

# Island Birthday

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

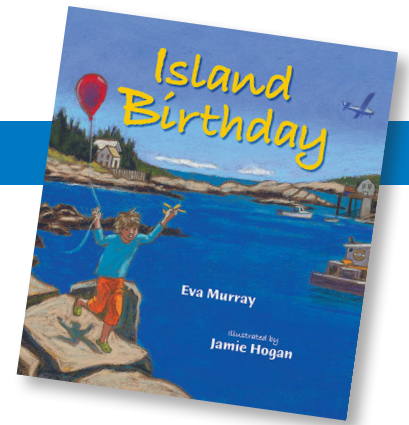
**Themes:** Geography, Celebrations, Weather

**Book Brief:** When the weather is rough, it's hard for airplanes to reach the small Maine island where this story is set. This book follows a young boy as he eagerly awaits the arrival of the plane bringing goodies for his birthday, all while weighing the pros

and cons of his island life.

**Author:** Eva Murray

**Illustrator:**  
Jamie Hogan



## TIME TO READ!



**Before reading, build background:** What is an island? When you think of an island, what do you picture? Based on the title and the cover illustration, what do you think the story is going to be about?

**While reading, make connections:** Have you ever been upset or had to cancel your plans because of bad weather? What happened? What do you like

best about the area where you live? What do you like least? Think about a birthday that you found memorable. Why was it so special?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ How would you describe Riley's feelings about living on an island at the beginning of the story?
- ◆ How did his feelings change during the story?
- ◆ Do you think you would want to live on a tiny island like Riley? Why or why not?
- ◆ Where would be your dream place to live?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### CLOUDY RAINDROP CUPS

Ingredients: blueberries, vanilla yogurt, clear cups, spoon

Spoon blueberries (rain drops) and vanilla yogurt (clouds) into clear cup, alternating layers. Think about how hard it would be to navigate a small plane in that type of weather. Use your spoon to clear a delicious path through the clouds and rain! Add a spoonful of honey for an extra hint of sweetness.

### RED, WHITE, AND BLUE

Materials: red, white, and blue acrylic paint; paint brush

There are several examples of red, white, and blue art in the story. Choose a natural material (such as a smooth rock, a piece of wood, or a pinecone) and

use it as a canvas to create your own red, white, and blue work of art like Uncle Harv. What do these colors represent?

### OCEAN GLOW BOTTLE

Materials: clear plastic bottle, water, blue food coloring, glow stick, sand and small shells (optional)

While we can't all swim in phosphorescent water, anyone can mimic the effect in an ocean glow bottle! Fill a clean, empty bottle with water. Add a few drops of blue food coloring. Add any extra items that remind you of the ocean, like sand, small shells, or plastic fish. Then, drop in an activated glow stick. Screw the lid back on and tip the bottle back and forth. Think about what it might be like to swim in a glowing ocean.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT MAINE

*Hello Maine!*, Martha Zschock (2010)

*At One: In a Place Called Maine*, Lynn Plourde (2007)

*L is for Lobster*, Cynthia Furlong Reynolds (2001)



Reading Is  
Fundamental