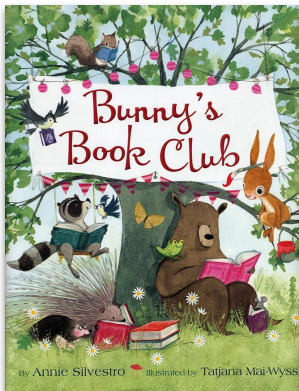




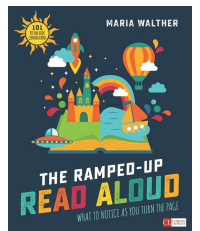
cozied: got comfortable and warm

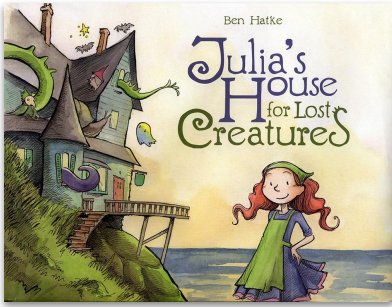


curious: asking questions, working to find answers, and wanting to learn new things

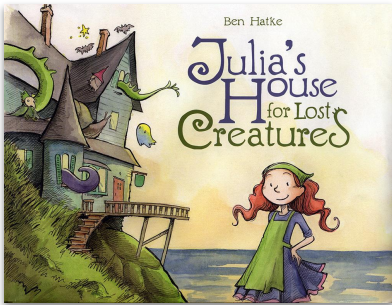


sternly: in a serious or strict way

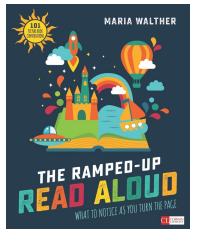
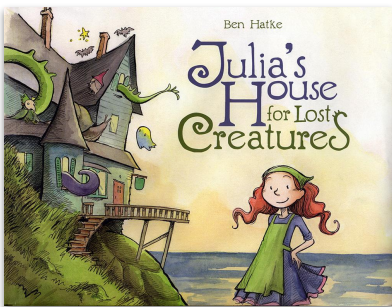


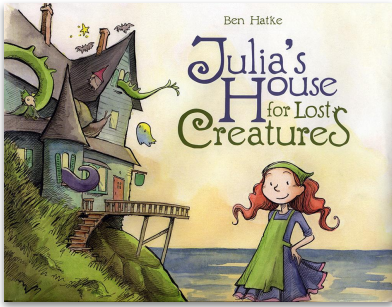


creatures

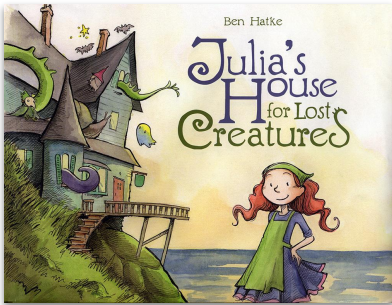


guilty

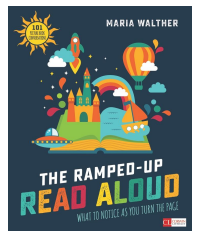
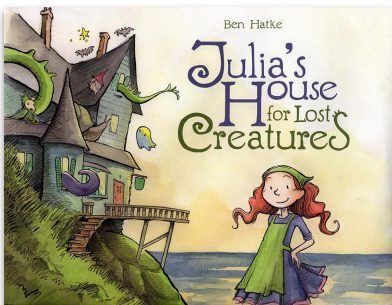


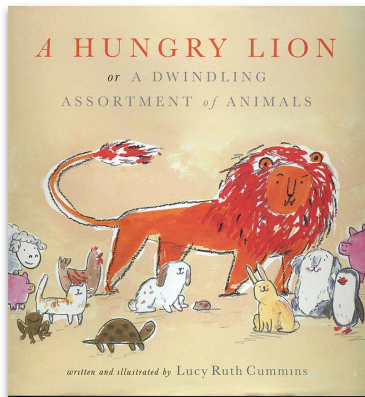


creatures: living things,
especially animals

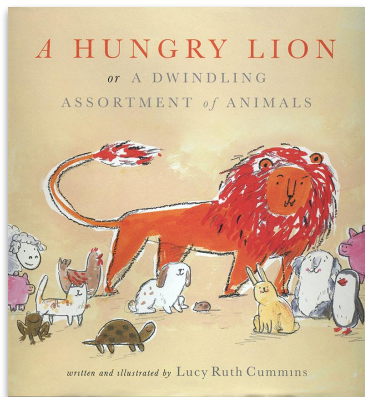


guilty: feeling bad because you
did something wrong

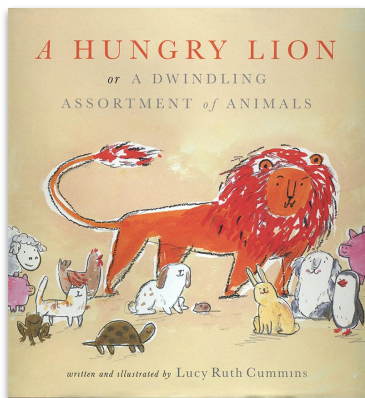




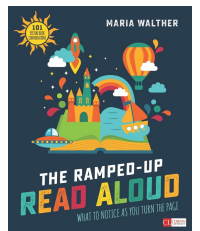
assortment

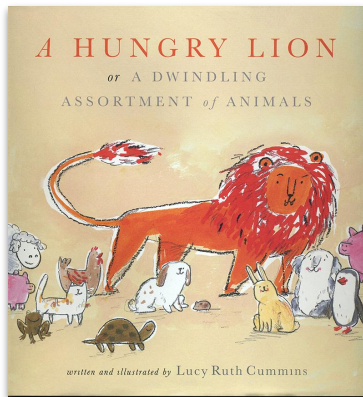


dwindling

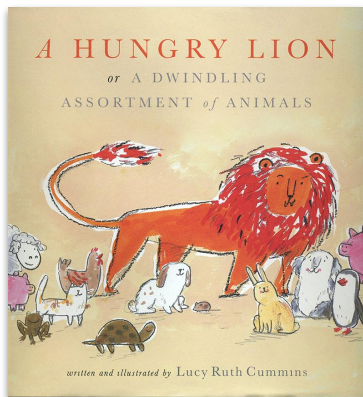


ravenous

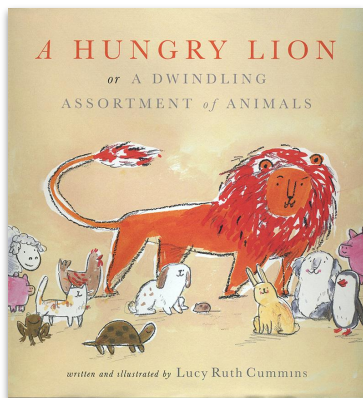




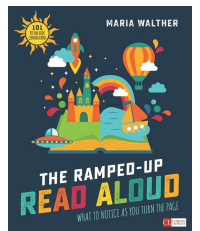
assortment: a group of different things

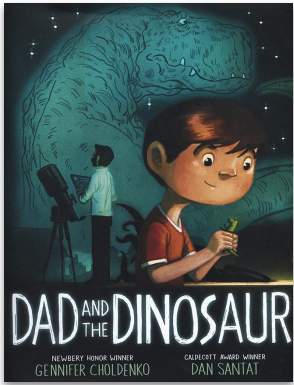


dwindling: becoming smaller or less

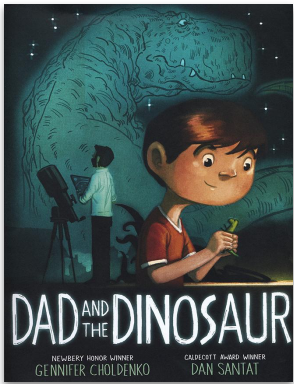


ravenous: very, very hungry

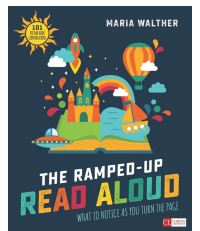
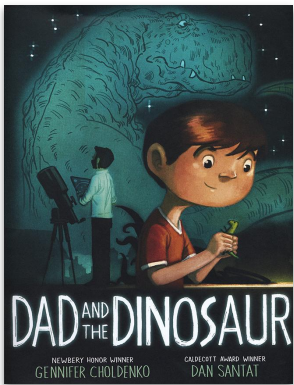


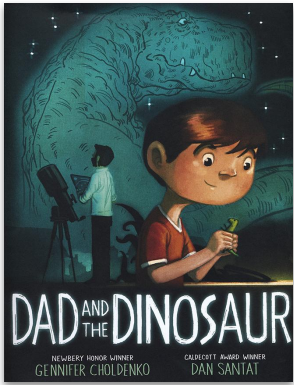


fearless

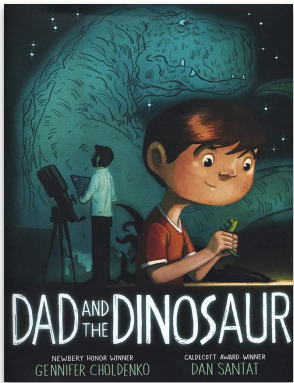


incredible

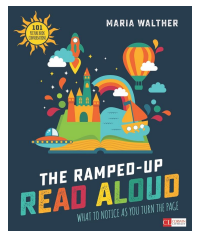
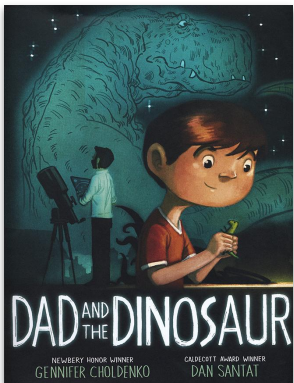


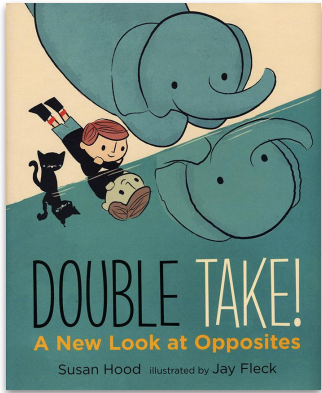


fearless: not afraid

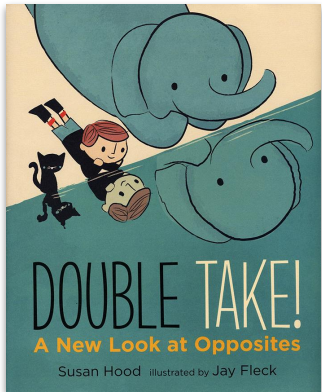


incredible: very amazing or
hard to believe

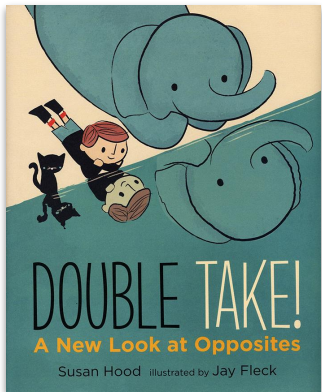




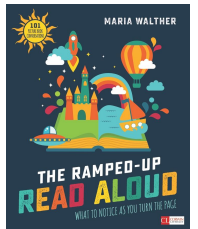
opposite

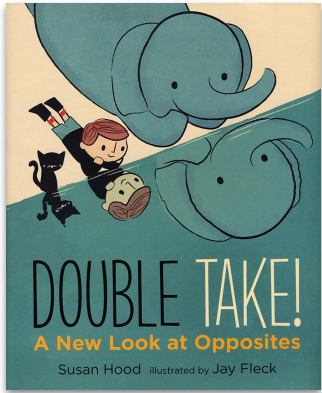


reflection

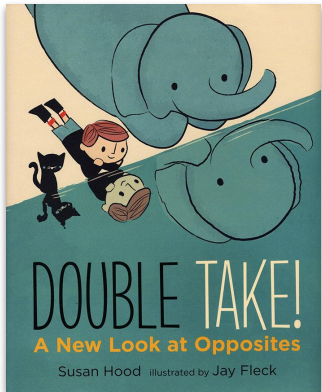


relative

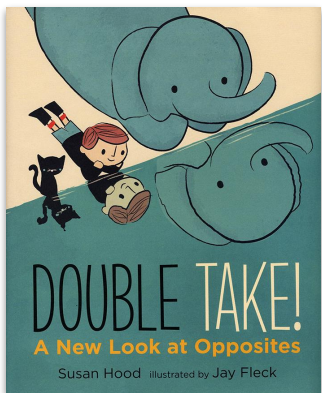




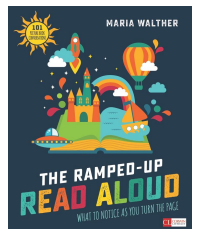
opposite: completely different

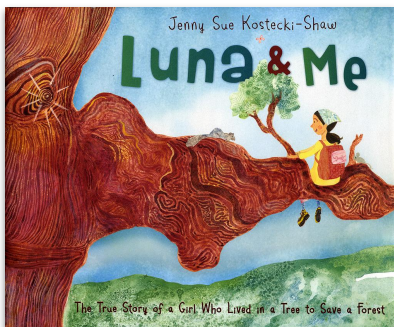


reflection: deep thinking about something

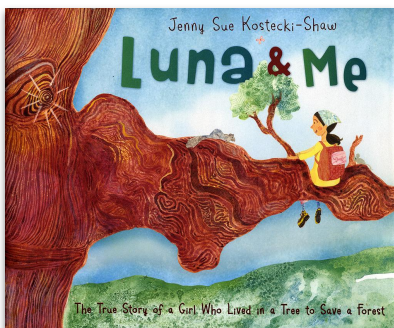


relative: a word that show how two things are connected or compared

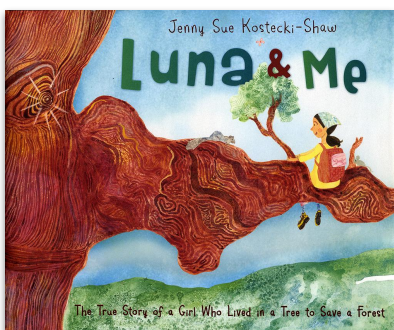




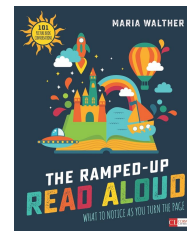
eager

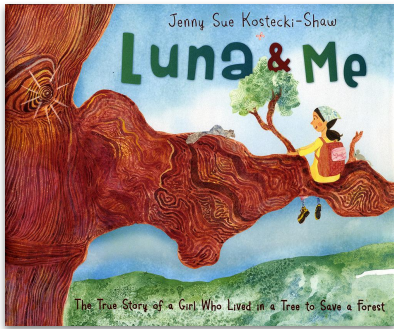


marveled

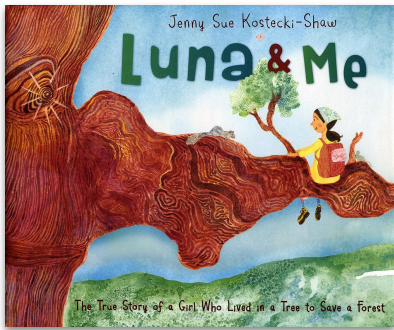


quivered

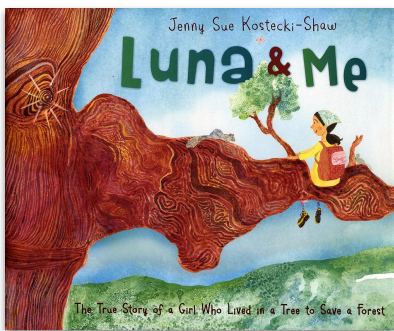




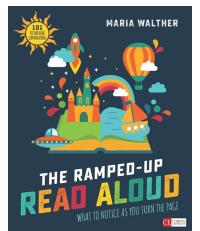
eager: when you really want to do or have something

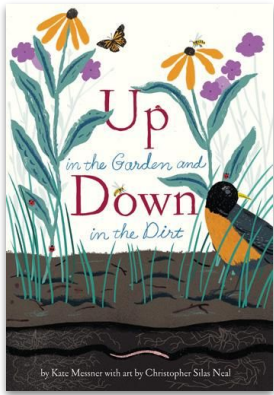


marveled: was filled with wonder or surprise

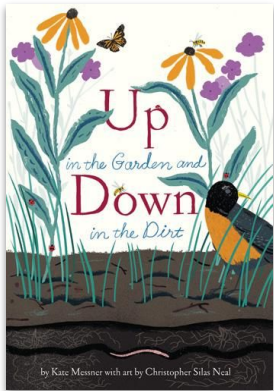


quivered: shook a little

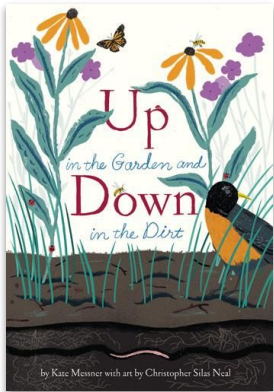




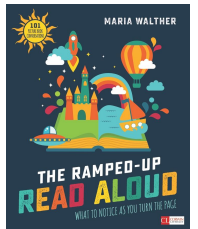
feast

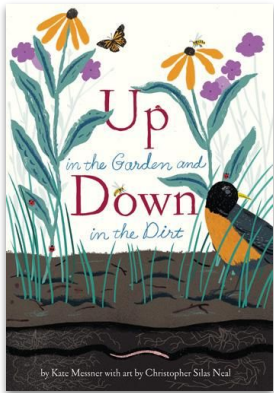


gobble

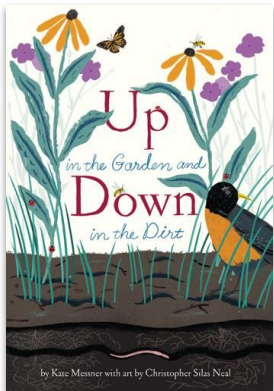


munch

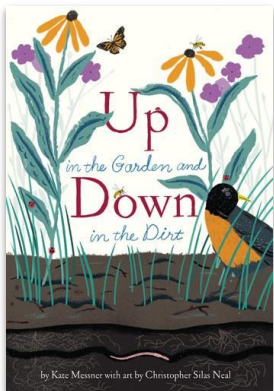




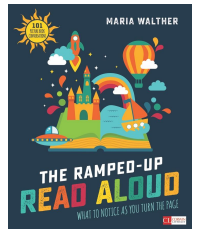
feast: to eat or drink a large amount

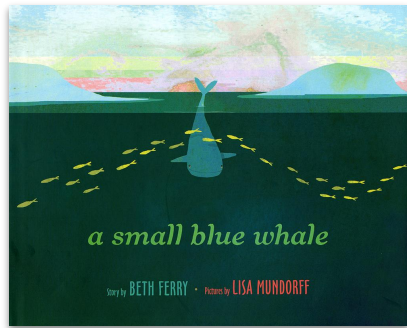


gobble: to eat very quickly

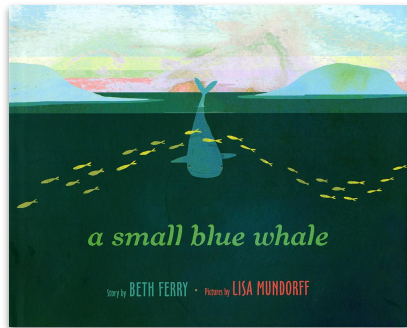


munch: to chew noisily; to crunch

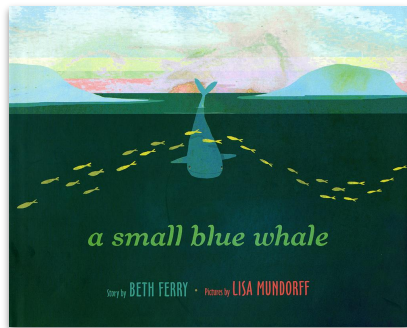




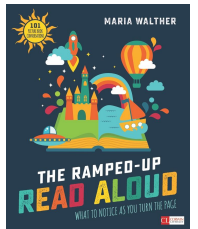
heaved

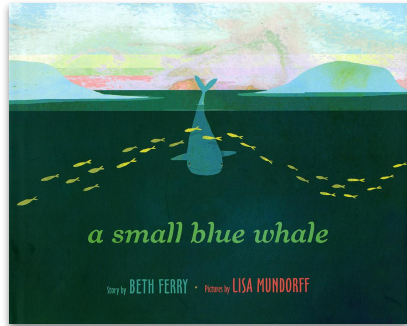


glimpsed

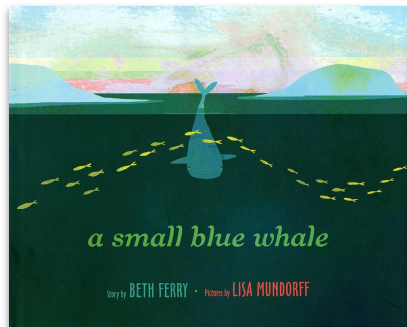


radiant

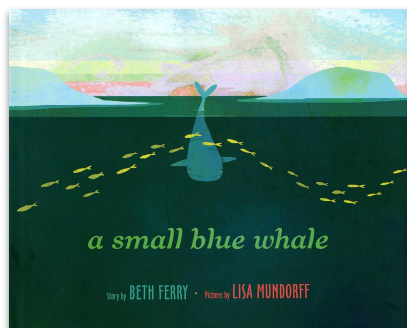




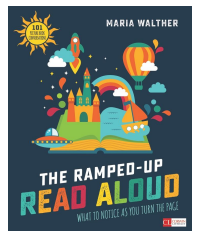
heaved: worked hard to lift up
or move something

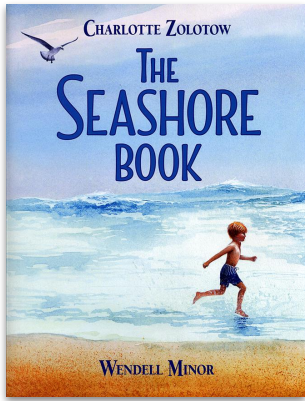


glimpsed: saw something for a
short time

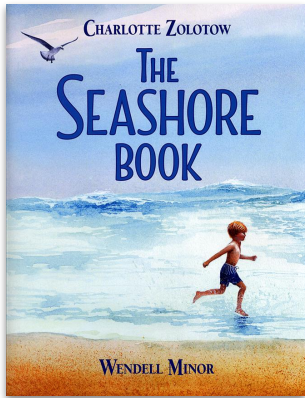


radiant: shining brightly

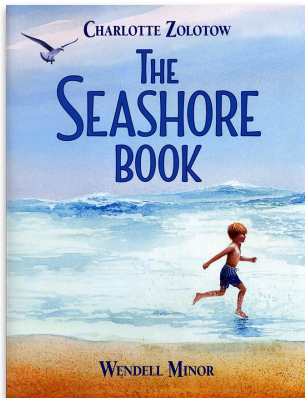




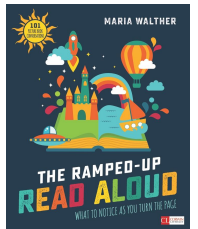
lulls

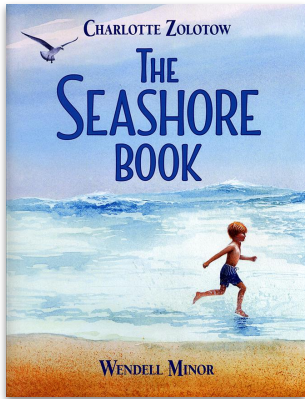


pretend

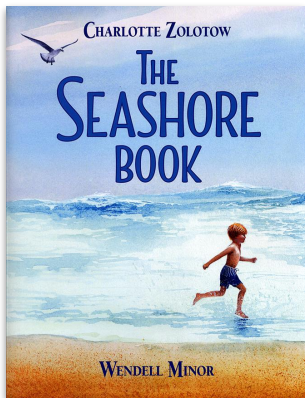


wade

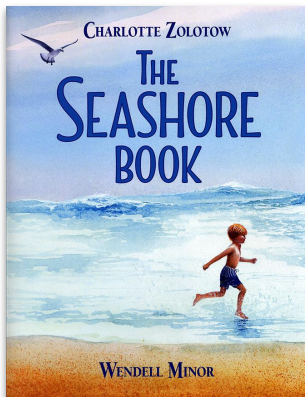




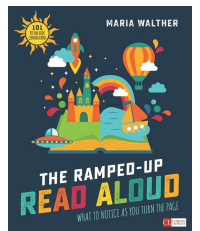
lulls: helps someone feel calm

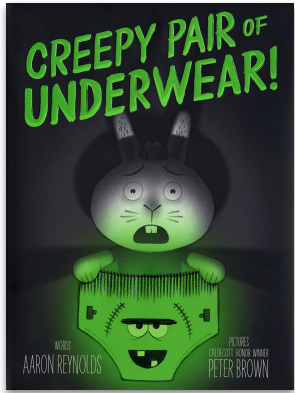


pretend: to act as if something is real when it is not

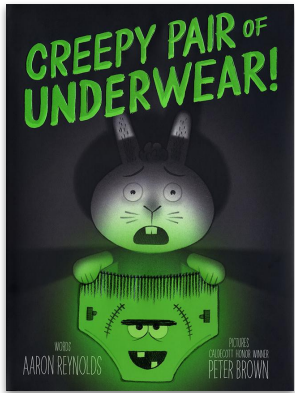


wade: to walk through water

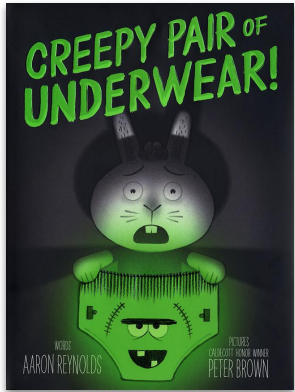




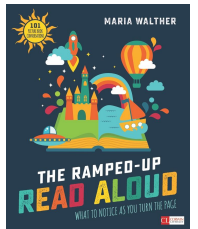
ghoulish



gleamed

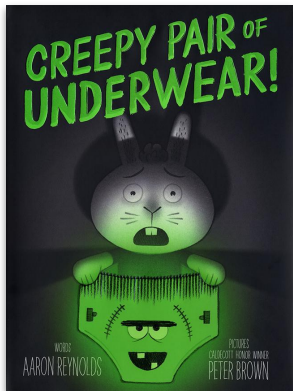


yelped

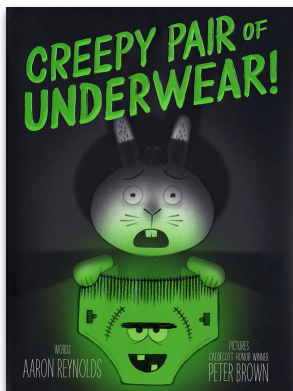




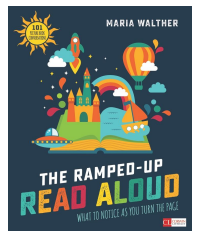
ghoulish: scary and ghostlike

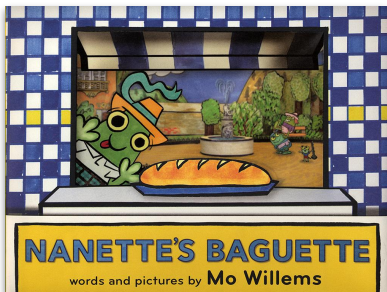


gleamed: shone brightly

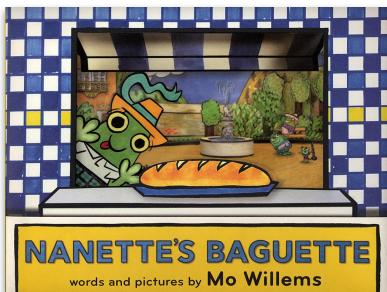


yelped: cried out quickly and sharply

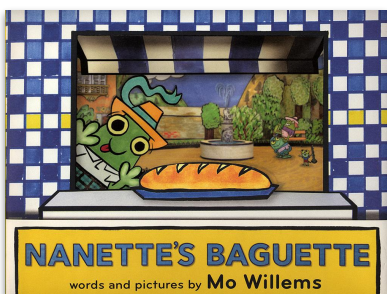




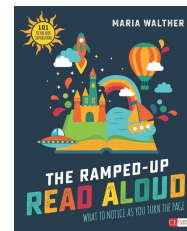
fret

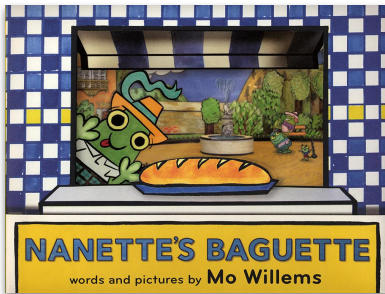


regret

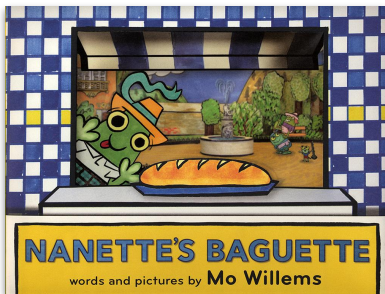


responsibility

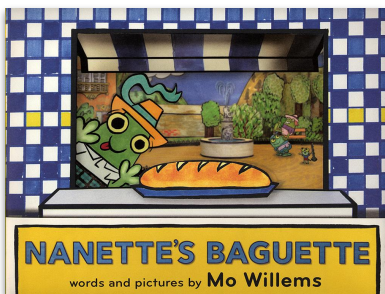




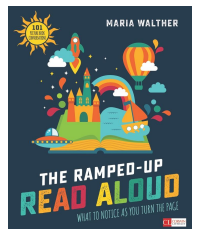
fret: to worry about something

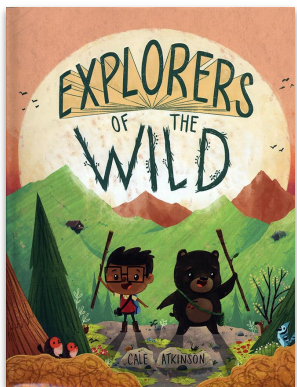


regret: to feel sorry about something you did or did not do

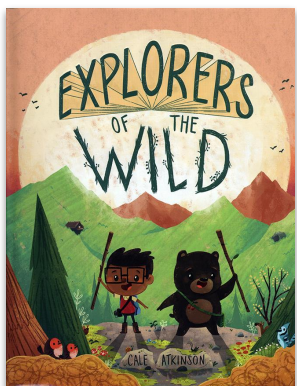


responsibility: something you are expected to take care of

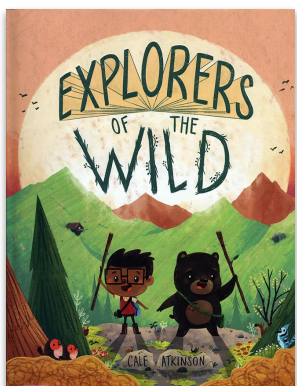




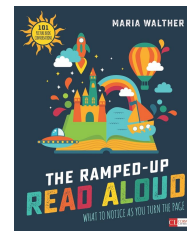
adventure

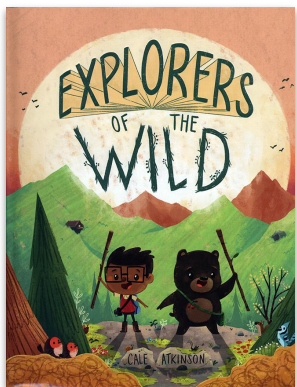


conquer

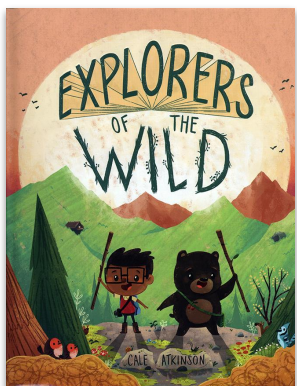


discovery

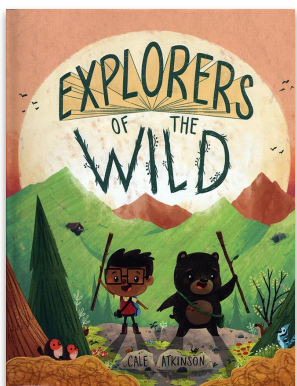




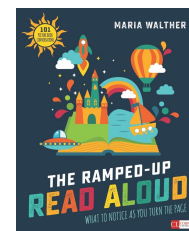
adventure: an exciting or dangerous trip or experience

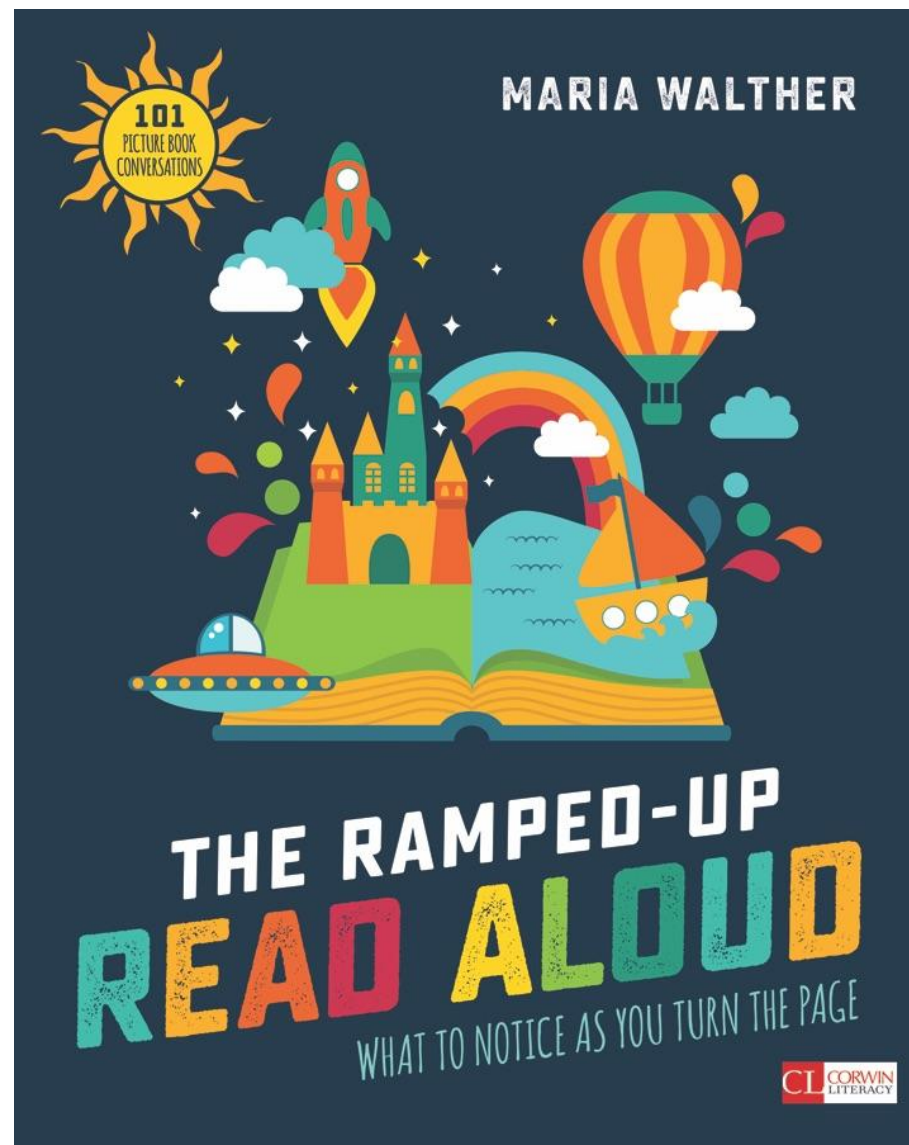


conquer: to overcome a fear or challenge



discovery: something you find out or learn for the first time





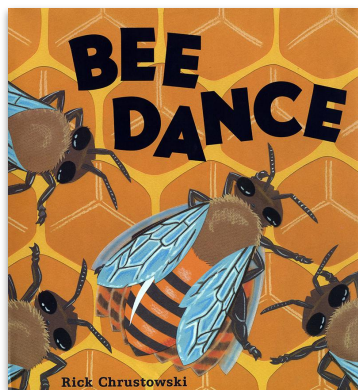
The Ramped-Up Read Aloud

Chapter 4: Converse About Comprehension—Informational and Narrative Nonfiction

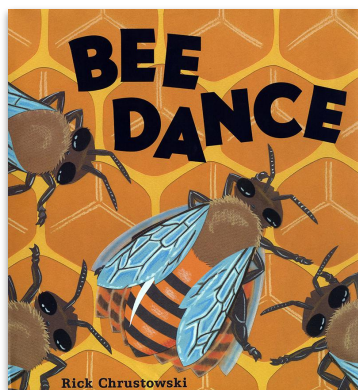
Key Vocabulary Word Cards and Kid-Friendly Definitions

Created by: Maria Walther

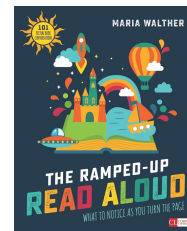
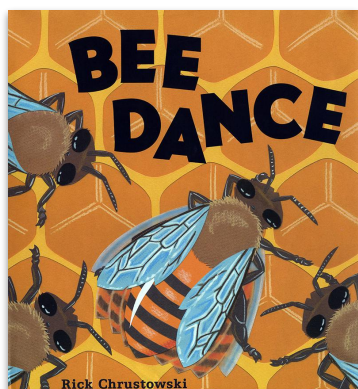
Revised 10/2026

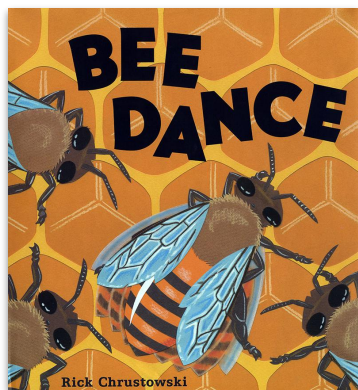


collect

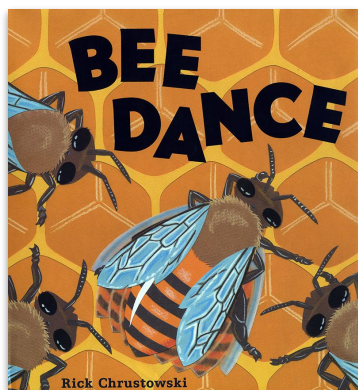


unload

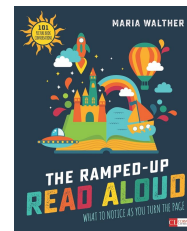
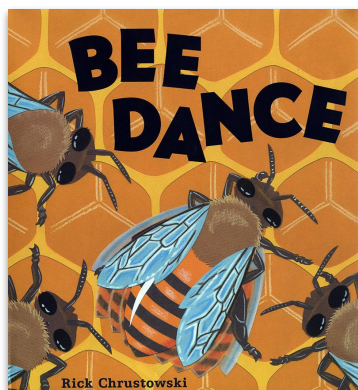


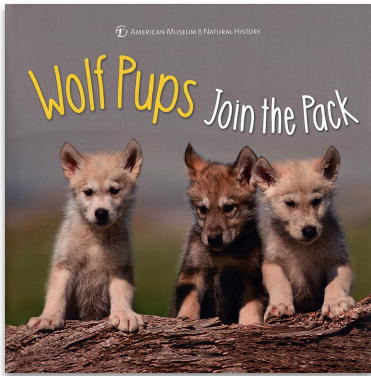


collect: to bring things together

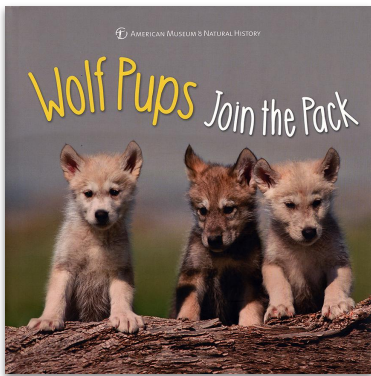


unload: to take things out of a vehicle or container

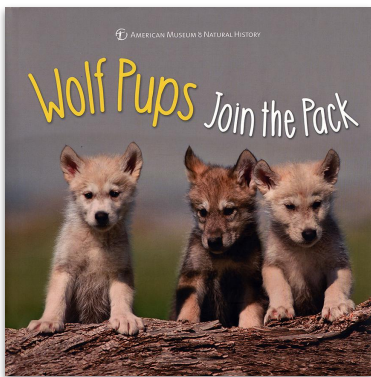




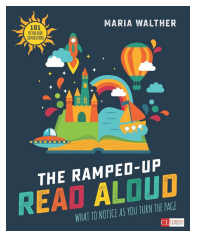
protection

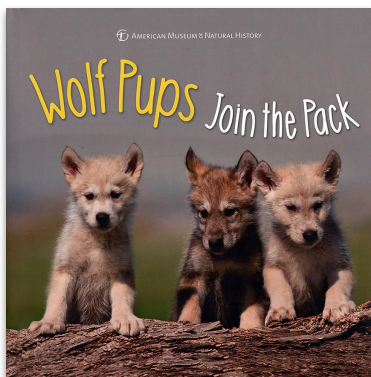


rely

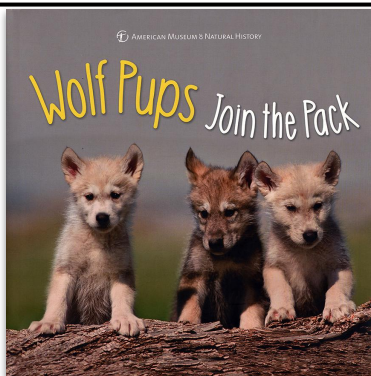


useful

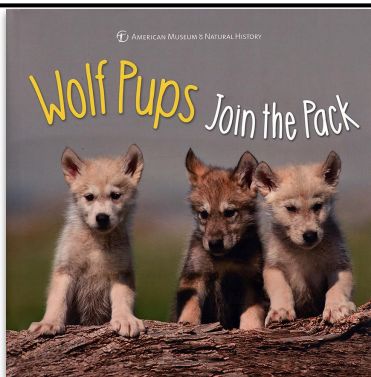




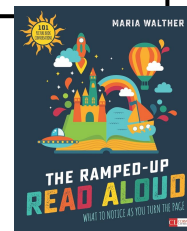
protection: something that keeps someone or something safe

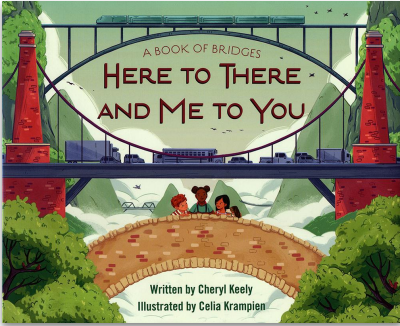


rely: to depend on someone or something

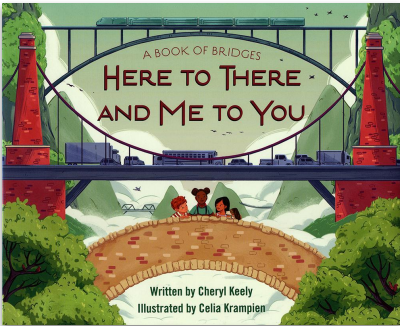


useful: helpful or good for a reason

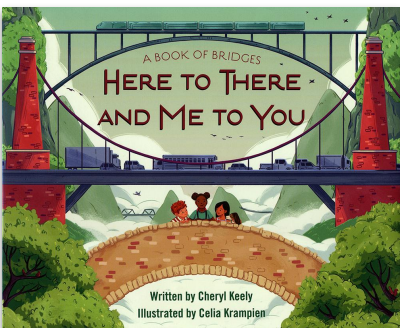




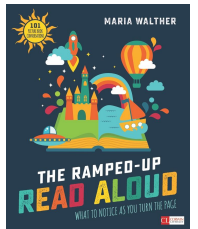
connect

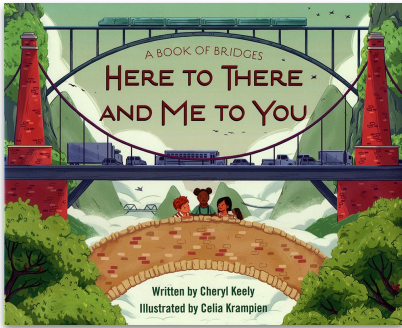


movable

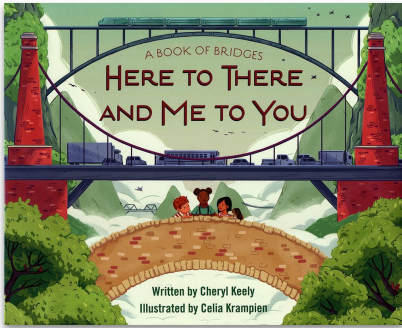


swaying

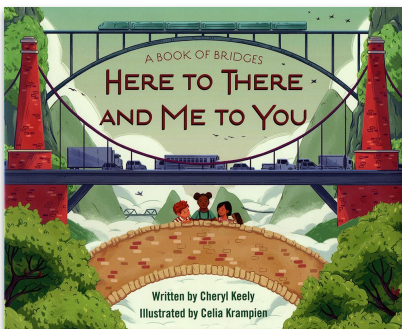




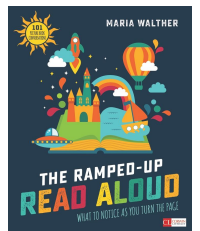
connect: to join or link things together

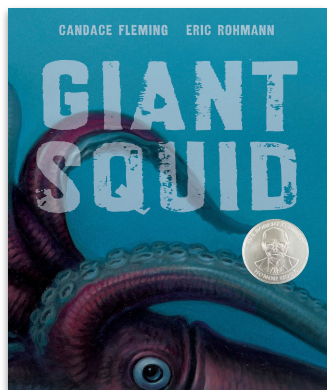


movable: able to be moved

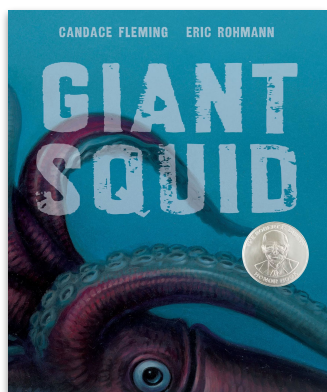


swaying: moving slowly from side to side

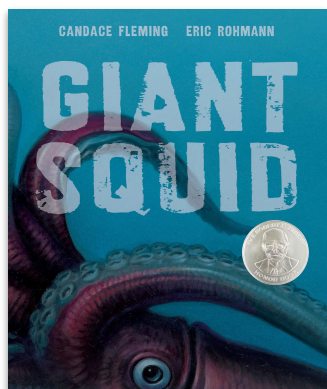




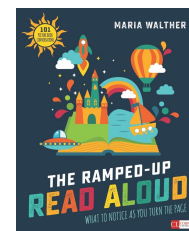
creatures



examine

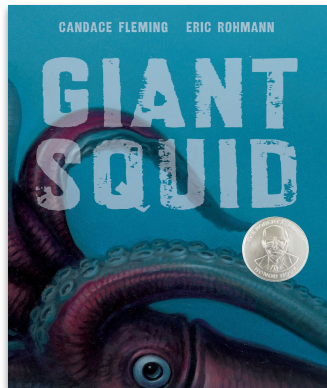


mystery

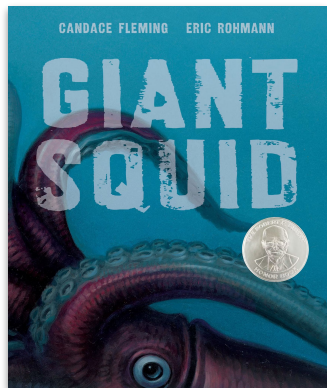




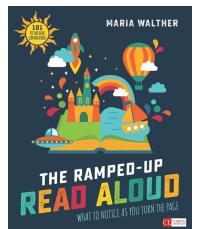
creatures: living things,
especially animals

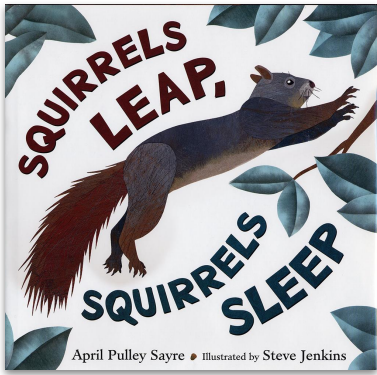


examine: to look at something
closely

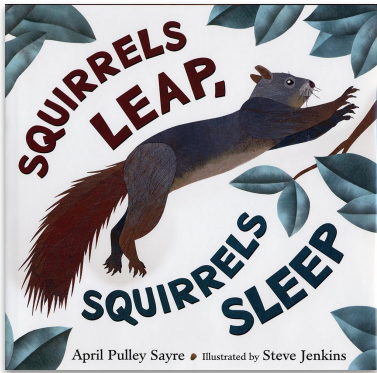


mystery: something that is hard
to explain or understand

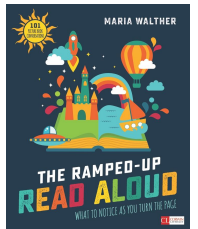
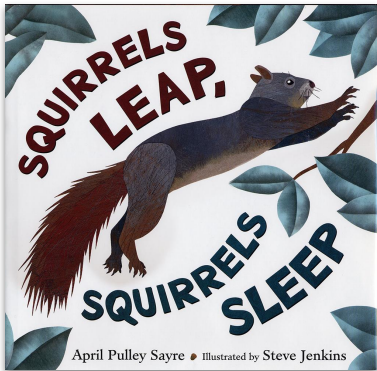


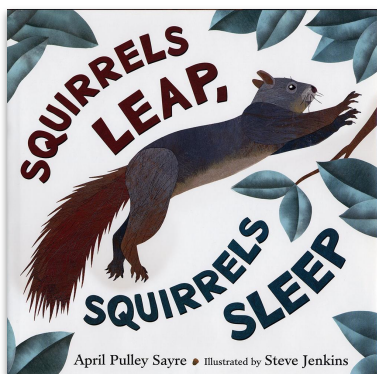


gather

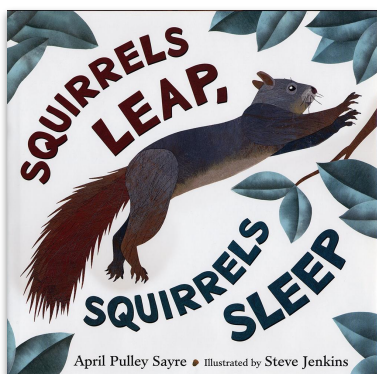


store

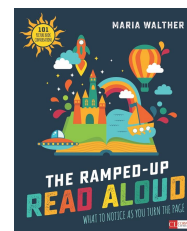
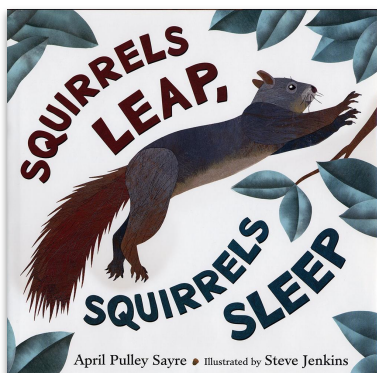


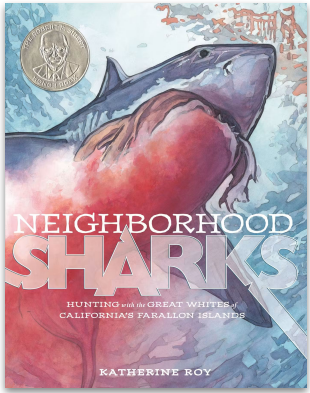


gather: to bring things together

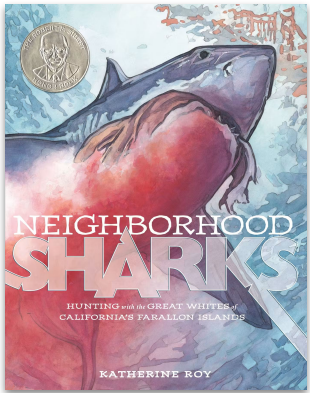


store: to put something away to use later

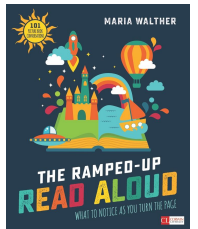
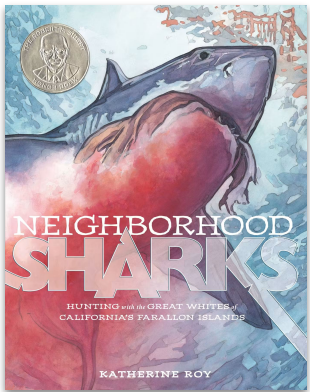


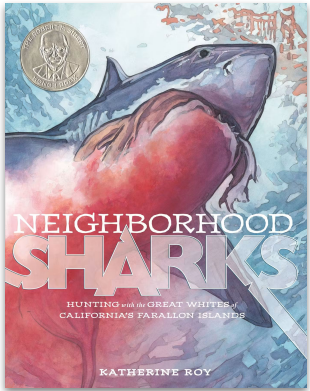


survive

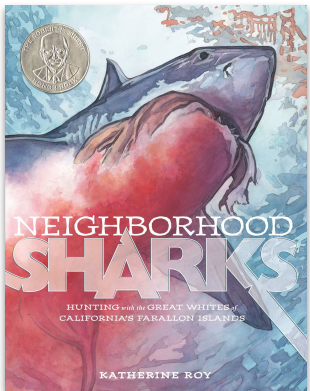


unsuspecting

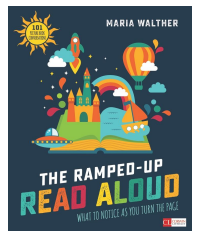
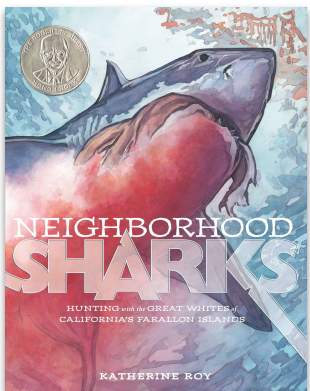


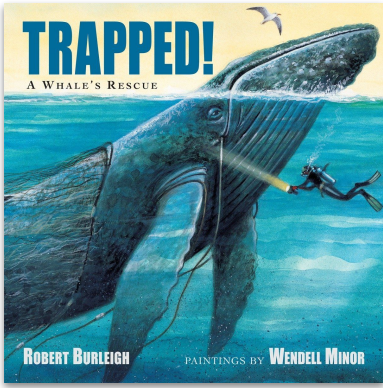


survive: to stay alive

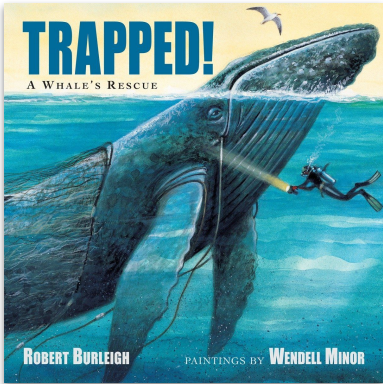


unsuspecting: not knowing that something is going to happen

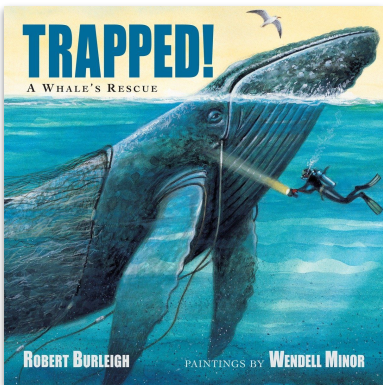




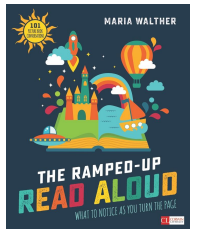
immense

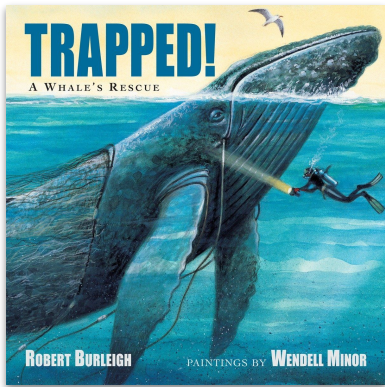


rescue

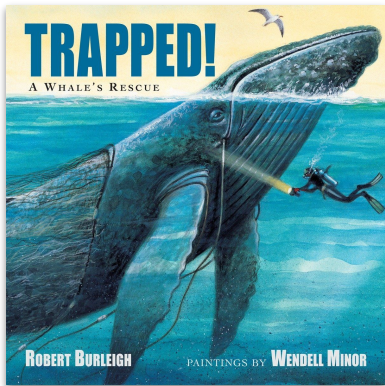


struggle

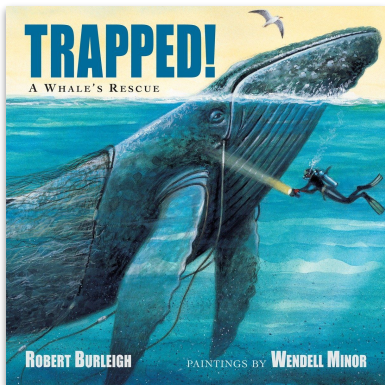




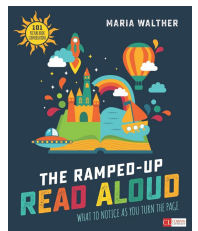
immense: extremely large

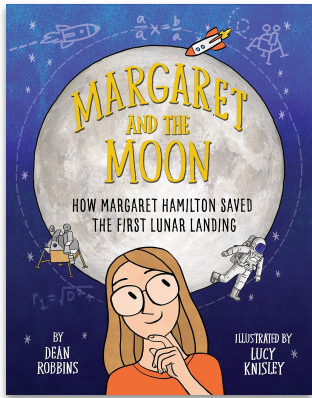


rescue: to help someone or something that is in trouble or danger



struggle: to try very hard to do something





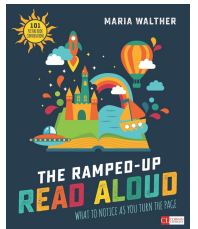
convinced

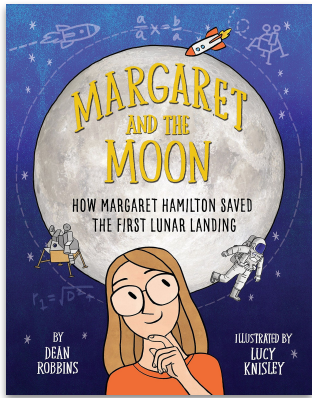


gazed



solution





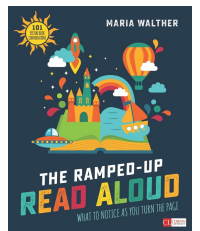
convinced: got someone to believe or agree with you

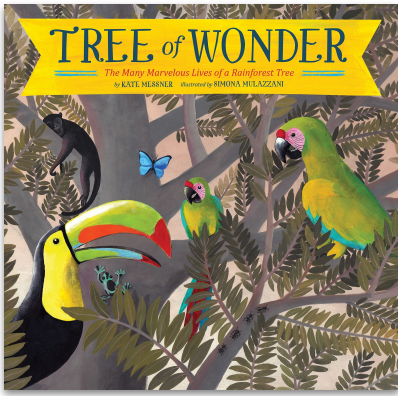


gazed: looked at something for a long time

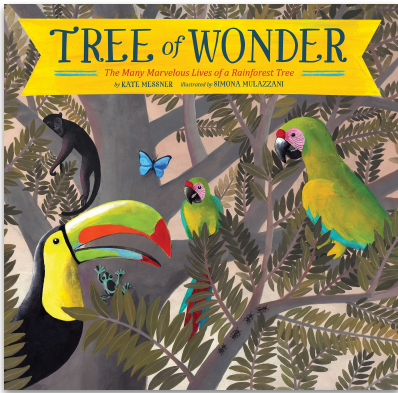


solution: an answer to a problem

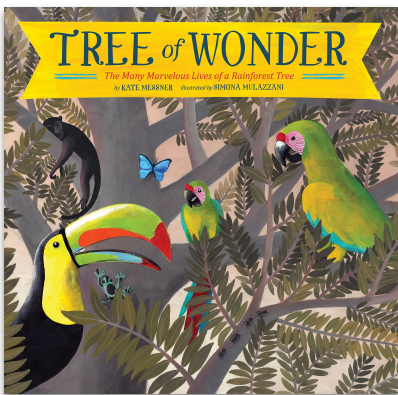




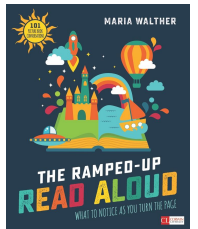
bustles

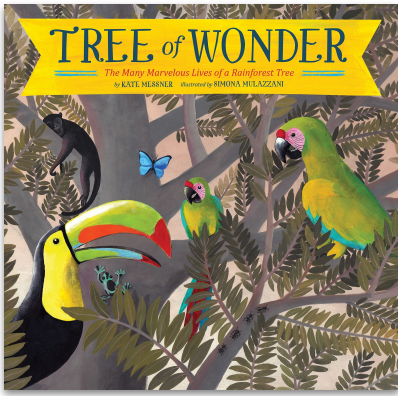


hauling

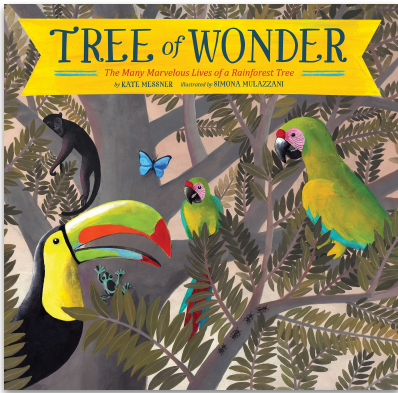


lurk

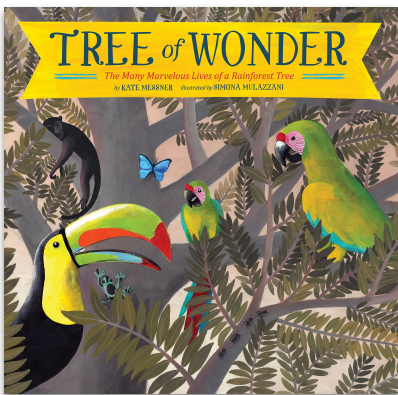




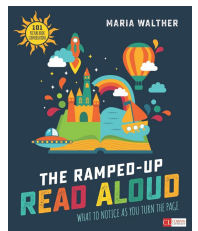
bustles: moves around in a busy way



hauling: carrying or pulling something heavy



lurk: hide or wait quietly to do something sneaky or surprising





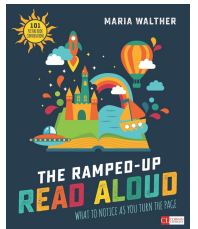
exploding



explore



snuggles





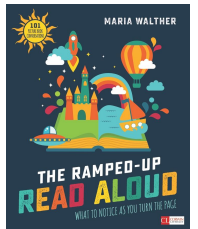
exploding: bursting apart suddenly

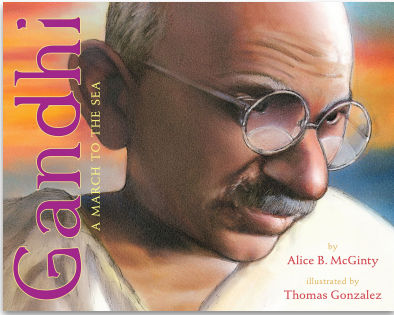


explore: to look around and learn about a place or thing

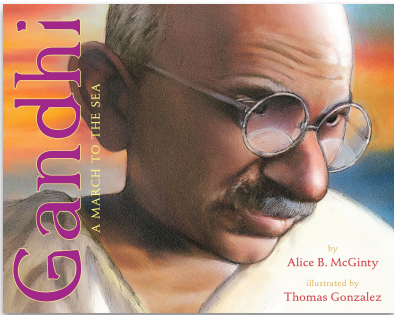


snuggles: cuddles closely and comfortably

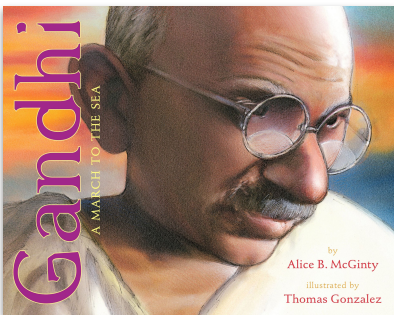




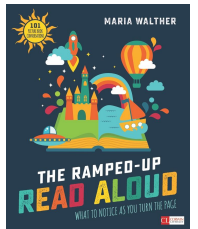
gaze

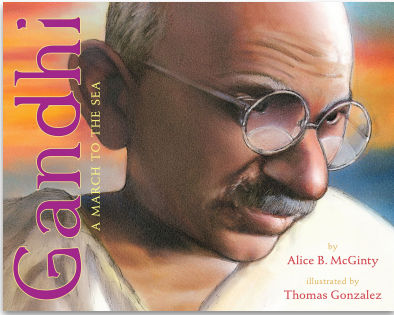


risky

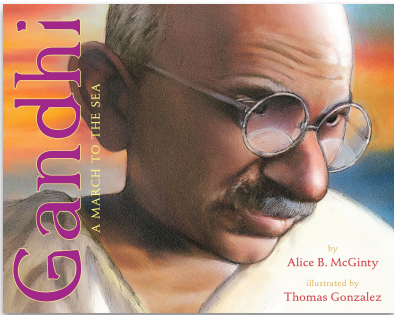


unfair

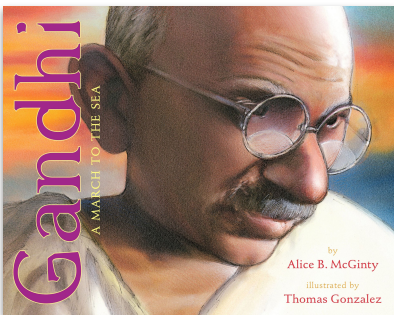




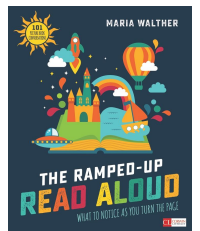
gaze: look at something for a long time



risky: not safe; could be dangerous



unfair: not right or equal





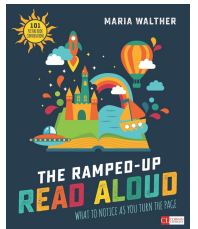
imagined



pretended



protected





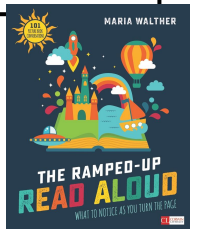
imagined: pictured something in your mind

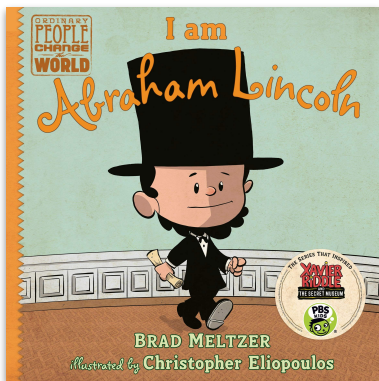


pretended: acted as if something was real when it was not

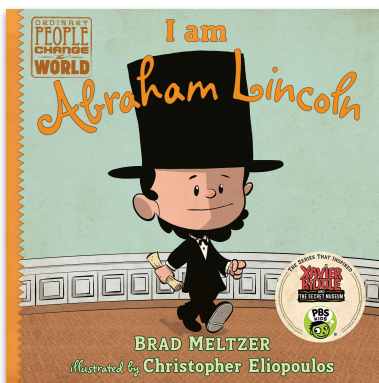


protected: kept safe from harm

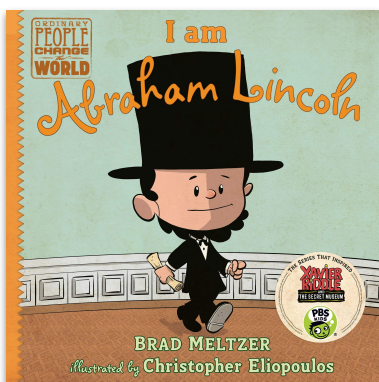




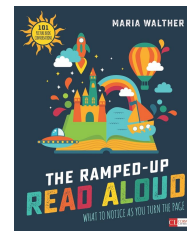
avoided

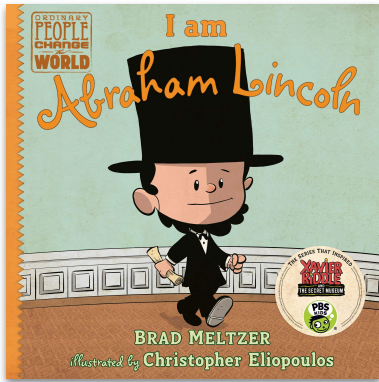


preferred

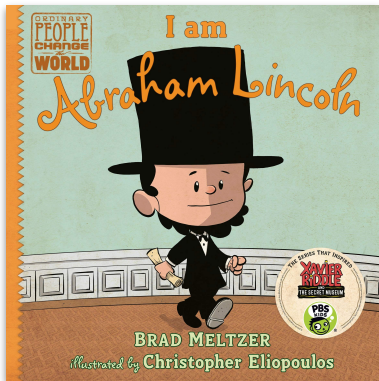


reveal

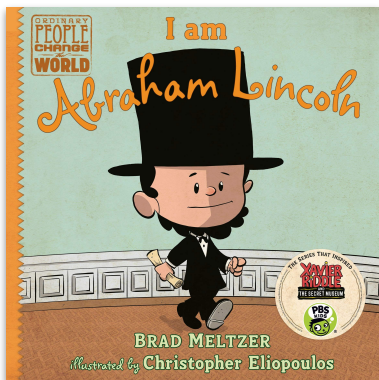




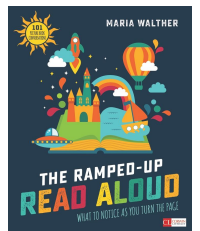
avoided: stayed away from someone or something

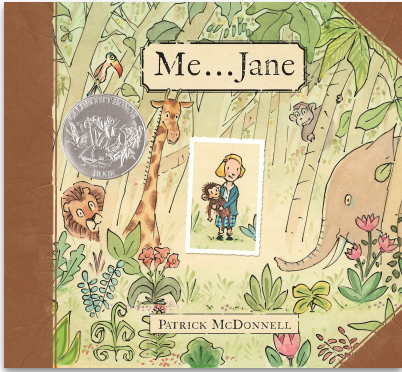


preferred: liked one thing better than another

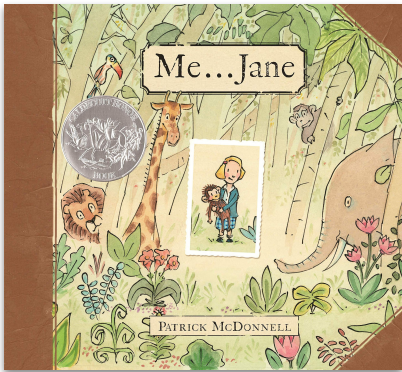


reveal: to show something that was hidden or unknown

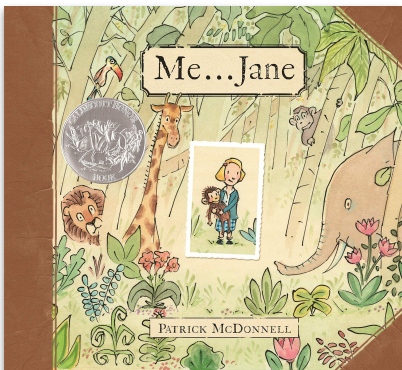




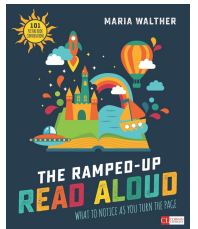
cherished

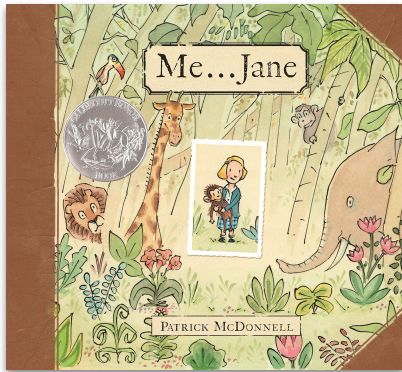


curious

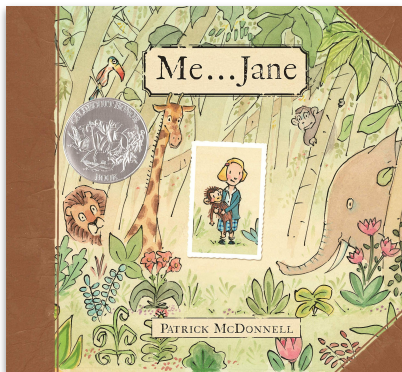


observed

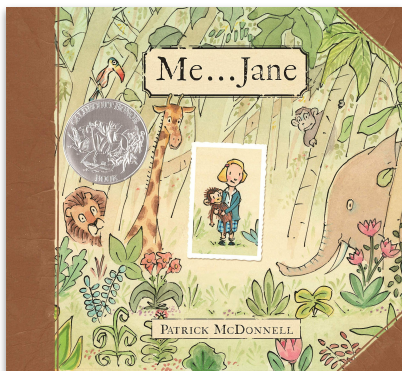




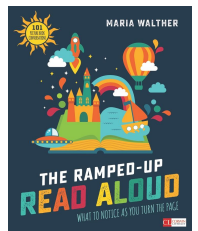
cherished: loved and cared about very much

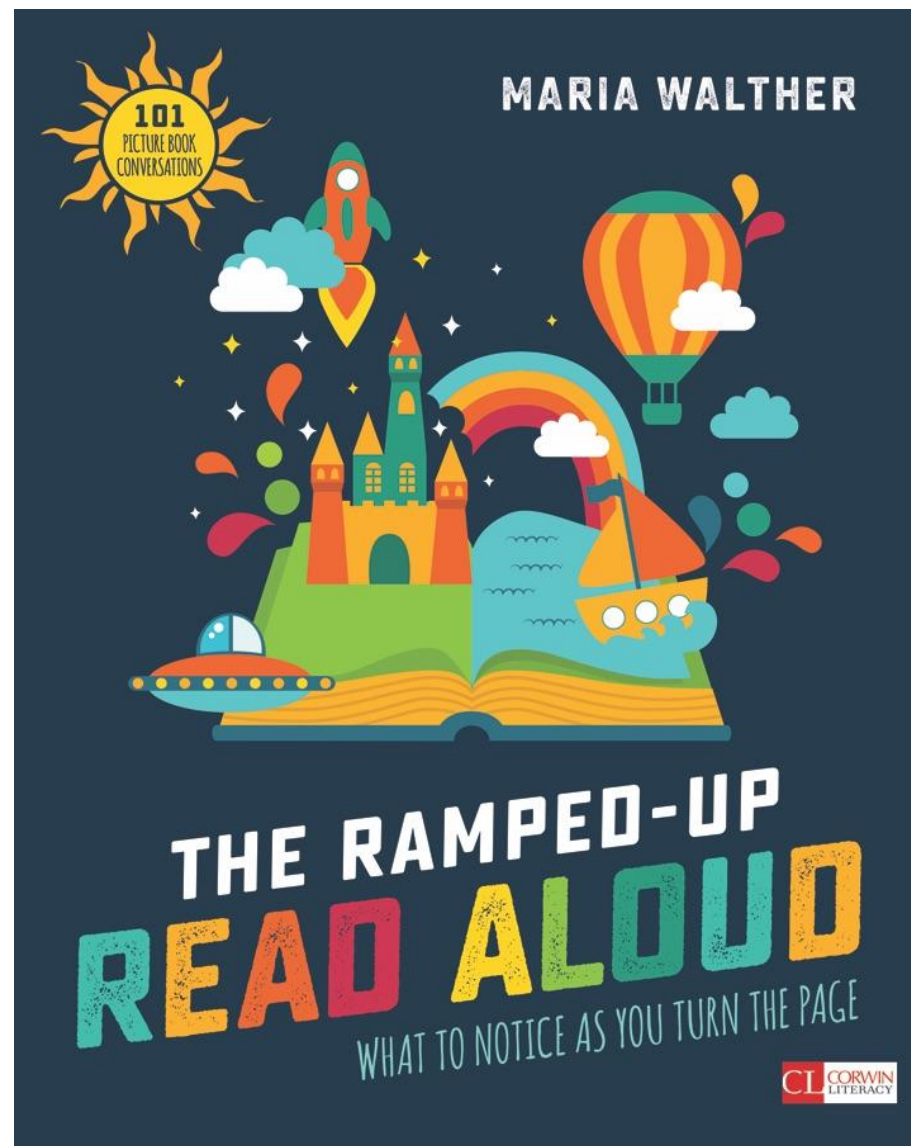


curious: asking questions, working to find answers, and wanting to learn new things



observed: watched or looked at something carefully





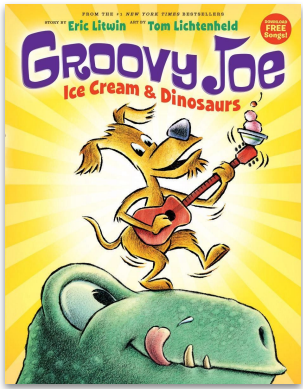
The Ramped-Up Read Aloud

Chapter 5: Building Foundational and Language Skills

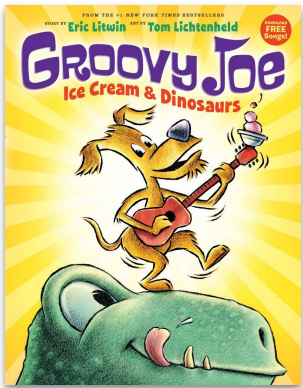
Key Vocabulary Word Cards and Kid-Friendly Definitions

Created by: Maria Walther

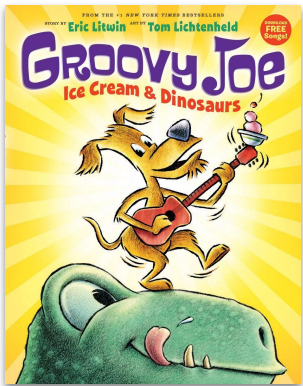
Revised 10/2026



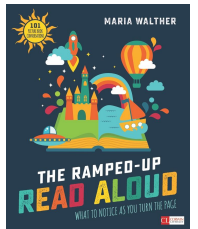
burst

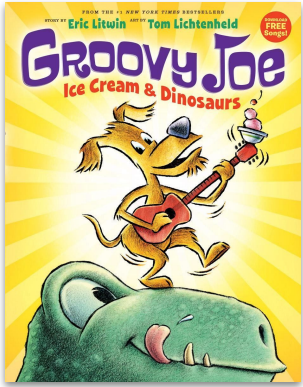


glared

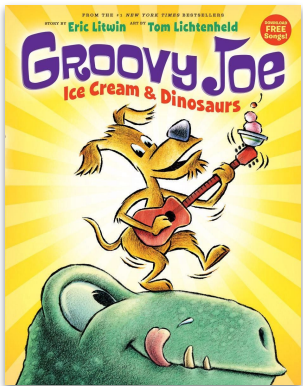


rose

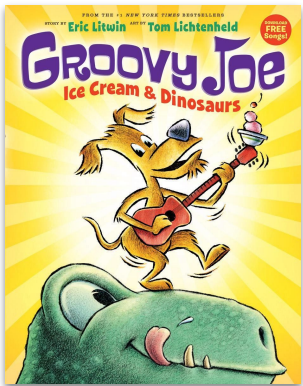




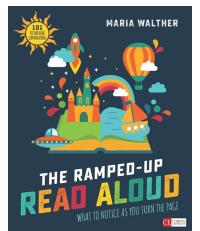
burst: to move into a place suddenly and quickly

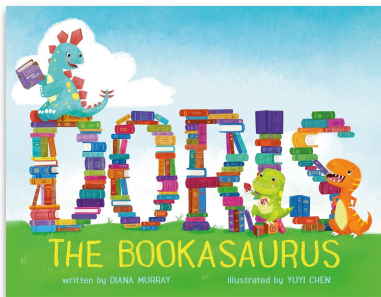


glared: looked angrily at someone

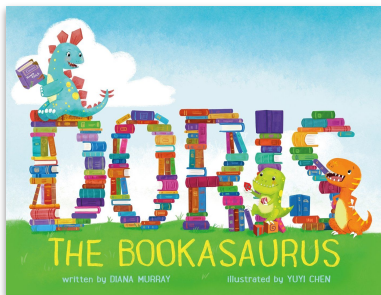


rose: moved upward

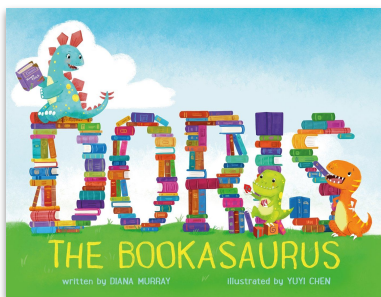




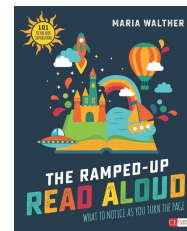
lounging

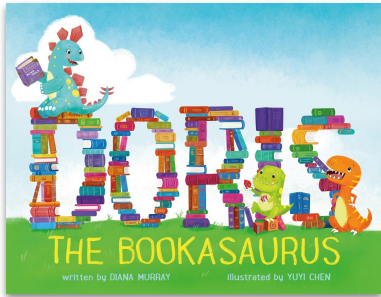


rowdy

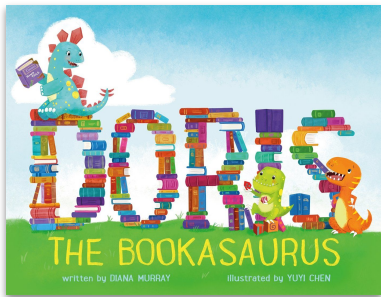


stomping

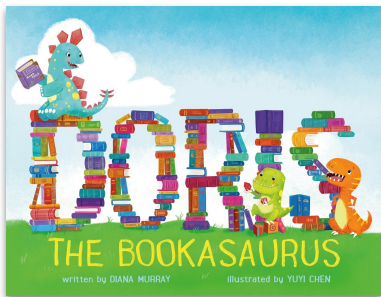




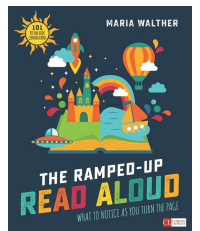
lounging: relaxing in a comfortable way



rowdy: noisy and hard to control



stomping: walking with heavy, loud steps





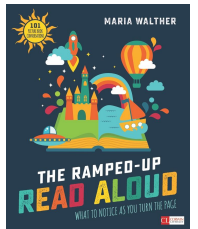
fetch



gobble



tale





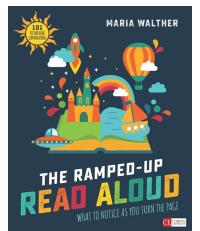
fetch: to go get something and bring it back

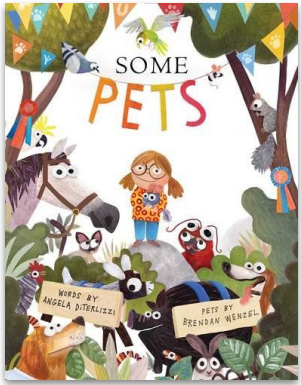


gobble: to eat very quickly

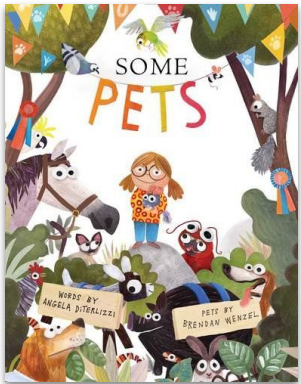


tale: a story

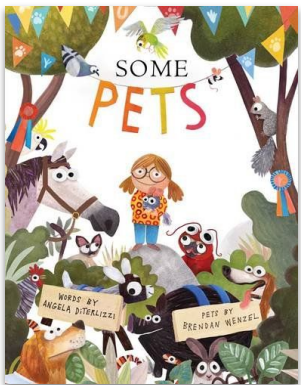




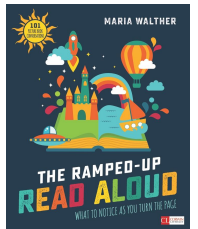
bound

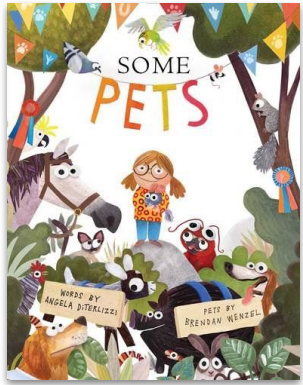


nibble

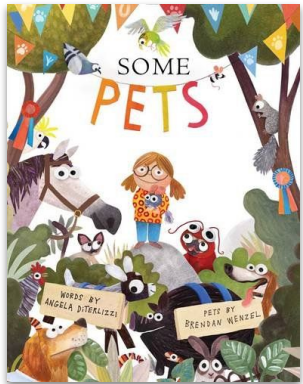


scurry

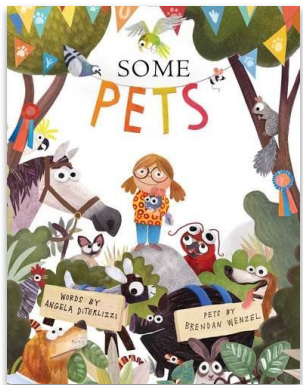




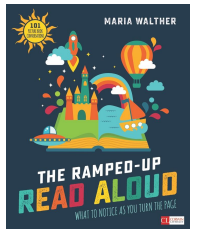
bound: jumped or moved quickly

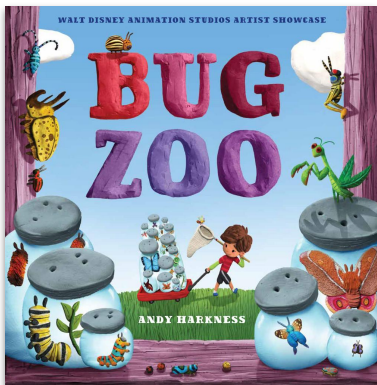


nibble: to eat small bites

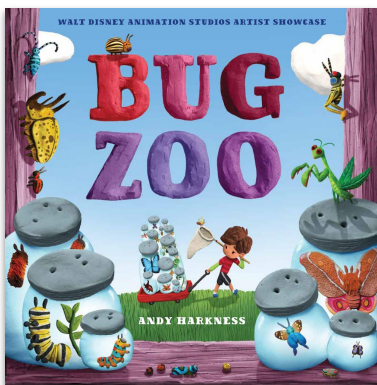


scurry: to move quickly with small steps

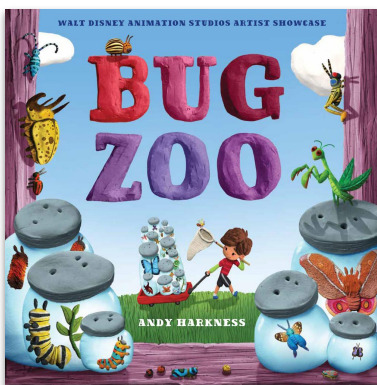




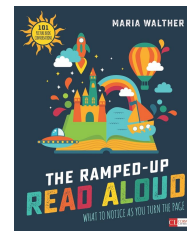
folks

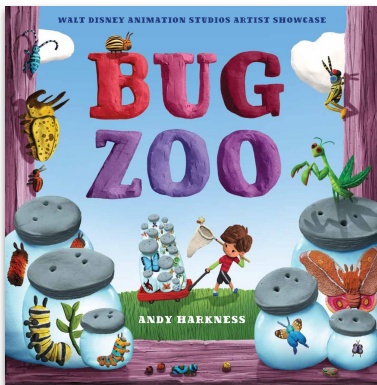


main

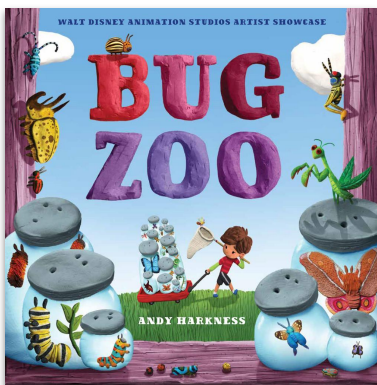


spied

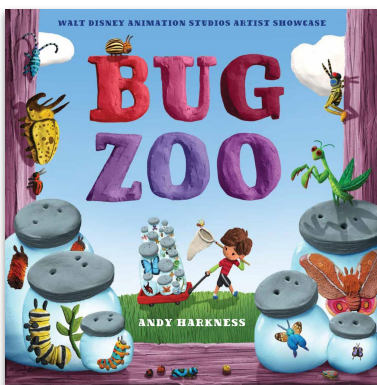




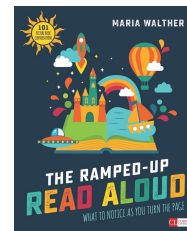
folks: people

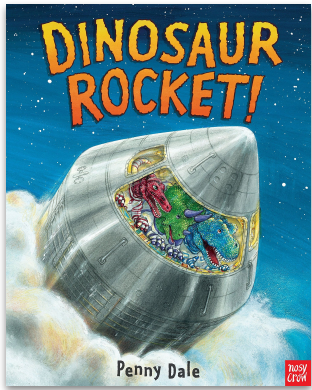


main: most important

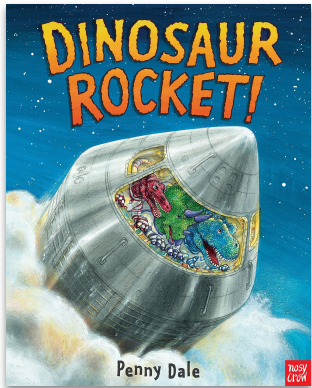


spied: saw or noticed something

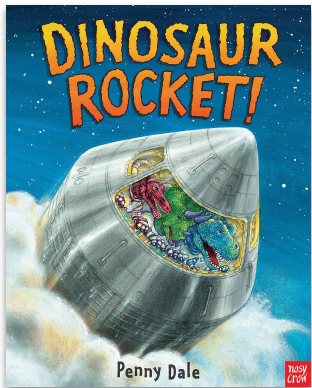




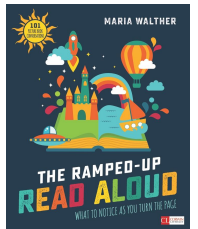
final

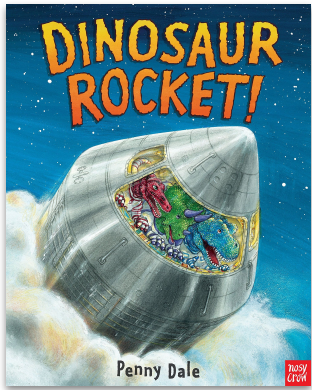


hero

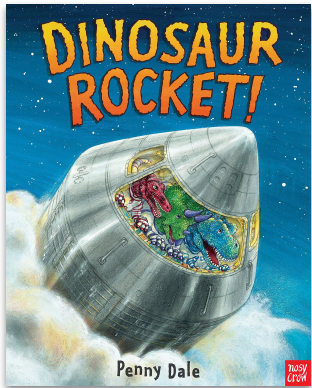


thundering

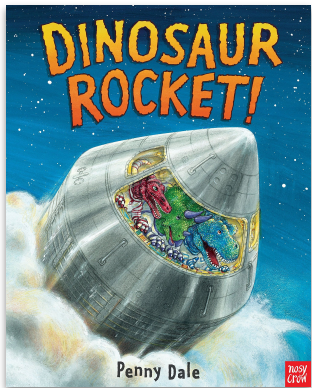




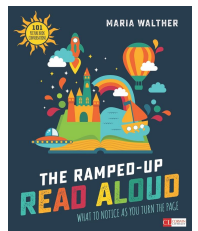
final: last

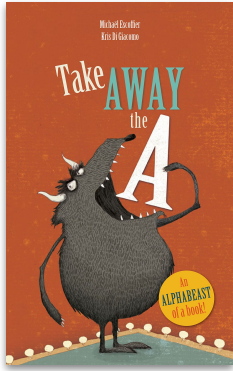


hero: a person who is brave
and helps others

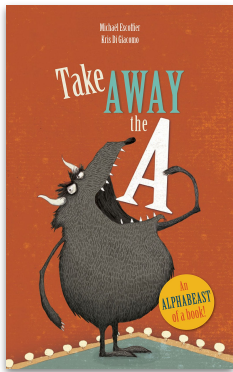


thundering: making a very loud,
rumbling noise

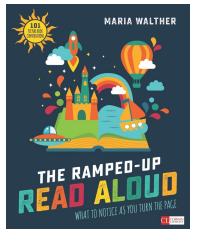
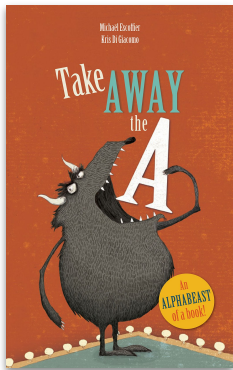


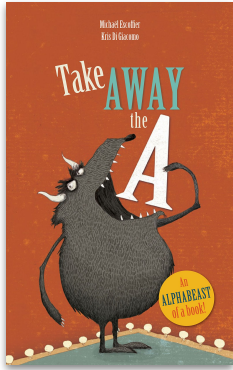


foes

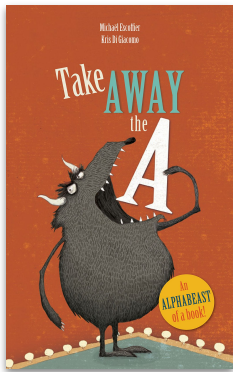


hails

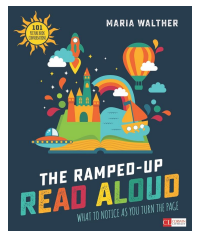
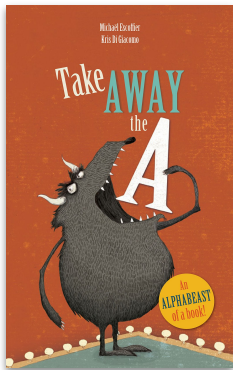


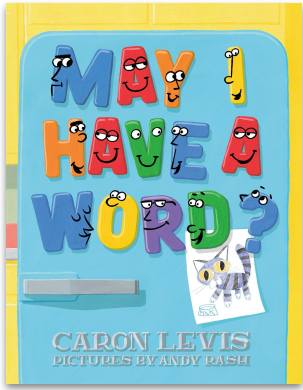


foes: enemies

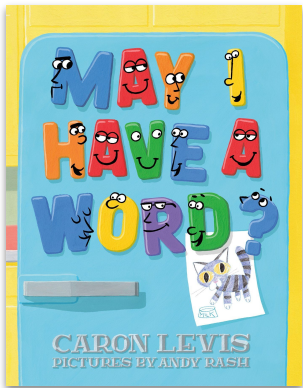


hails: calls out or greets
someone

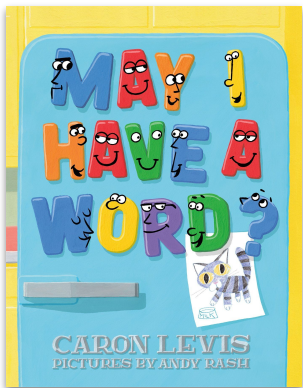




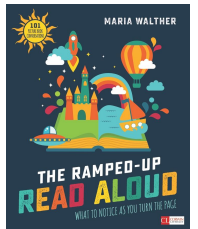
cooperate

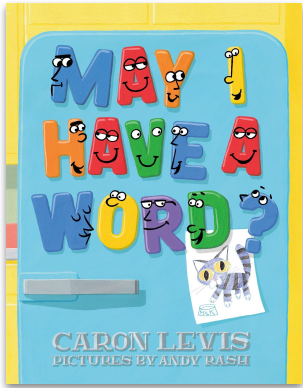


cranky

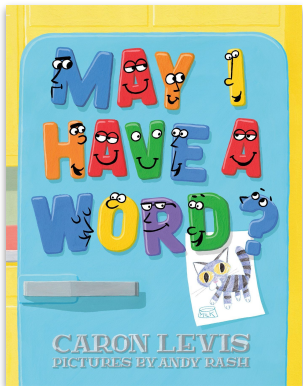


exclaimed

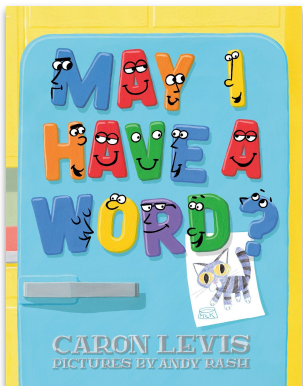




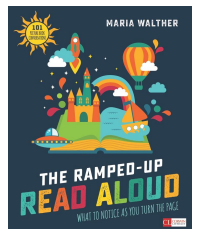
cooperate: to work together

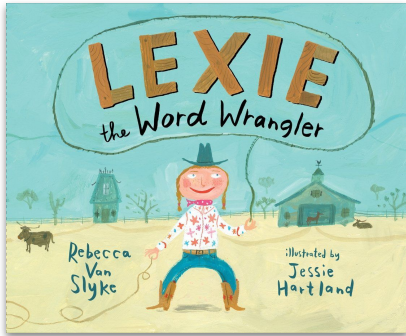


cranky: in a bad mood

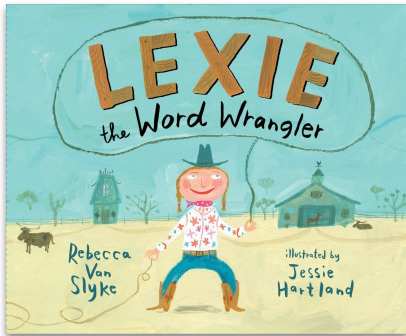


exclaimed: spoke suddenly with strong feeling

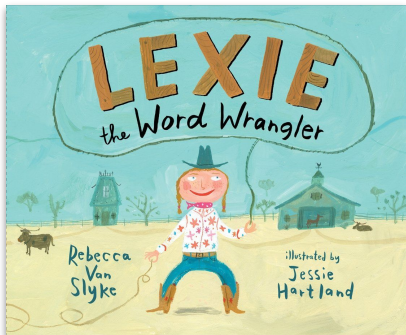




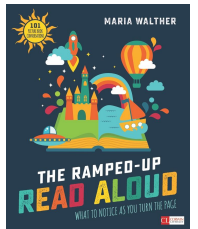
annoying

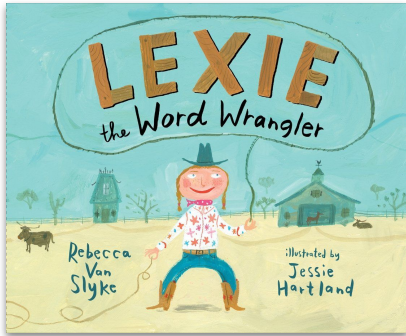


ordinary

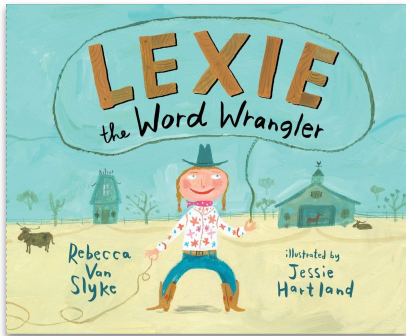


talent

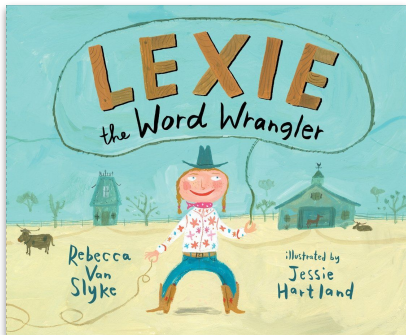




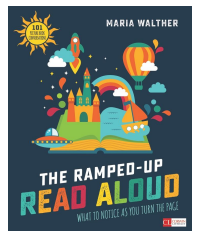
annoying: bothering or irritating

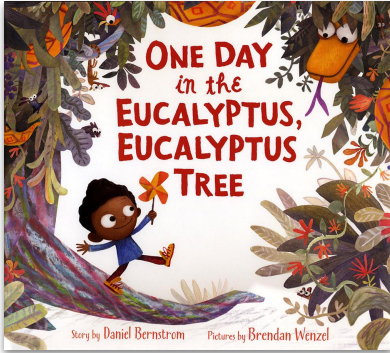


ordinary: something you might usually do or see

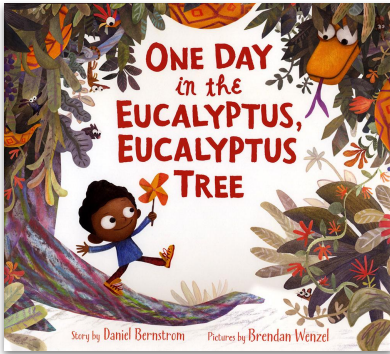


talent: a special skill or ability





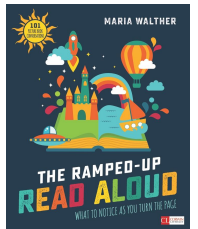
gobbled

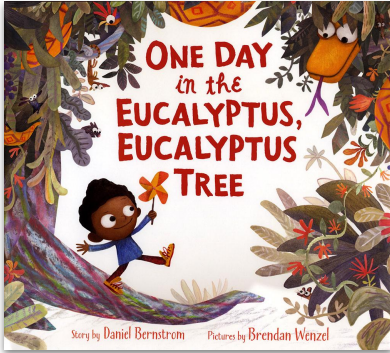


rare

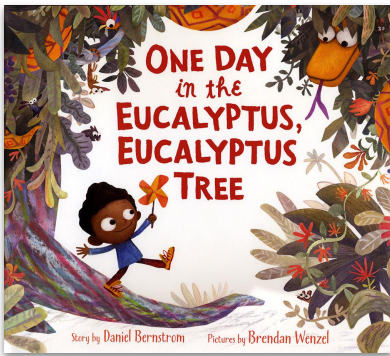


rustle

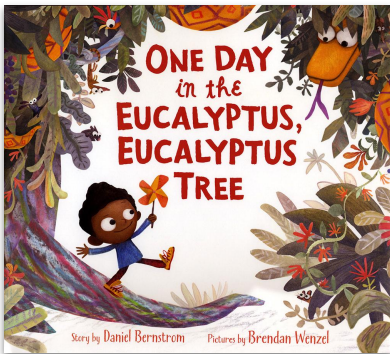




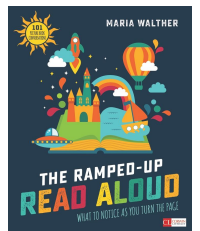
gobbled: ate very quickly

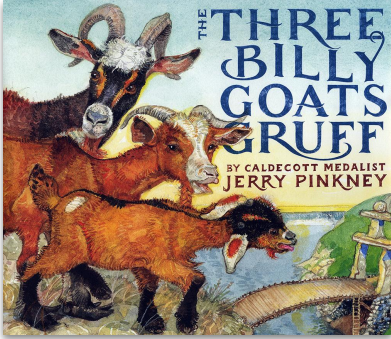


rare: something you might usually do or see

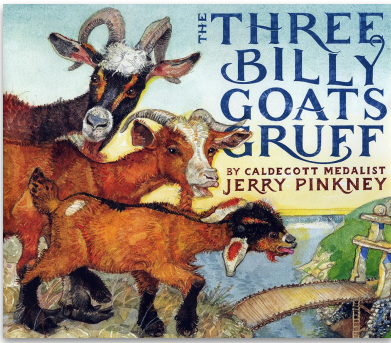


rustle: to make a soft, swishing sound

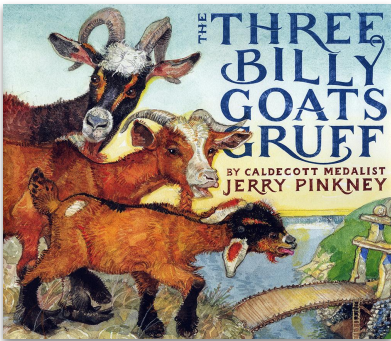




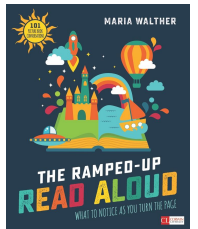
greedy

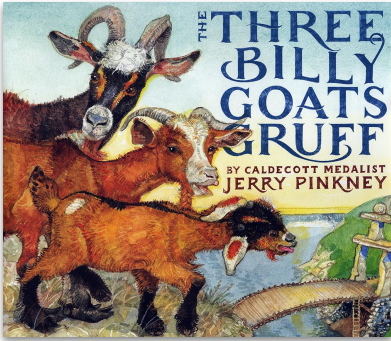


nasty

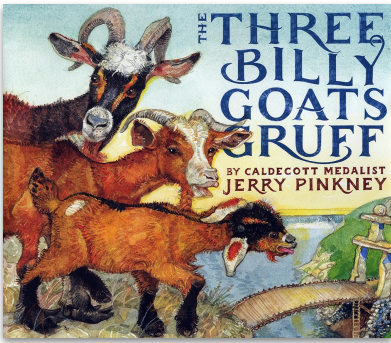


selfish

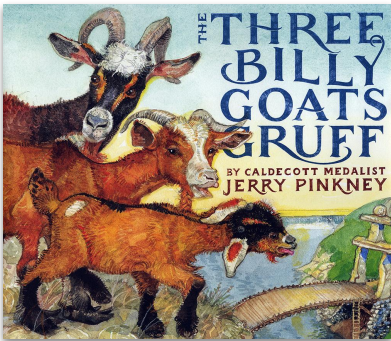




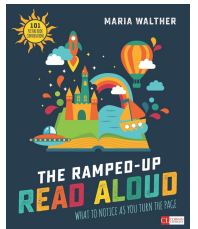
greedy: wanting more and more money or things

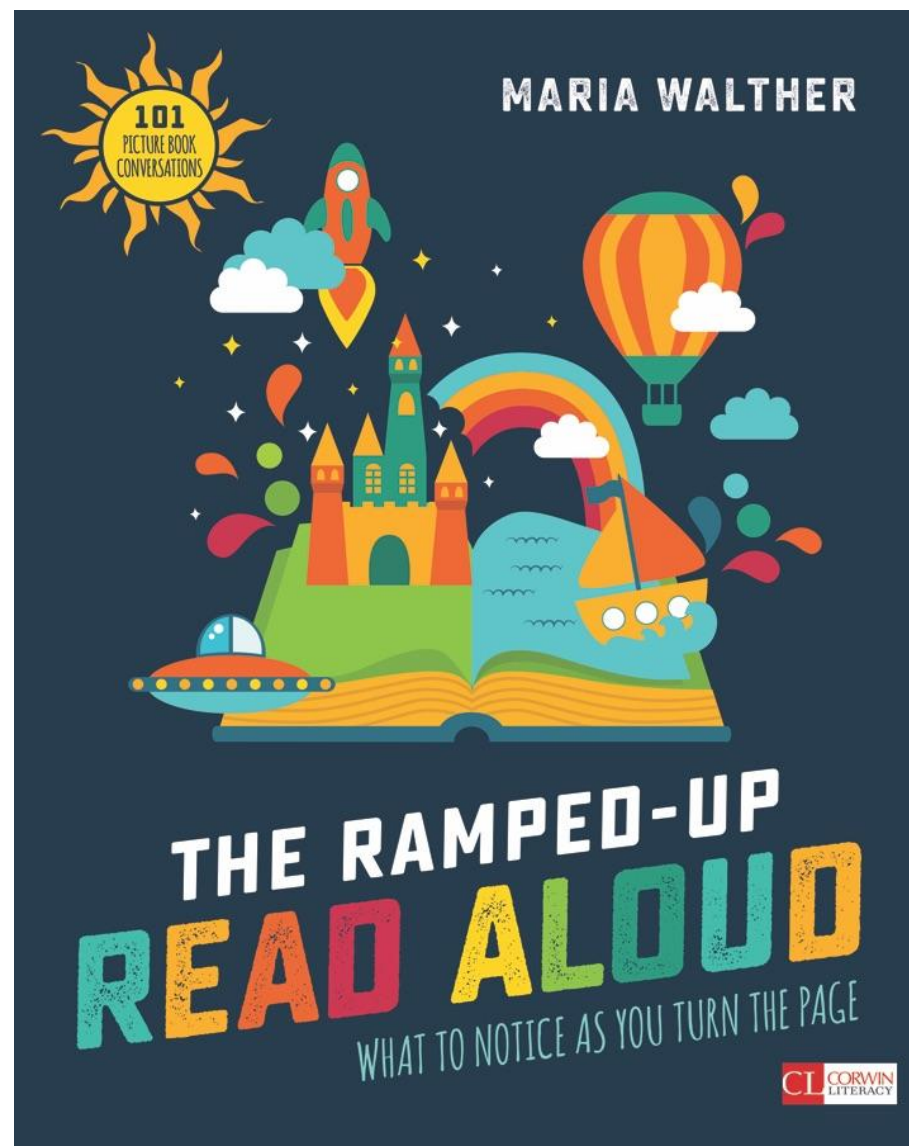


nasty: very bad to look at, smell, or taste



selfish: caring only about what you want





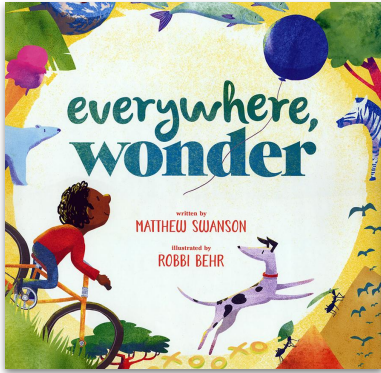
The Ramped-Up Read Aloud

Chapter 6: Inspire Writers

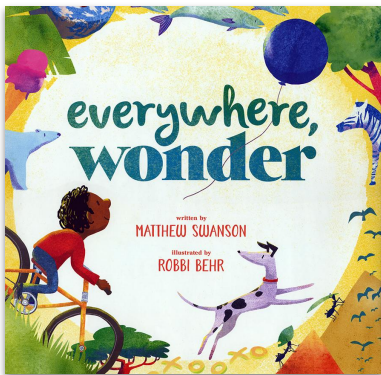
Key Vocabulary Word Cards and Kid-Friendly Definitions

Created by: Maria Walther

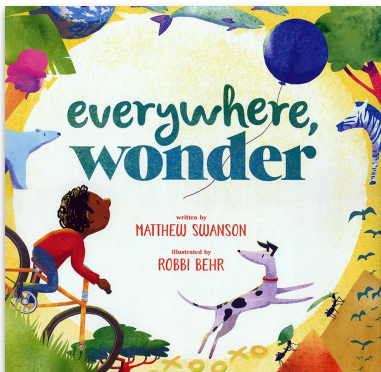
Revised 10/2026



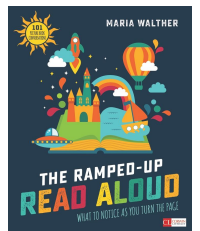
notice

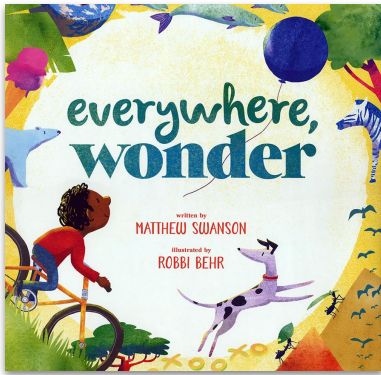


unexpected

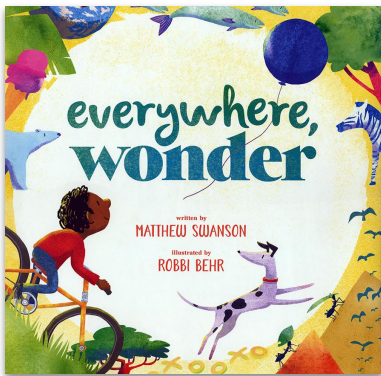


wonders

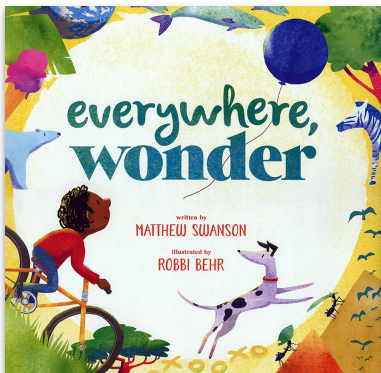




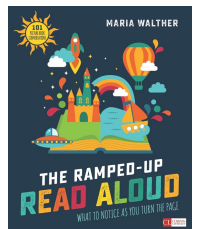
notice: to see or observe something

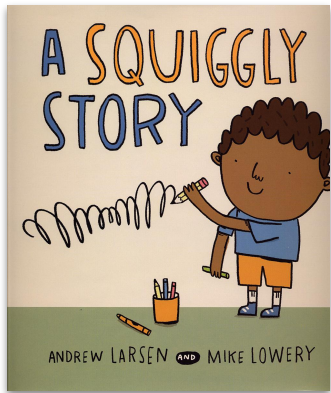


unexpected: when something surprises you or is not planned

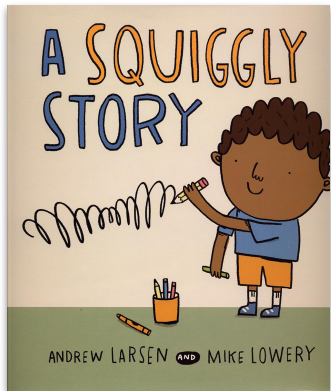


wonders: amazing things that make you feel surprised or curious

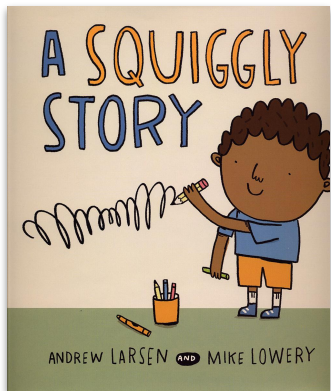




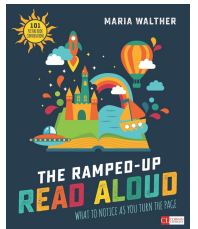
offers

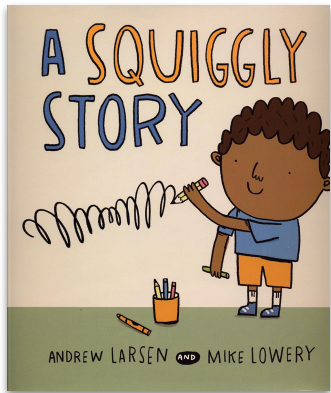


single

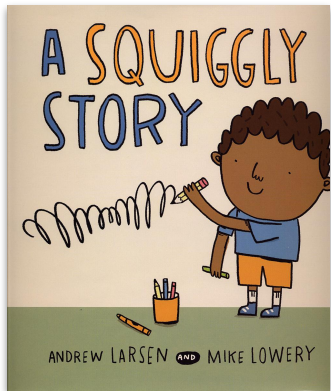


suggest

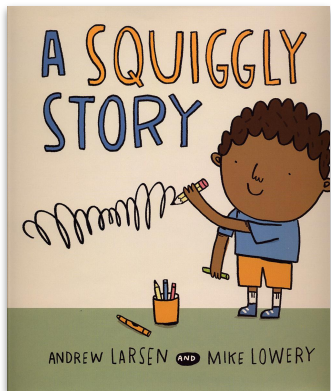




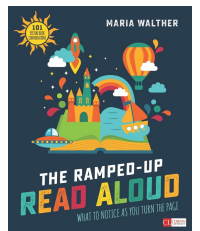
offers: gives an idea or suggestion

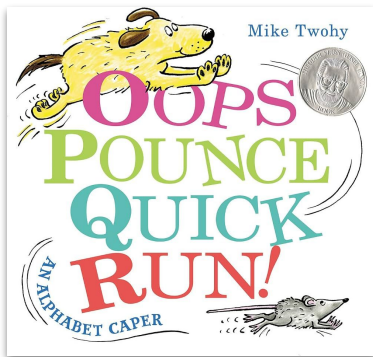


single: one

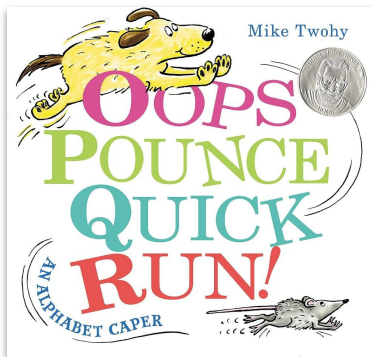


suggest: to give an idea or choice

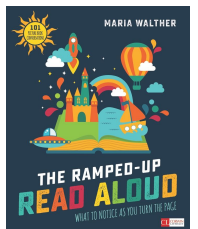
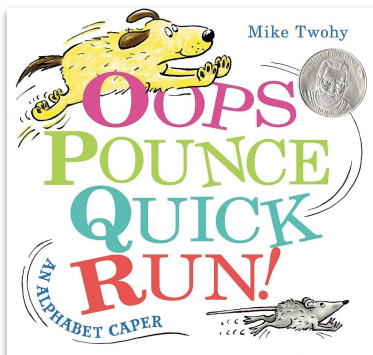


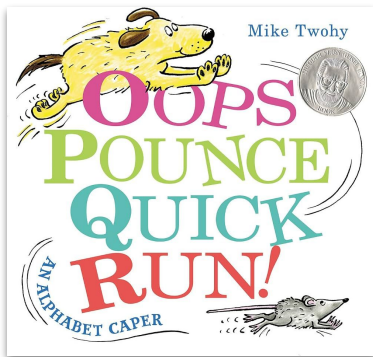


caper

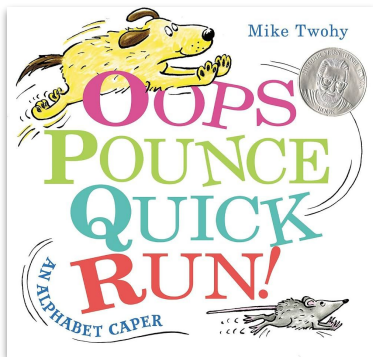


pounce

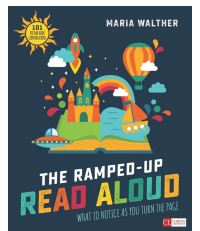
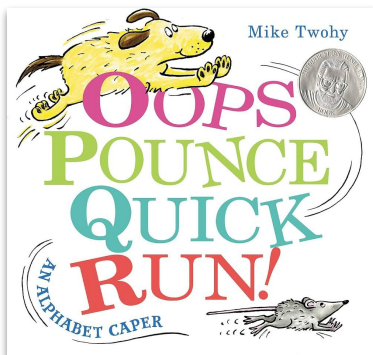


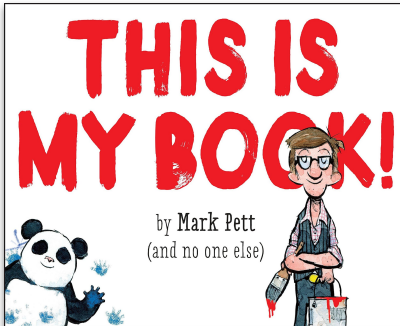


caper: a silly or playful trick or adventure

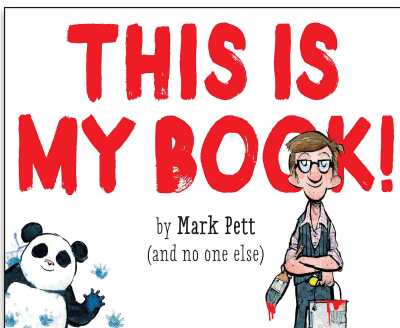


pounce: to jump quickly toward something

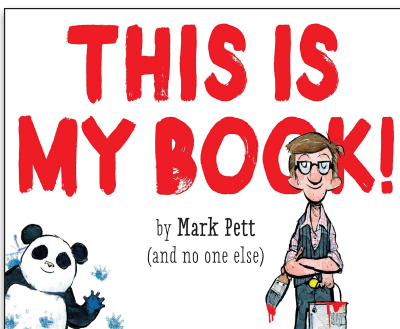




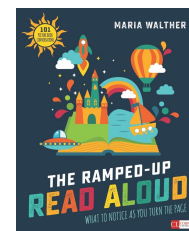
boring

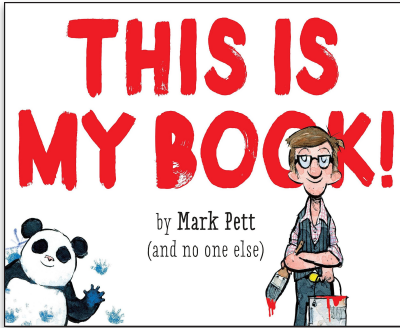


frustrating

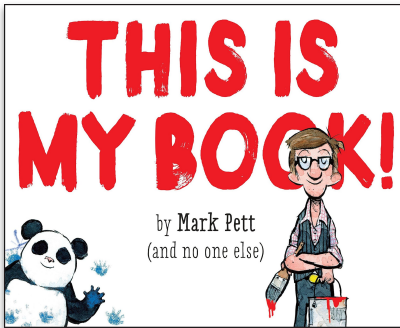


prefer

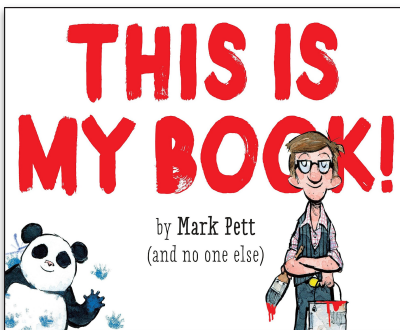




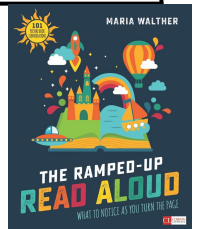
boring: not interesting or exciting

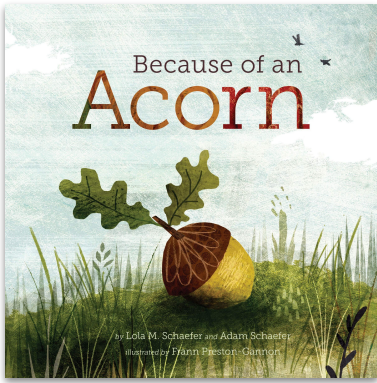


frustrating: making you feel upset because something is difficult

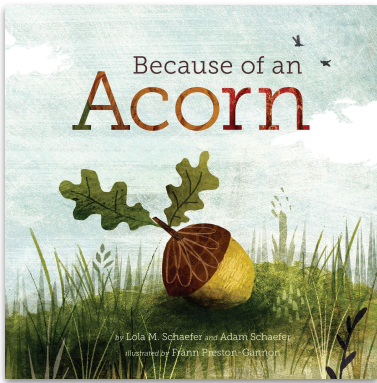


prefer: like one thing better than another



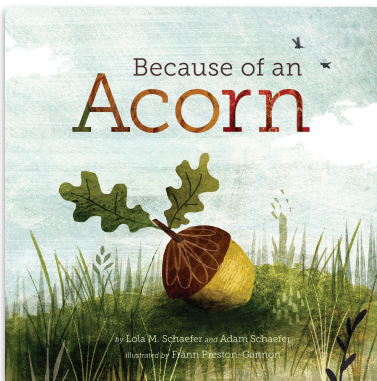


acorn

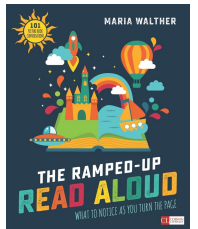


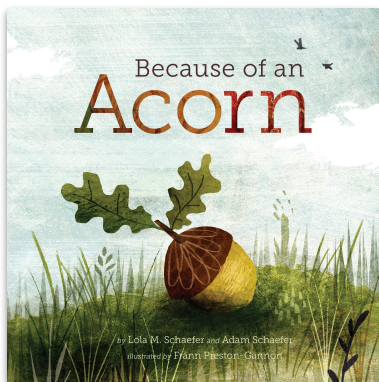
ecosystem*

*Appears in backmatter

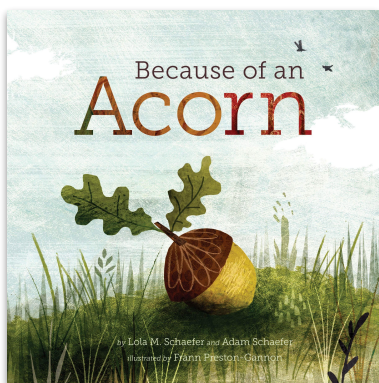


forest

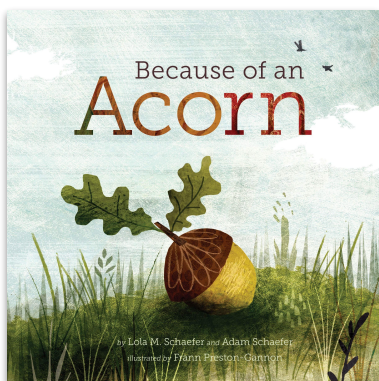




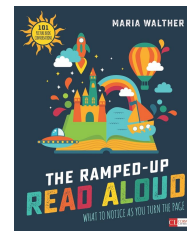
acorn: the fruit of an oak tree

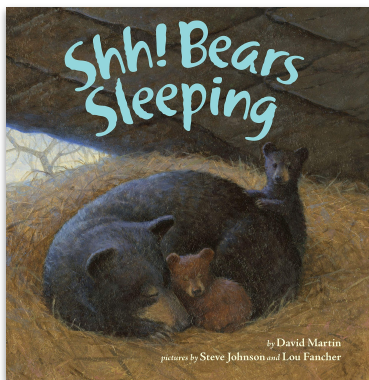


ecosystem: a community of living things and their environment

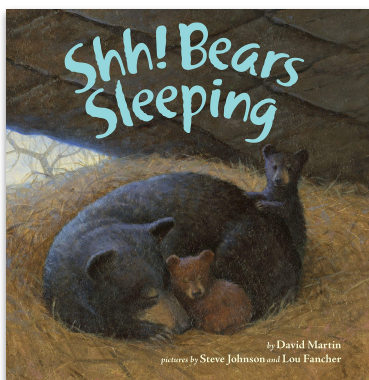


forest: a large area filled with trees and other plants

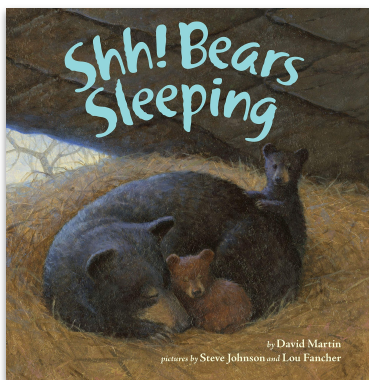




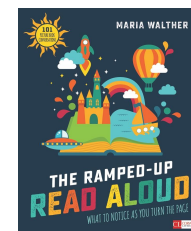
beneath

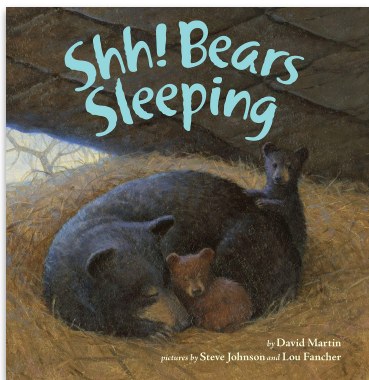


frolic

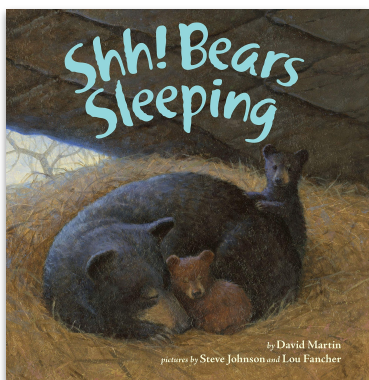


gobble

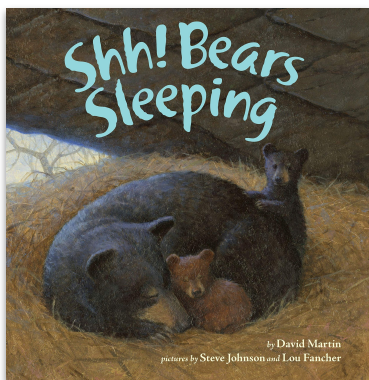




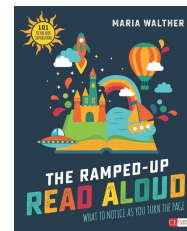
beneath: under or below something

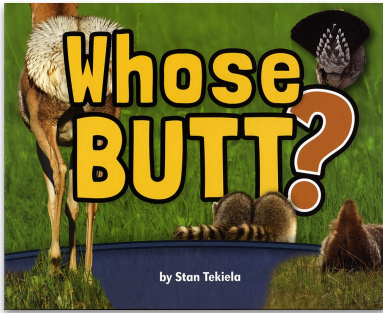


frolic: to play or move in a happy way

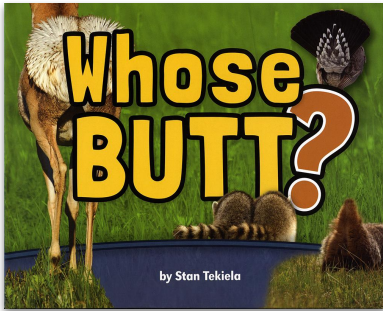


gobble: to eat very quickly

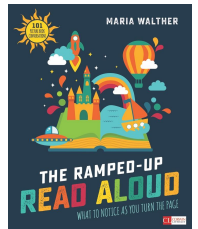
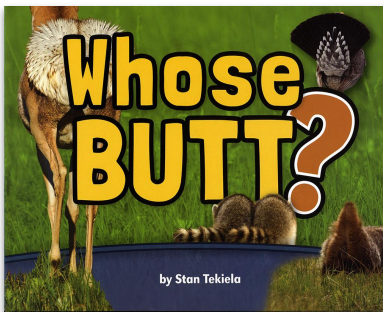


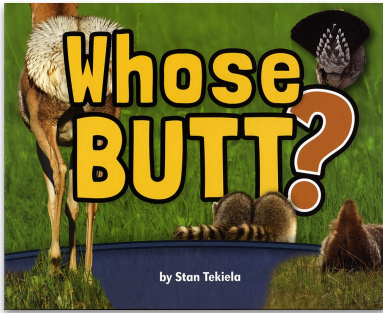


communicate

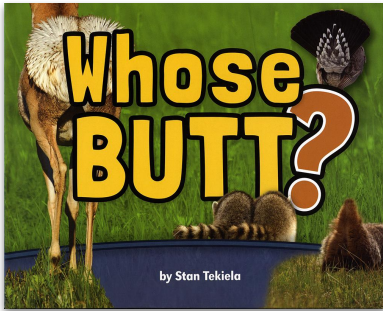


dashes

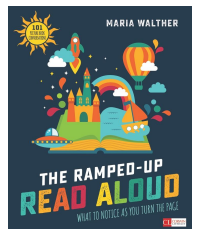
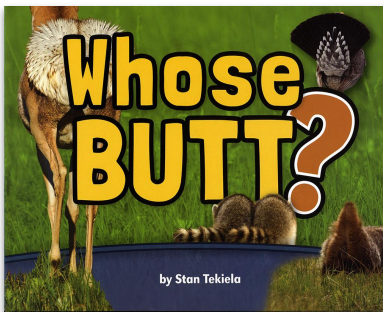


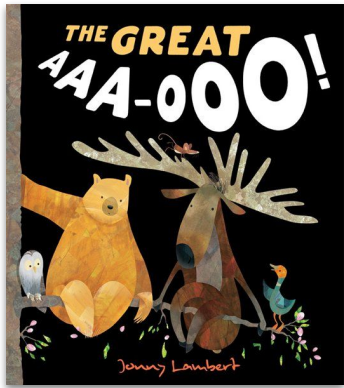


communicate: to share ideas or information

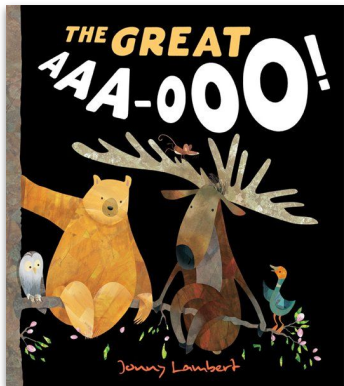


dashes: runs or moves very quickly

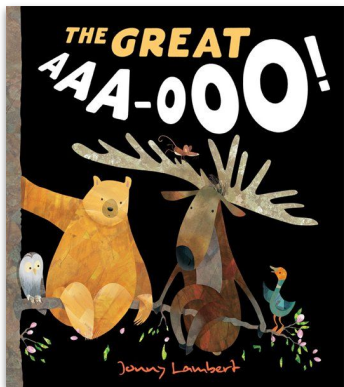




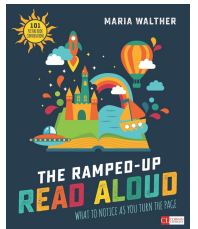
bellowed

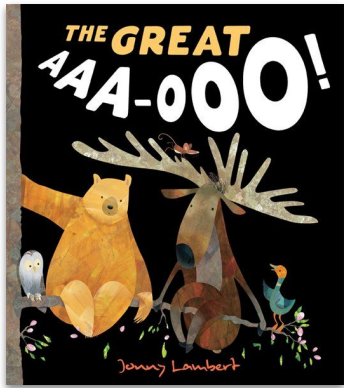


slumber

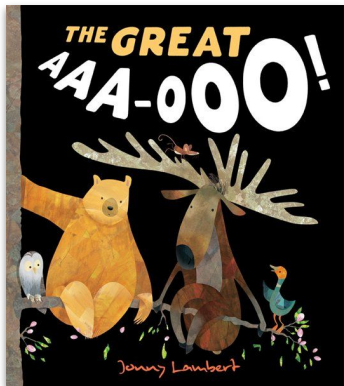


startled

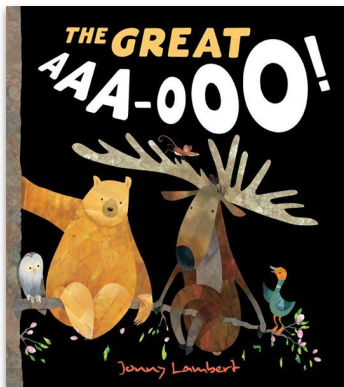




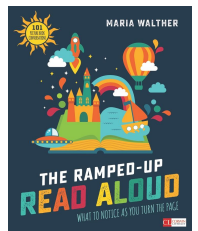
bellowed: shouted in a very loud voice

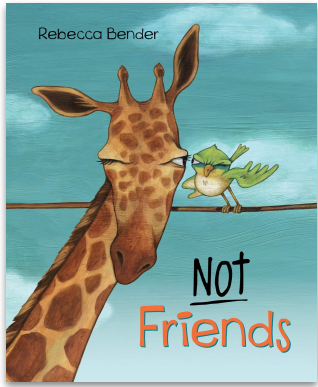


slumber: sleep

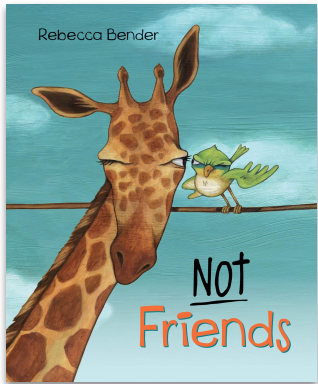


startled: surprised or scared suddenly

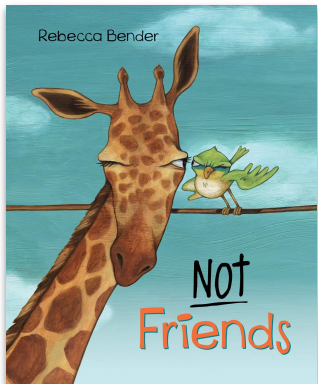




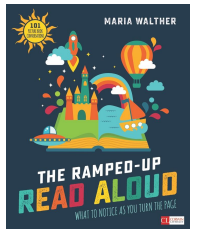
difficult

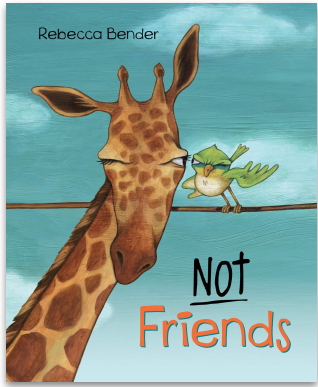


frequently

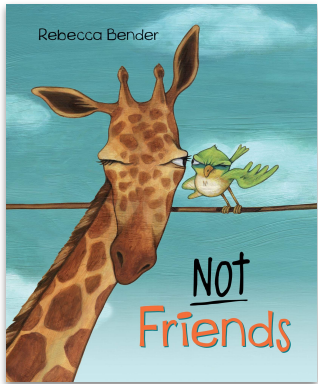


glum

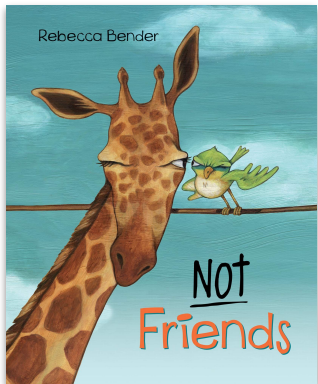




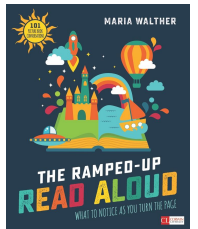
difficult: hard to do or understand

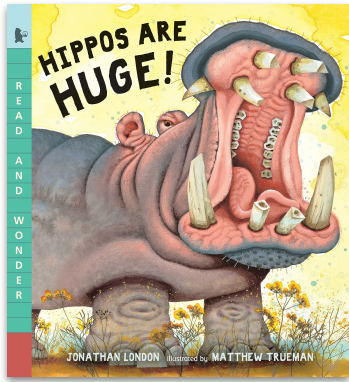


frequently: often

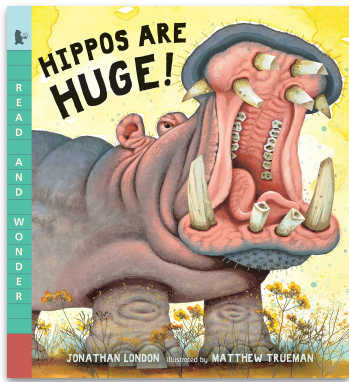


glum: sad or unhappy

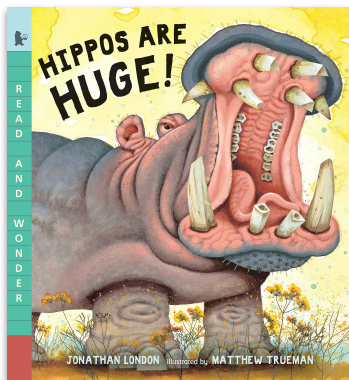




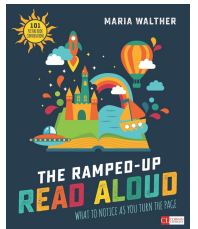
gracefully

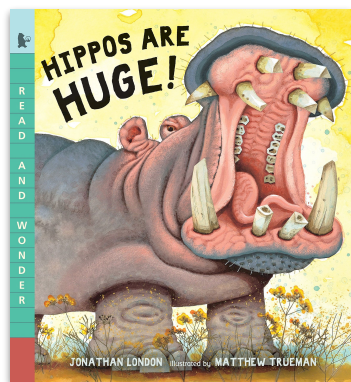


pounces

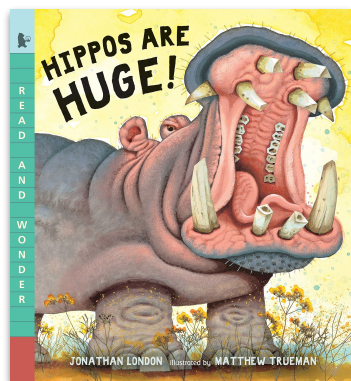


threat

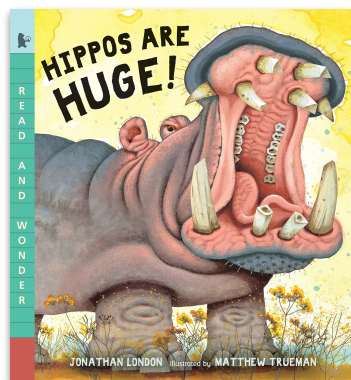




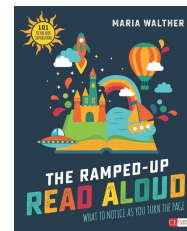
gracefully: in a smooth and beautiful way

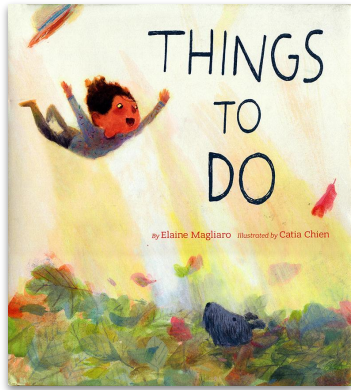


pounces: jumps quickly toward something

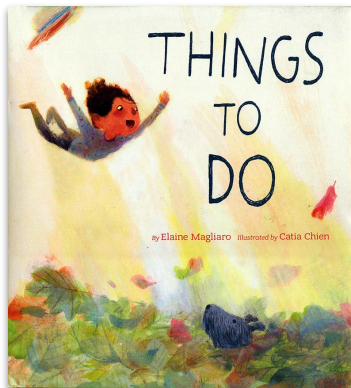


threat: something that makes you feel unsafe or worried

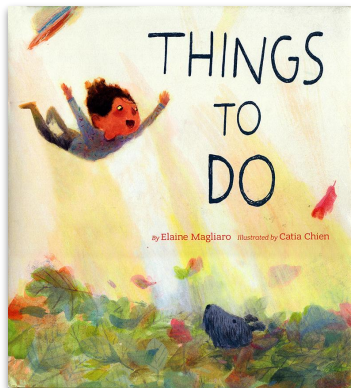




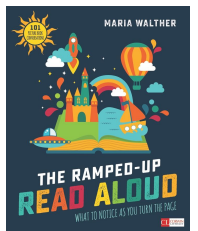
nestled

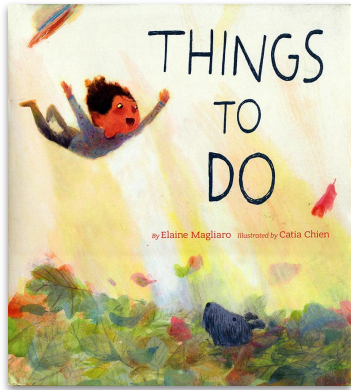


sprout

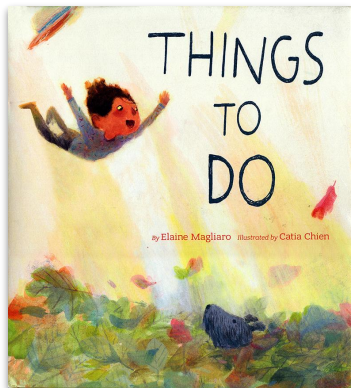


vanish

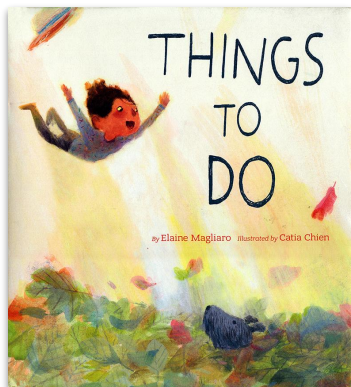




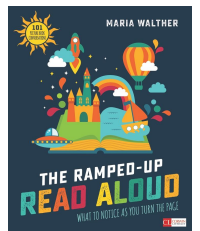
nestled: rested comfortably in a safe and cozy place

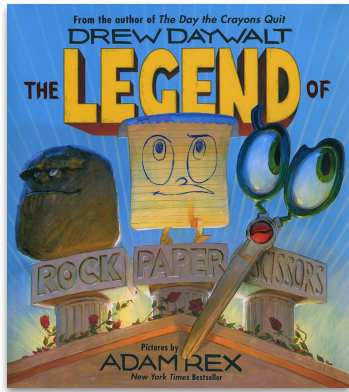


sprout: to begin to grow

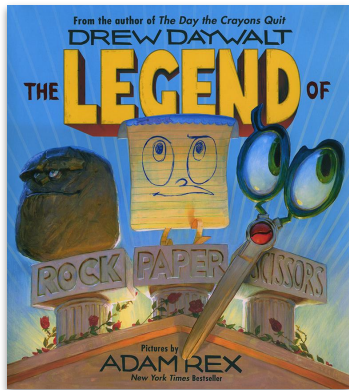


vanish: to disappear from being seen

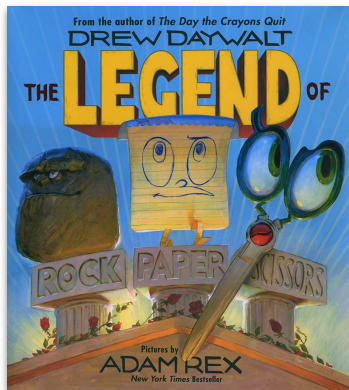




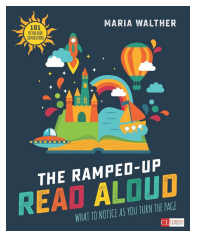
foe

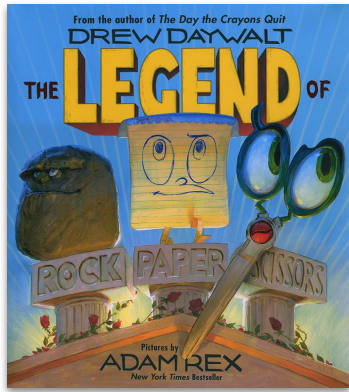


unsatisfied

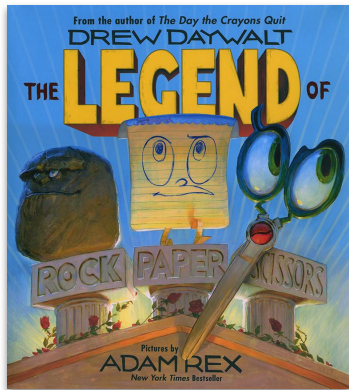


victorious

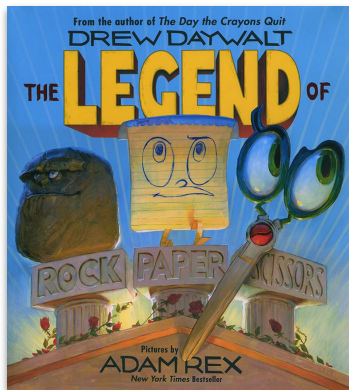




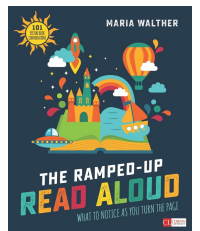
foe: an enemy



unsatisfied: not happy because you want something more or different



victorious: having won



CLAYMATES



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exhausted

CLAYMATES



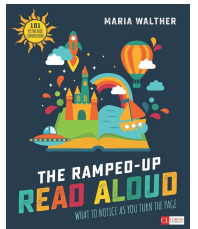
WRITTEN BY DEV PETTY • ILLUSTRATED BY LAUREN ELDRIDGE

shock

CLAYMATES



WRITTEN BY DEV PETTY • ILLUSTRATED BY LAUREN ELDRIDGE



CLAYMATES



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exhausted: very tired

CLAYMATES



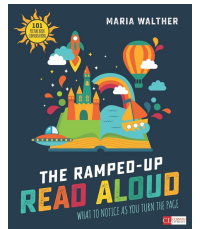
WRITTEN BY DEV PETTY • ILLUSTRATED BY LAUREN ELDRIDGE

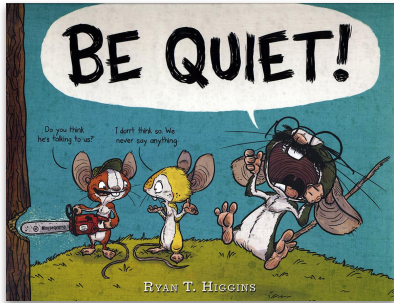
shock: a strong feeling of surprise

CLAYMATES

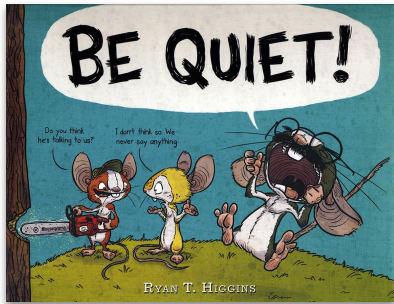


WRITTEN BY DEV PETTY • ILLUSTRATED BY LAUREN ELDRIDGE

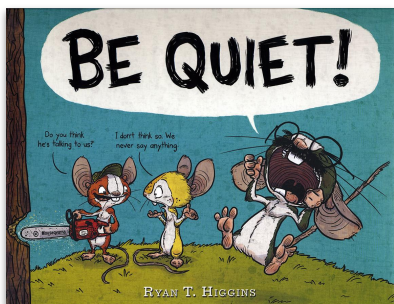




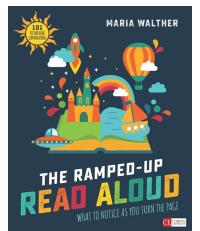
artistic

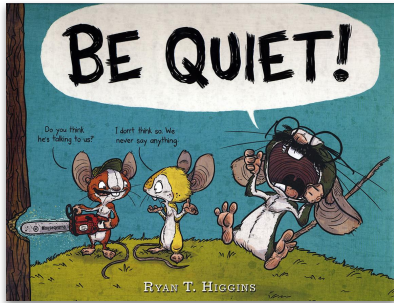


onomatopoeia

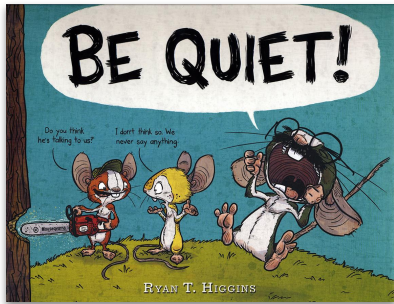


wordless

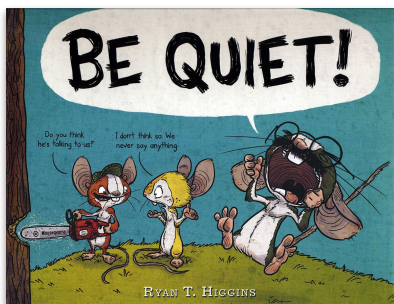




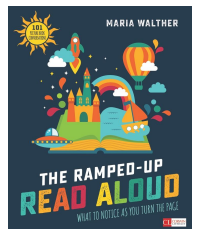
artistic: showing skill and imagination in creating

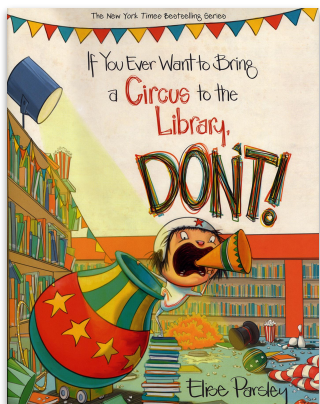


onomatopoeia: a word that sounds like the sound it describes

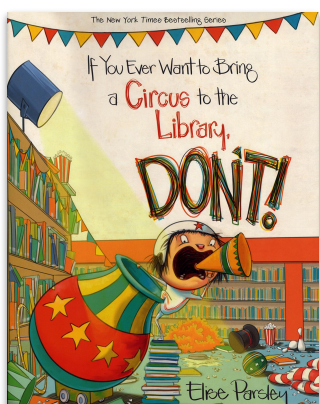


wordless: without words

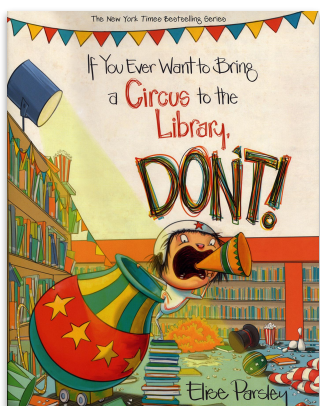




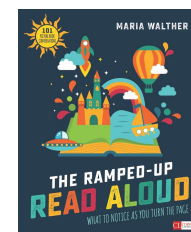
audience

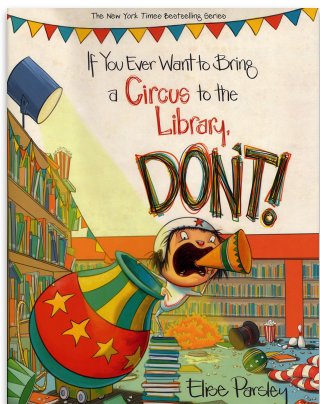


dazzle

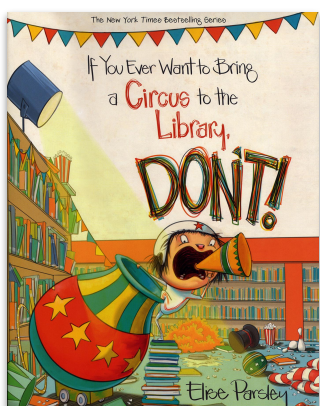


distract

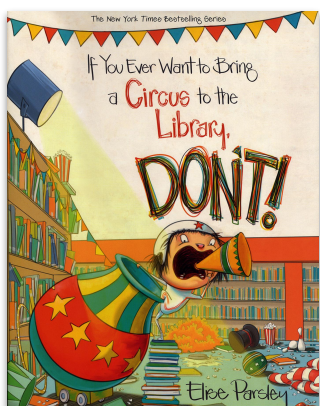




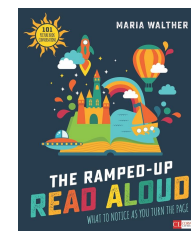
audience: people watching or listening to something

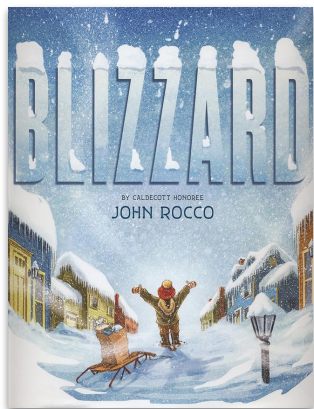


dazzle: to impress or amaze someone

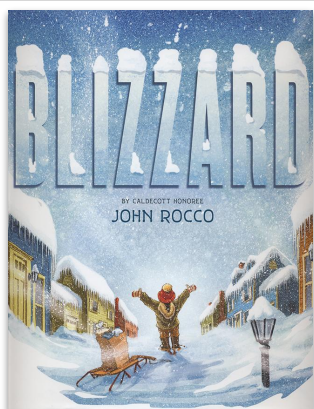


distract: to take someone's attention away from something

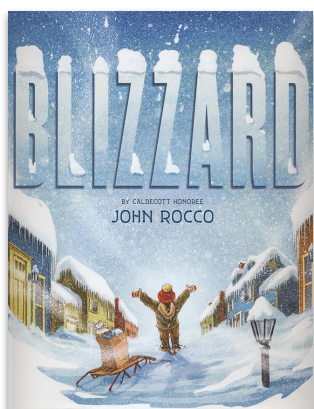




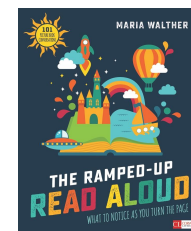
continued

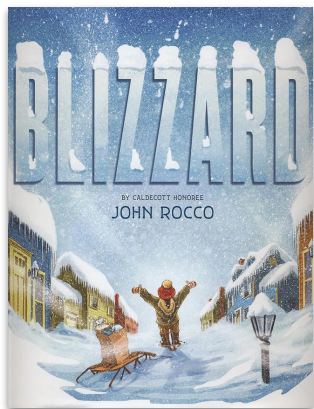


journey

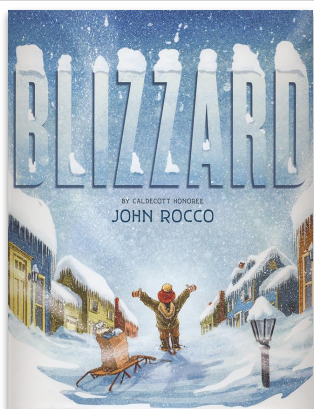


prepared

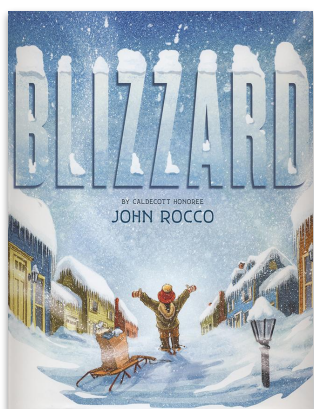




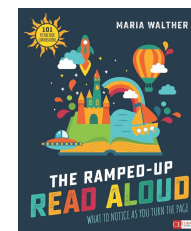
continued: kept going

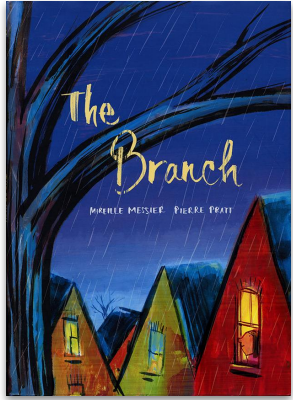


journey: a long trip

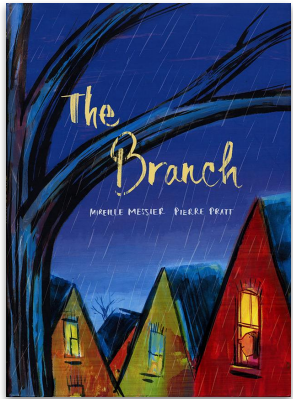


prepared: ready for something

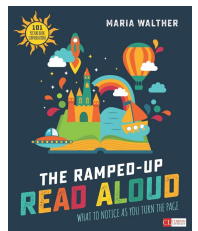
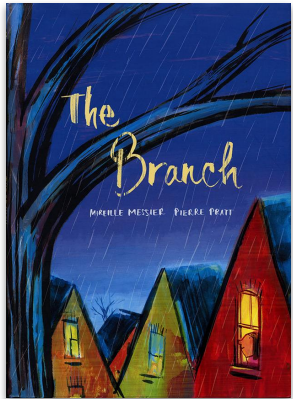


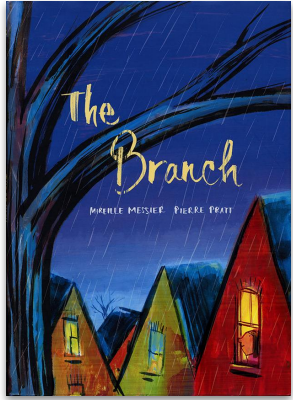


concentrate

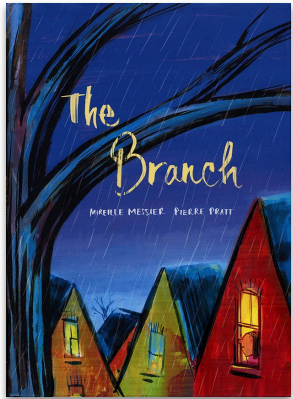


potential

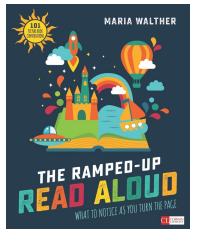
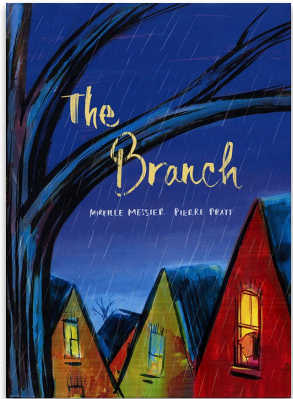


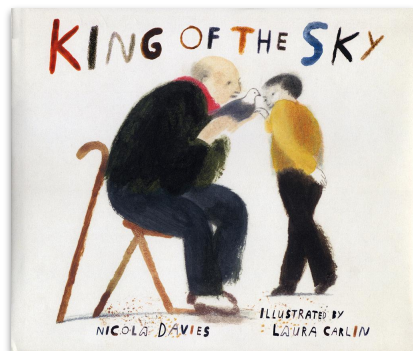


concentrate: to give all your attention to something

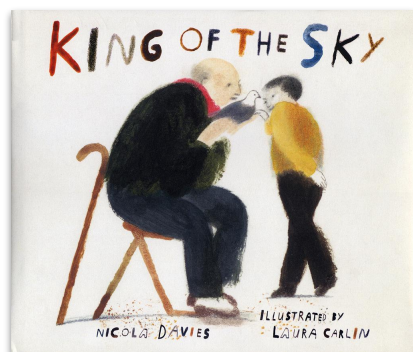


potential: a chance to become or do something

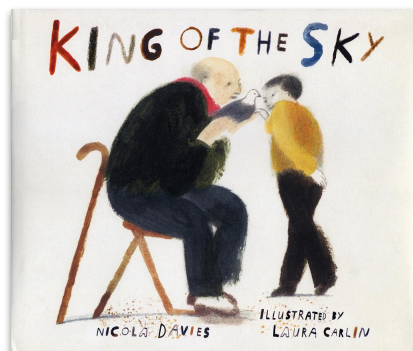




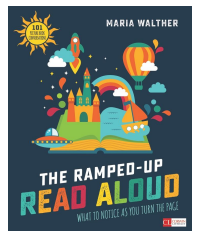
champion

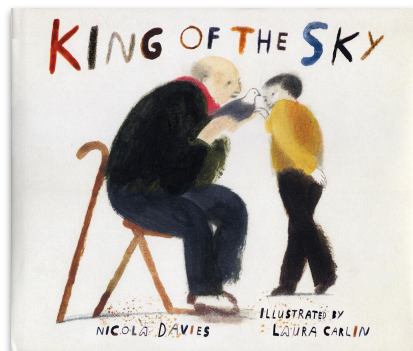


replied

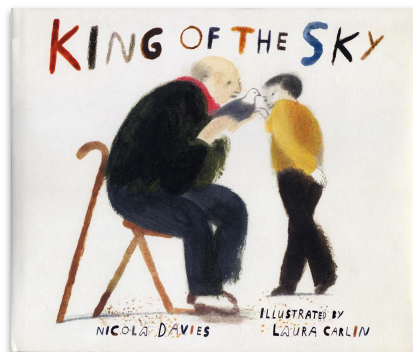


weaker

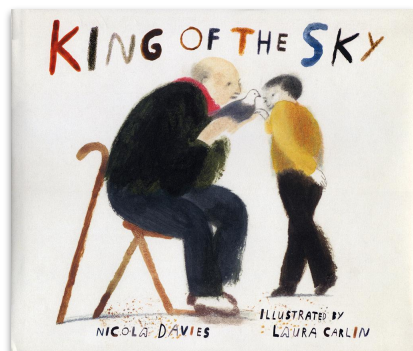




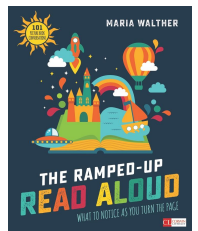
champion: a person who wins a competition

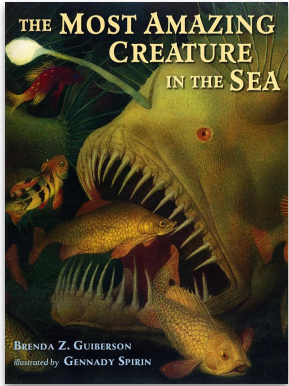


replied: answered

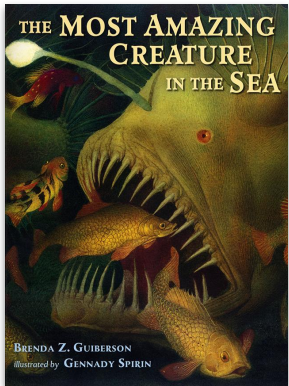


weaker: not as strong

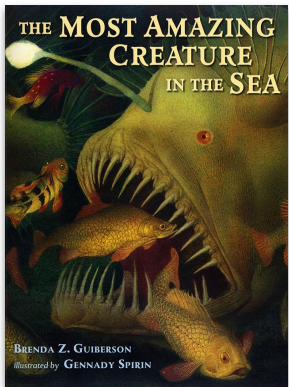




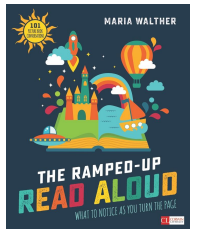
disappear

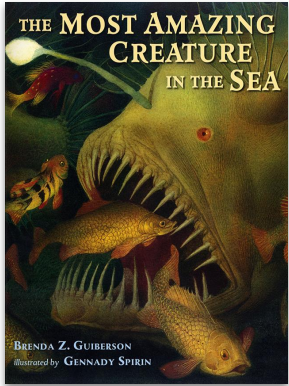


disguise

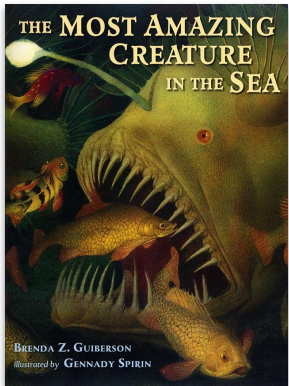


lure

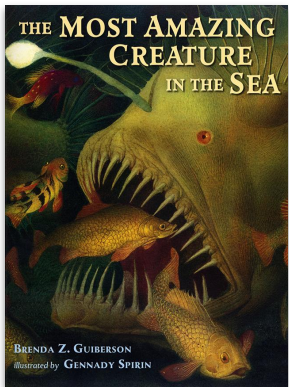




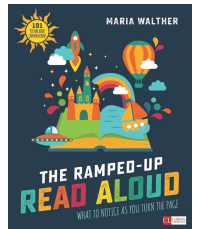
disappear: to go out of sight

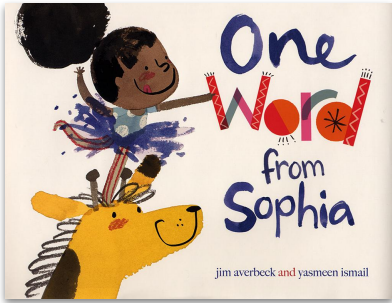


disguise: something used to hide who or what something is

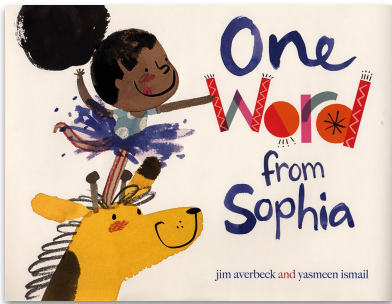


lure: to attract or draw something closer

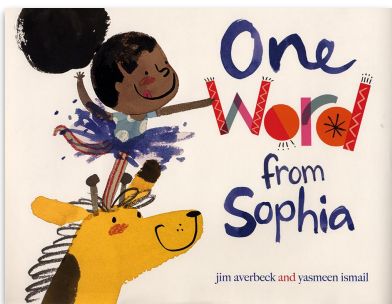




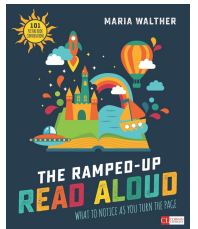
argument

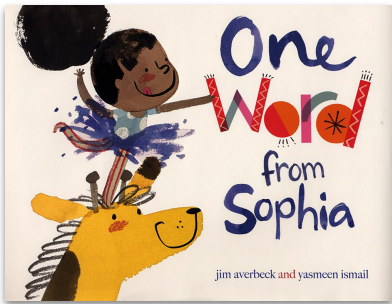


compelling

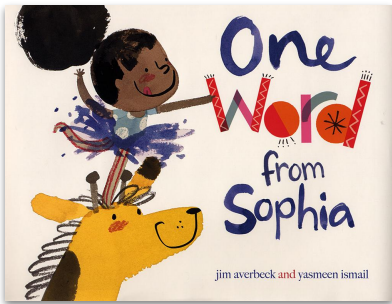


delighted

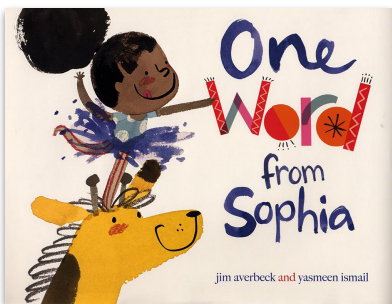




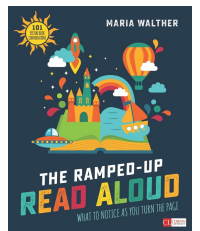
argument: an angry discussion
by people who do not agree

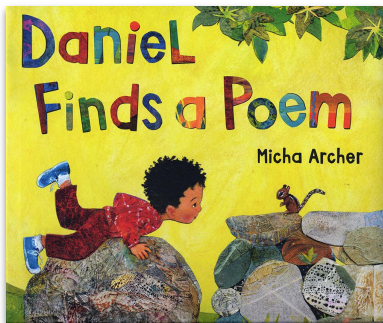


compelling: very interesting
and hard to ignore

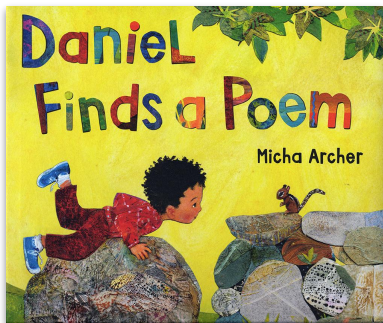


delighted: very happy

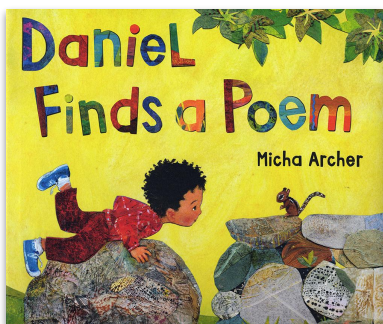




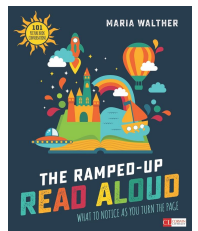
crisp

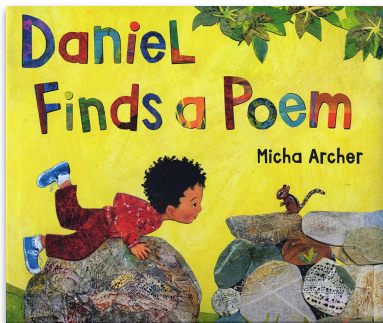


silent

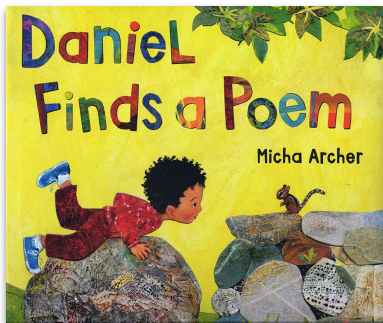


reflecting

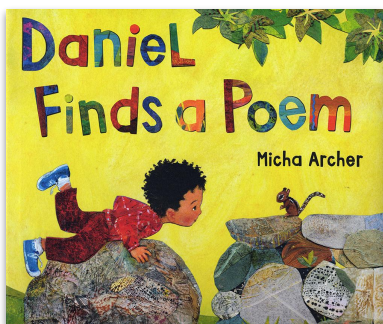




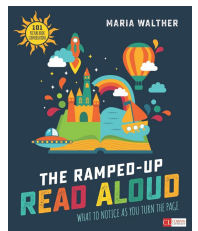
crisp: easy to break or crunch

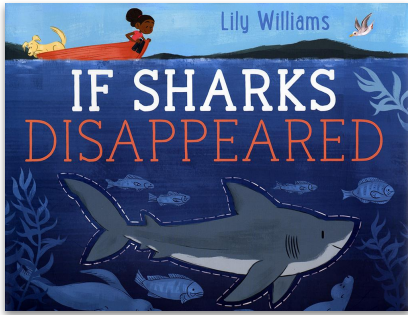


silent: making no sound

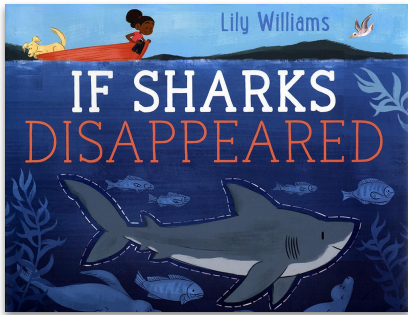


reflecting: showing an image or light on a surface

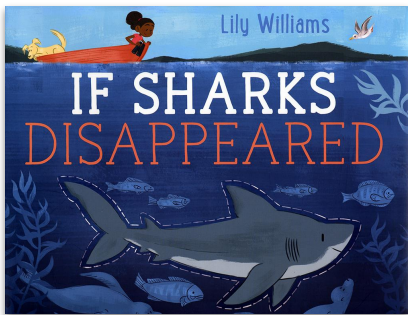




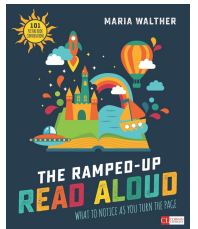
balanced

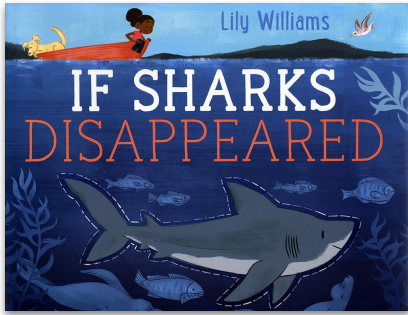


eventually

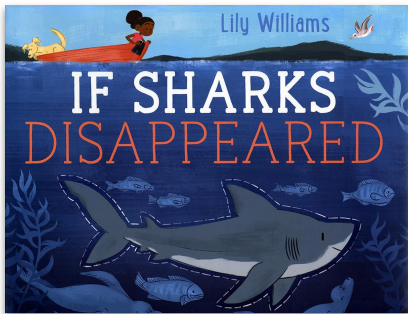


thrive

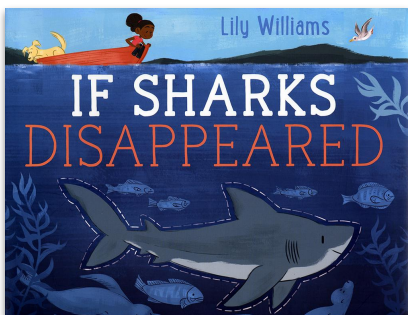




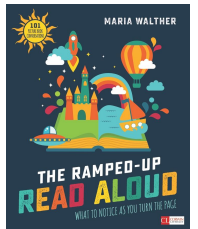
balanced: kept in the right amounts so things work well

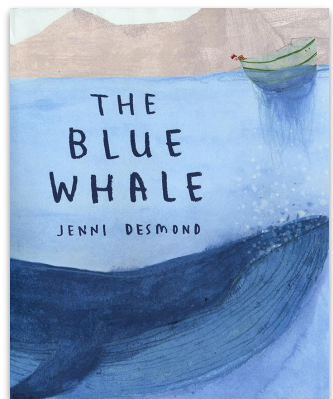


eventually: after some time

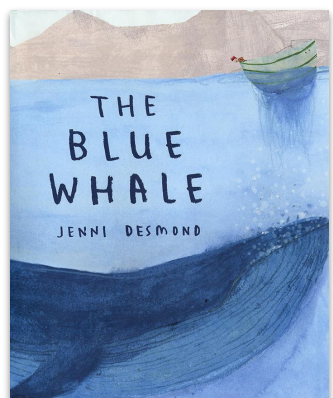


thrive: to grow and do well

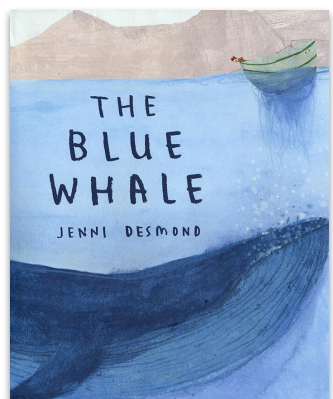




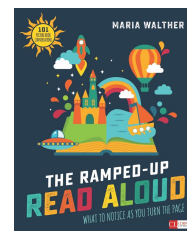
colossal

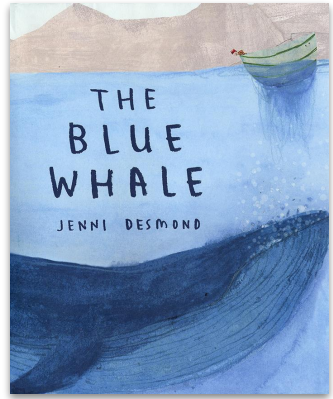


measure

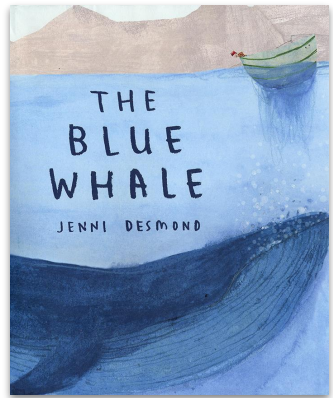


similar

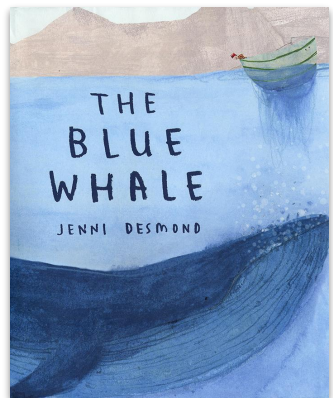




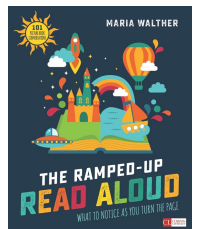
colossal: extremely large

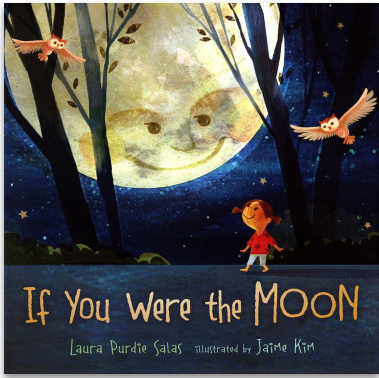


measure: to be a certain length, height, or size

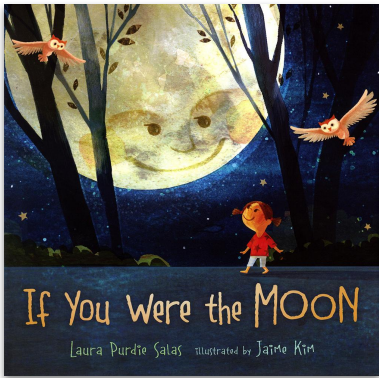


similar: almost the same

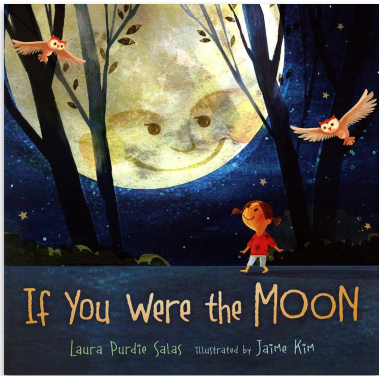




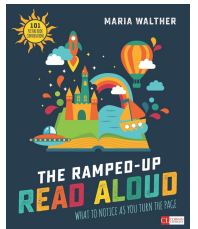
challenge

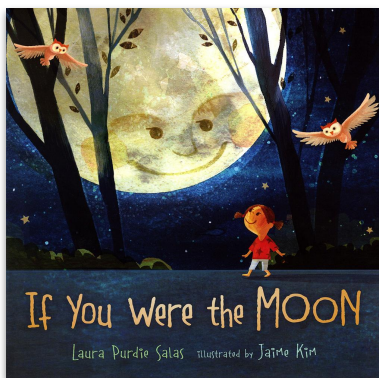


hover

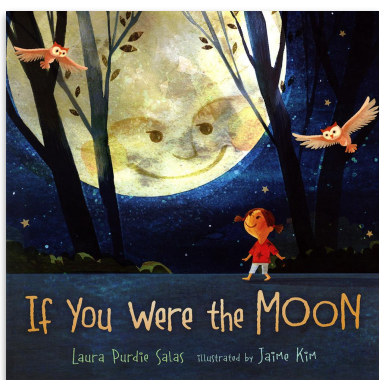


wisdom

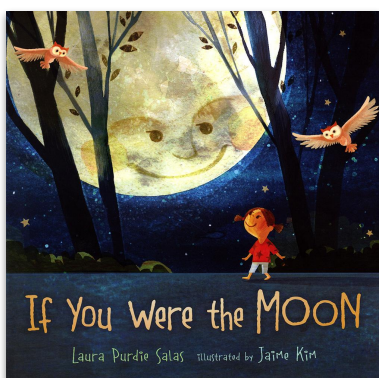




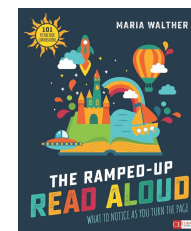
challenge: to invite someone to try and beat you



hover: to stay in one place in the air



wisdom: good sense gained from learning and experience



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