Taco Falls Apart
Discussion Guide
Grades Pre-K – 3

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.
- Read the title and show your students the cover. What does it mean to "fall apart"? What do you think will happen to the taco in this story?
- Before reading use RIF's Taco Falls Apart Anticipation Guide to activate students' prior knowledge, build curiosity about the topic, and set a purpose for reading.

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.
- Why do you think everyone expects so much from Taco?
- Why does Taco reach his breaking point? What happens?
- Look at the page with the spiraling words. How does the author show us that thoughts, feelings, and actions are connected.
- How does Nacho help Taco?
- What does Taco do to help himself feel terrific?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.
- Have you ever felt like Taco? What did you do? (Optional: Pair-Share)
- The back of the book contains a section titled "Challenge Unhelpful Thoughts" make this interactive for your students by labeling one side of the room "unhelpful thoughts" and the other side "helpful thoughts." As you read aloud real-life examples, have your students walk to the side of the room to identify the thought as "helpful" or "unhelpful." If the thought is "unhelpful" have your students pair-share how they could turn it into a helpful thought.

If your students enjoyed this book...
- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more books about positive thinking such as *Your Fantastic Elastic Brain* and *The Magical Yet*.