



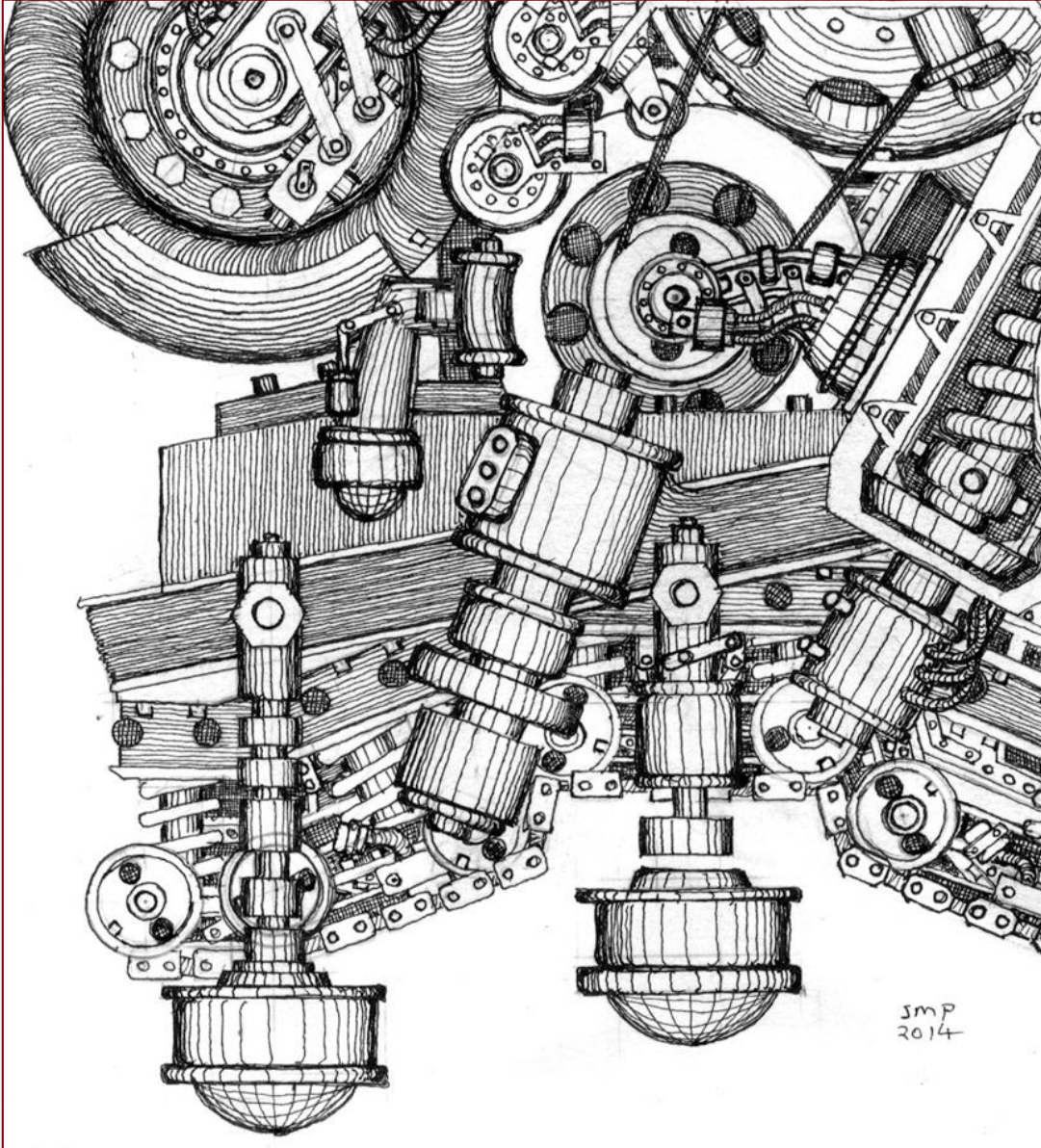
Every Educator Counts

Reading Pictures: Building Visual Literacy Through Picture Books

Presented by Carol Jago | October 14, 2026

Watch the archived webinar at rif.org/webinars

6^{years} Reading
Is Fundamental.

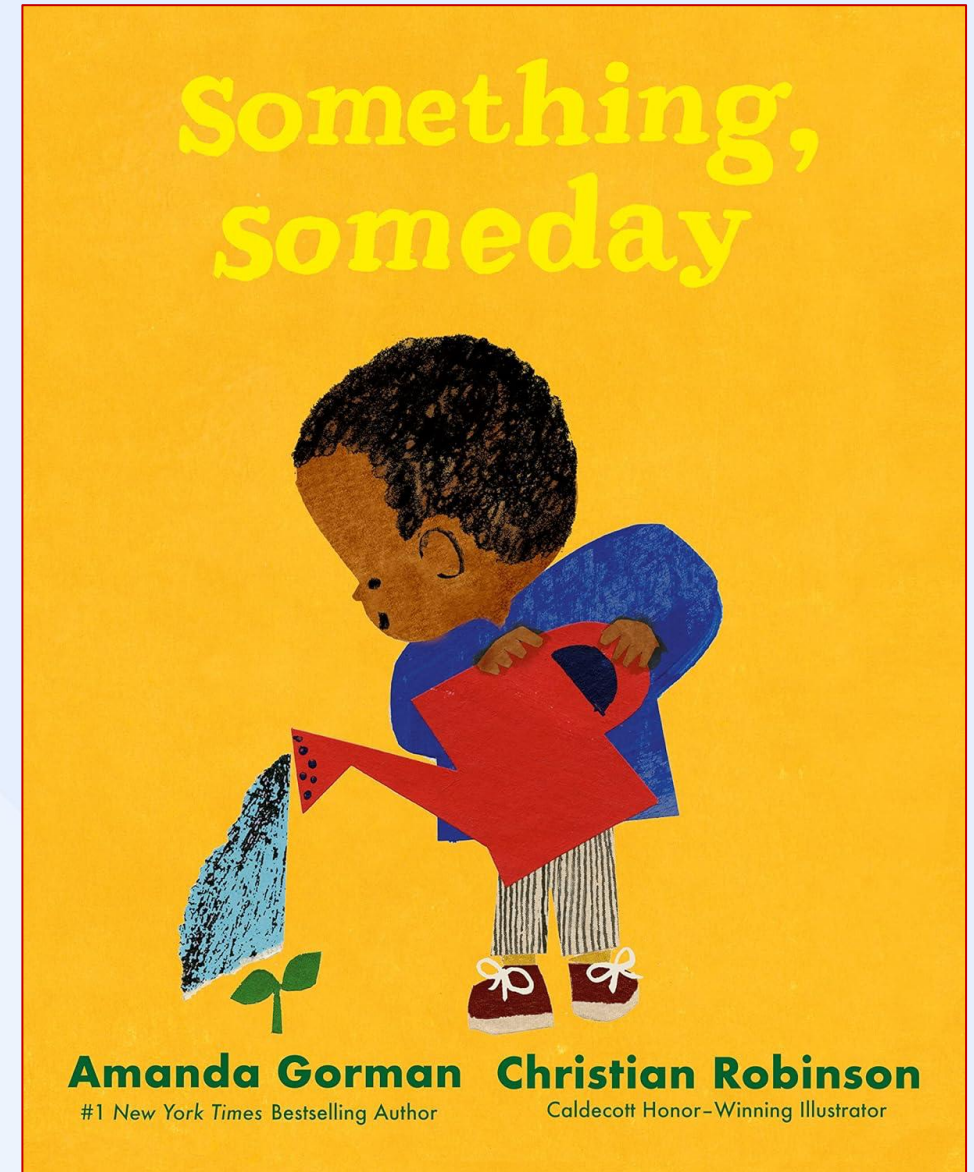


Every text is a lazy machine asking the reader to do some of its work.

- Umberto Eco

Close reading

- What it says
- How the author/illustrator says it
- What it means or suggests



You are told
That this is not a problem.
But you're sure
There's something wrong.



Sometimes you feel like you're all alone.

But someday, somewhere,

You find a friend.

Someone who will hope with you,

Who believes in your dream.

Someone who will fight with you.



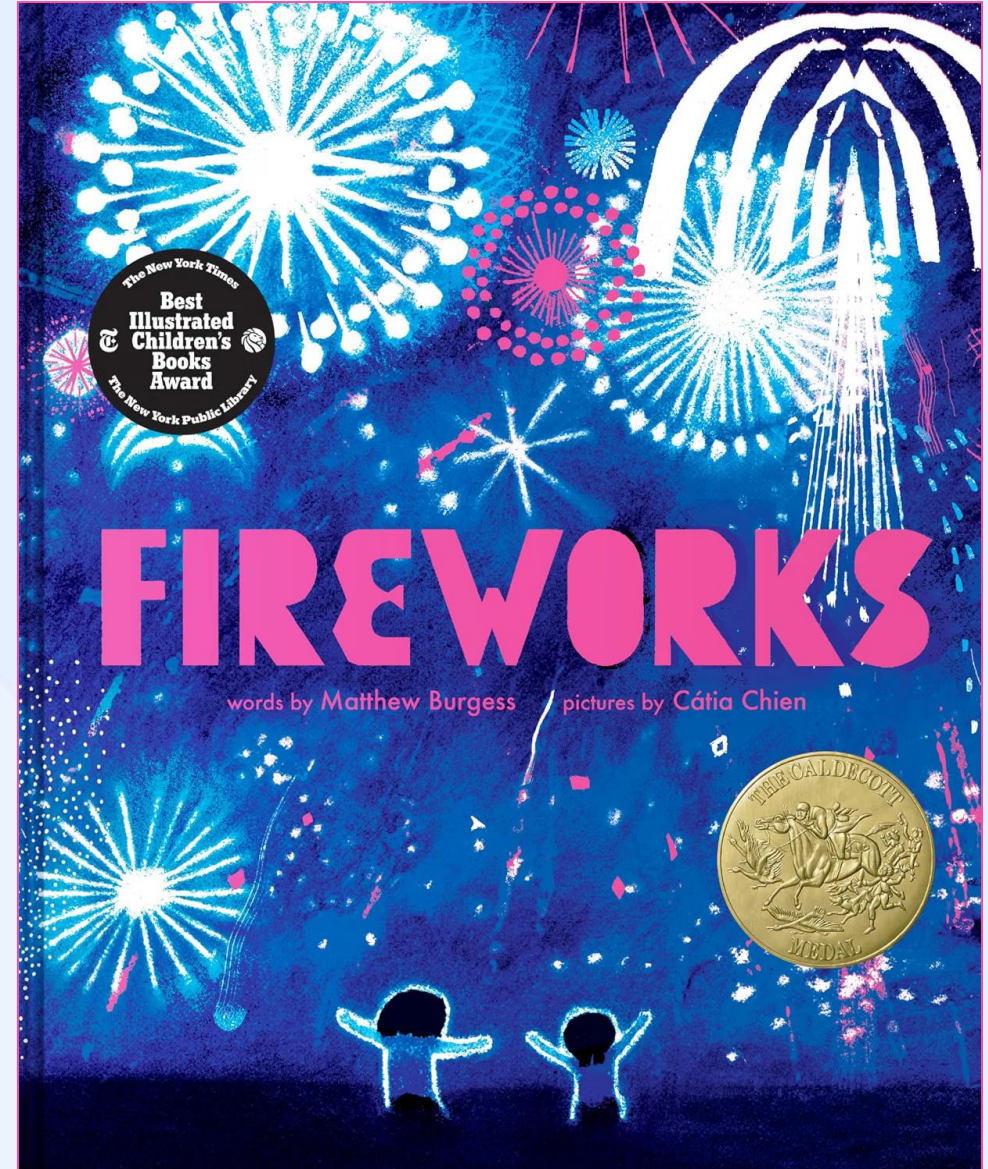


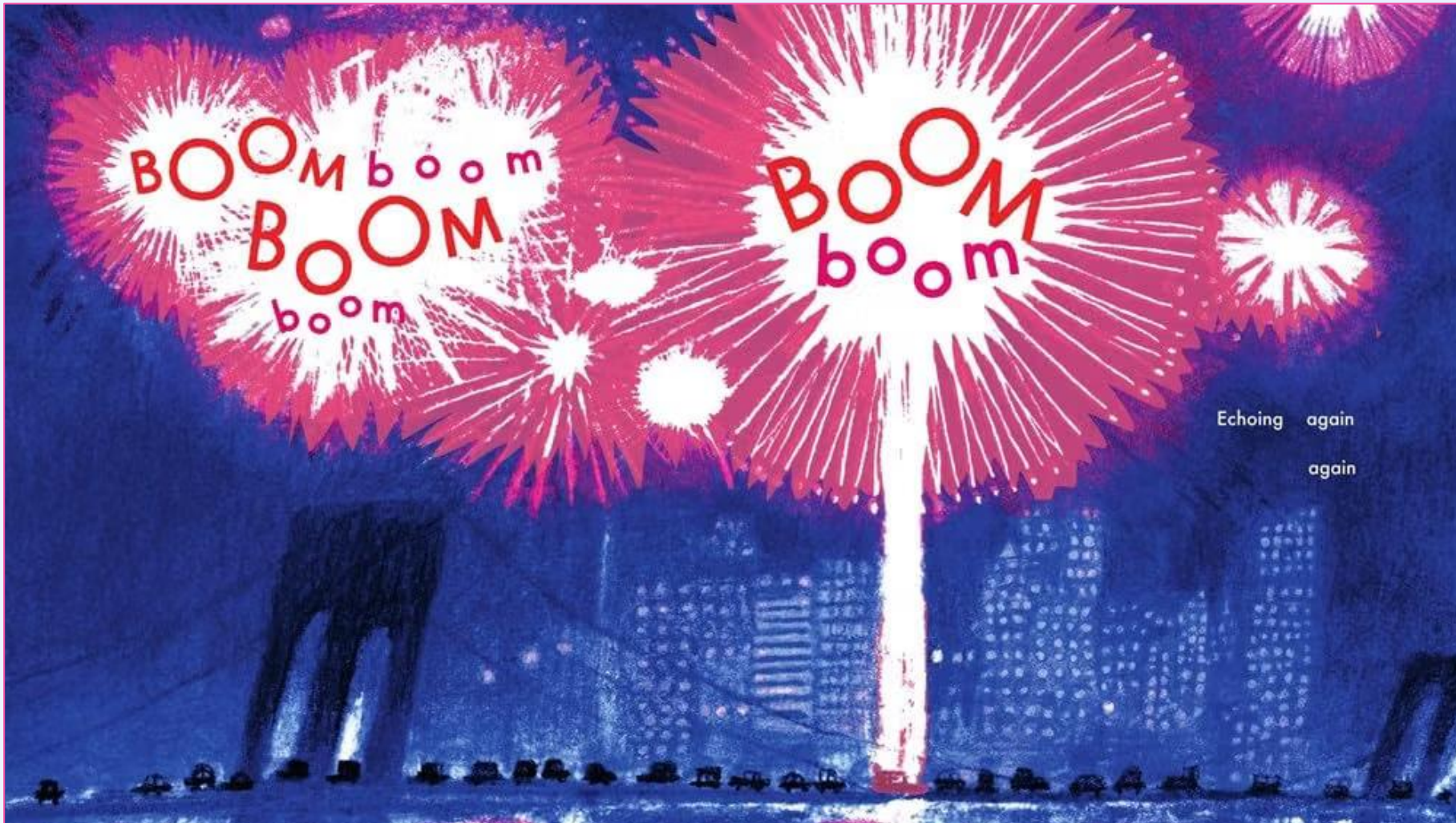
The Protocol

1. Look at the illustration for 2 minutes.
2. Together list 10 things you notice.
3. Discuss what you think about what you see.

Visual Metaphors

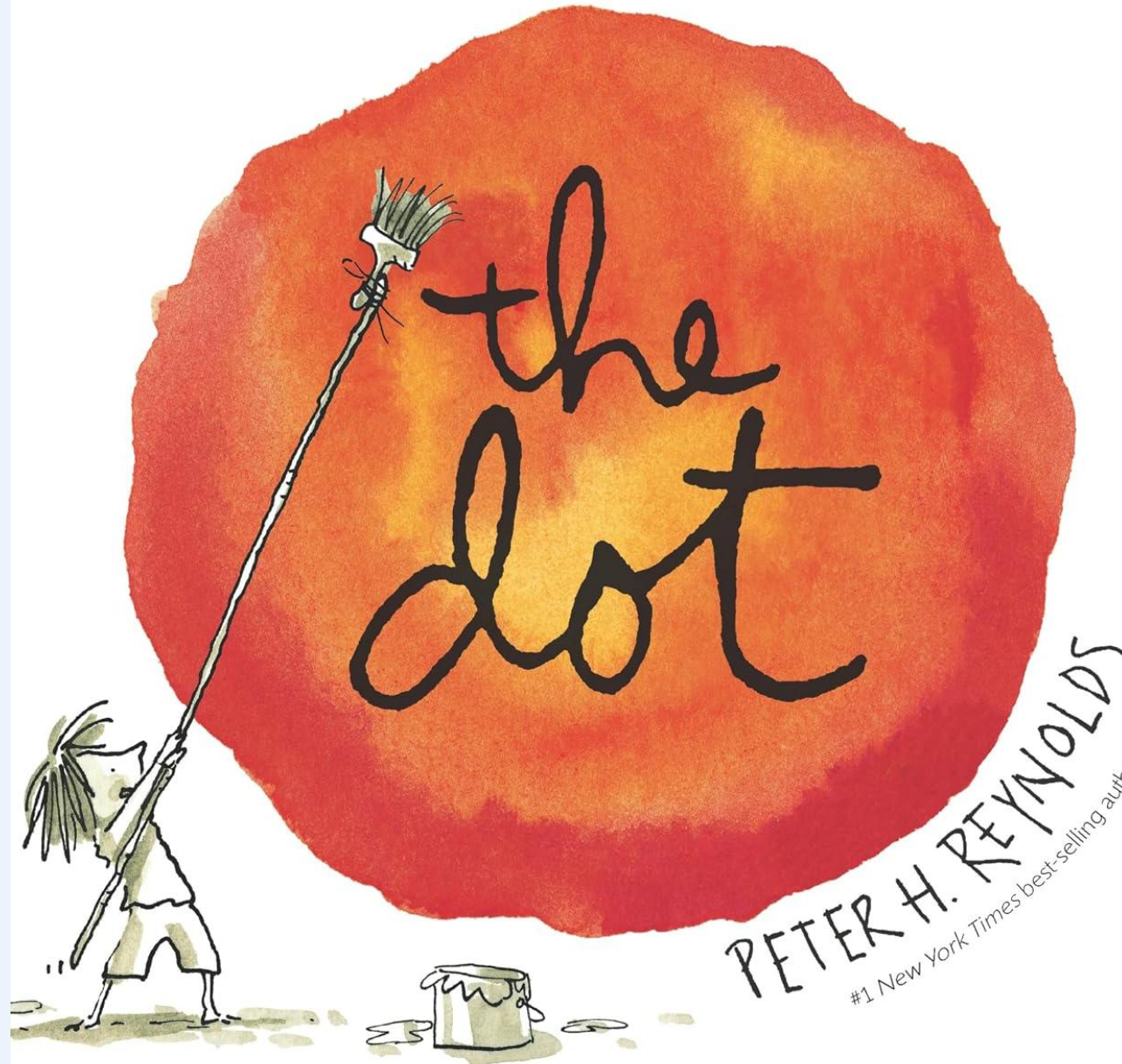
What idea has the illustrator made visible that cannot actually be seen?



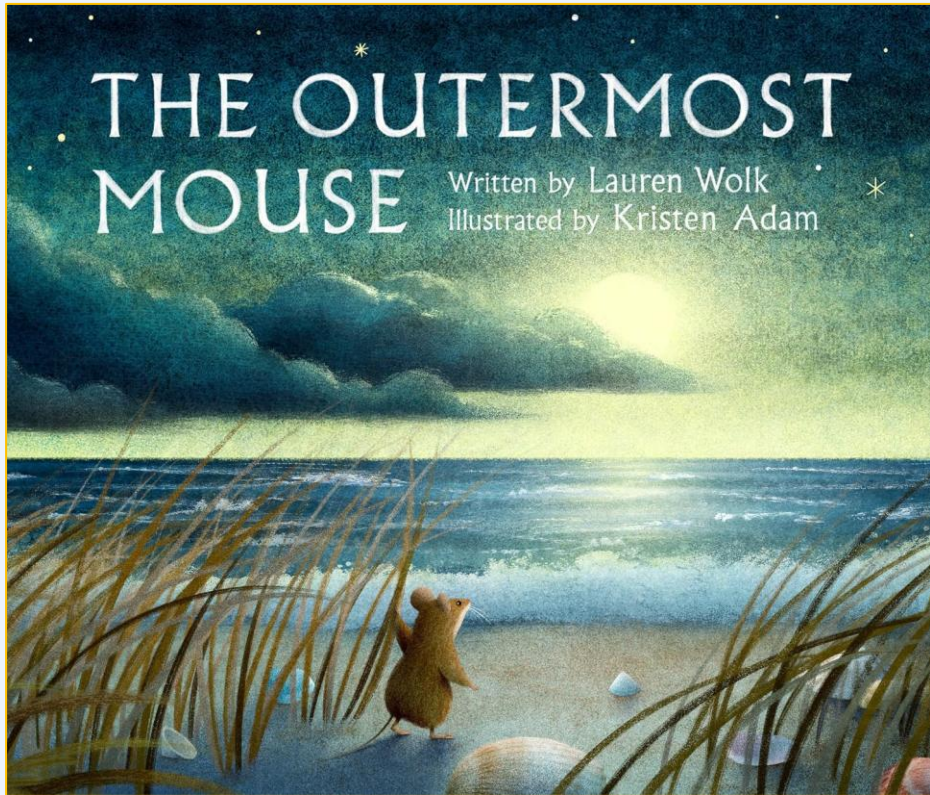


Along with being fireworks, what feelings or ideas could the fireworks be showing us?

Just make a mark and see where it takes you.



The Power of Patience



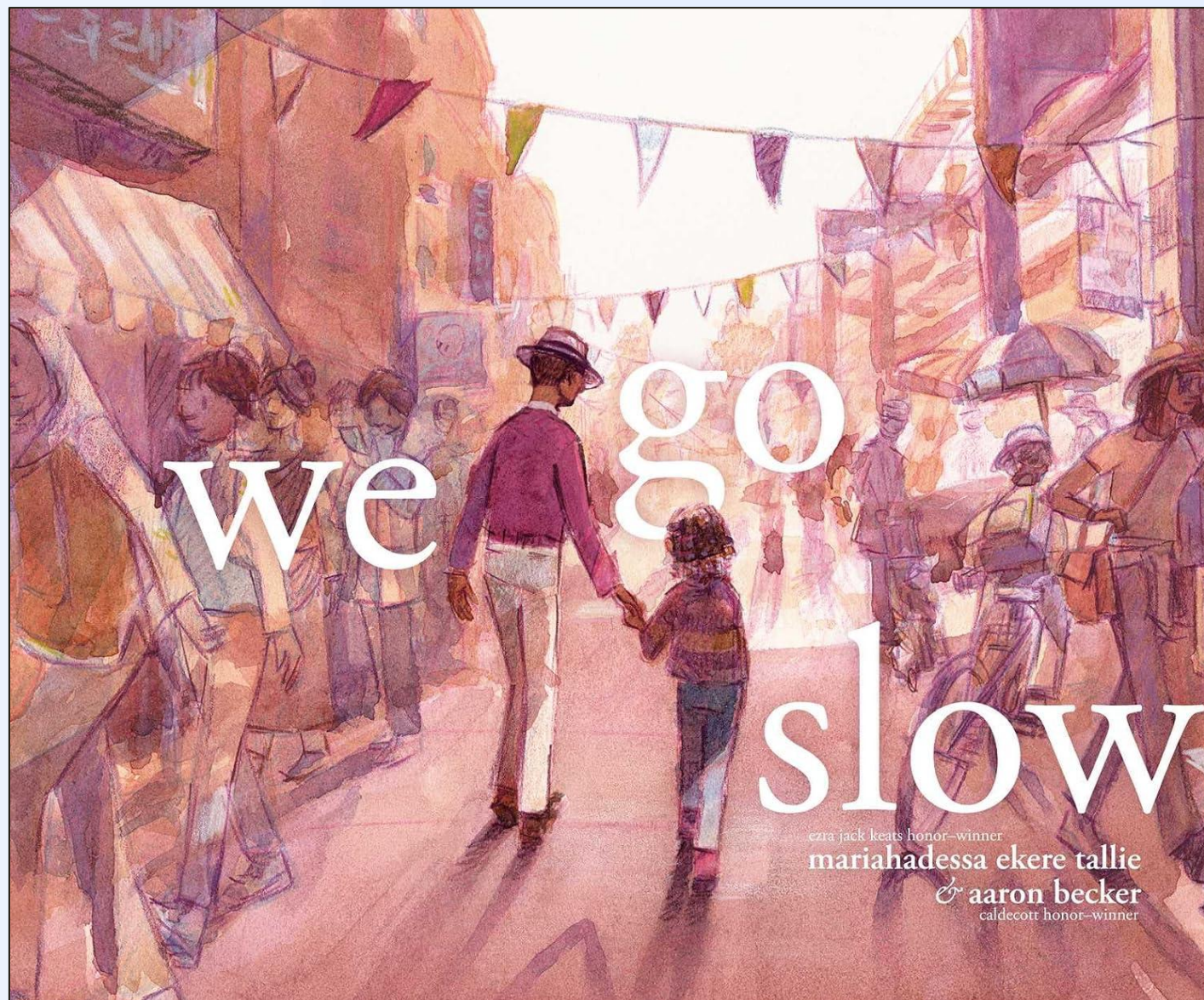
- Offer students the permission and structures to slow down.
- Complex texts hold details, relationships, and structures that take time to perceive.
- Just because you have LOOKED at something doesn't mean you have SEEN it.
- Help students value critical attention, patient investigation, and skepticism towards immediate surface appearances.

At the tip of the beach, where the land slipped away,
sat a little cottage called the Outermost House.

An old man lived there.

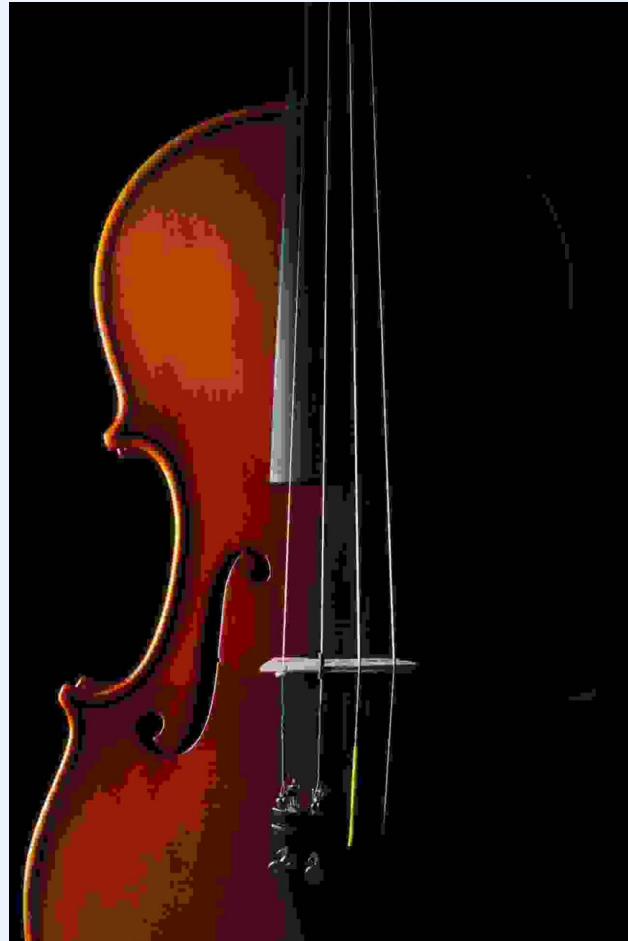


So did a mouse.



I want to make good citizens. If a child hears fine music from the day of his birth and learns to play it himself, he develops sensitivity, discipline and endurance.

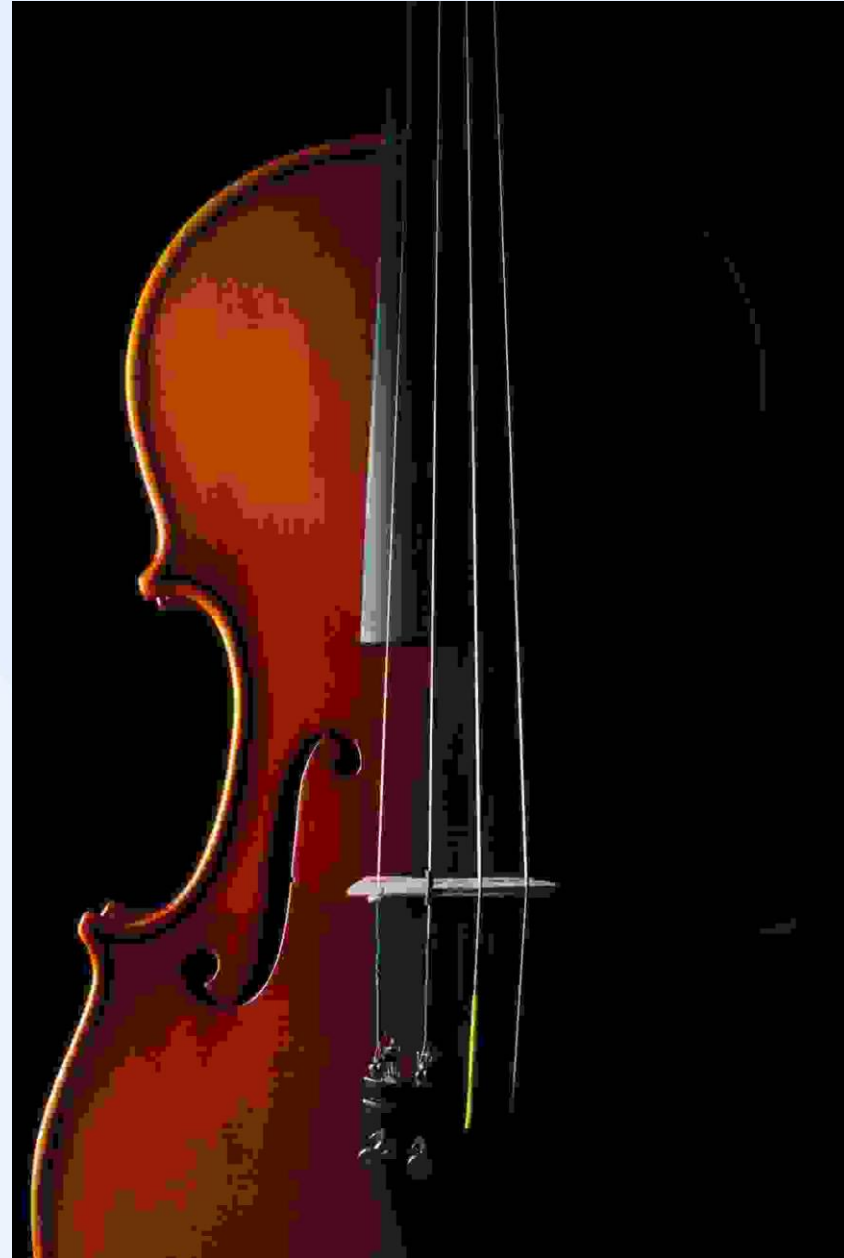
He gets a beautiful heart.

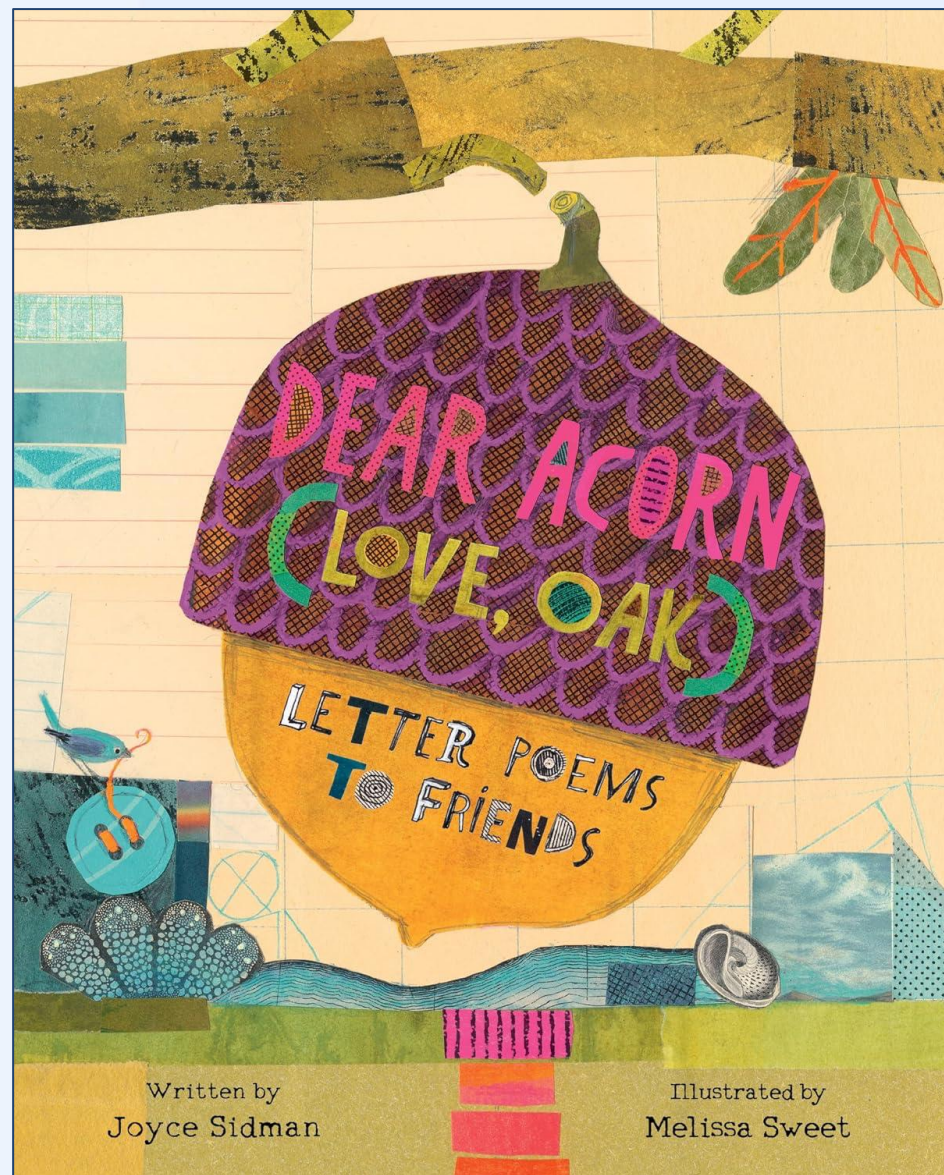


—*Shin'ichi Suzuki*

Suzuki Method

- Immersion
- Encouragement
- Small steps
- Imitate examples
- Internalize principles
- Contribute novel ideas







DEAR ACORN,

I feel you there,
a tickle at my twig tips.

a plump promise
against my rough bark.

Your whole life ahead of you
and weeks till you fall.

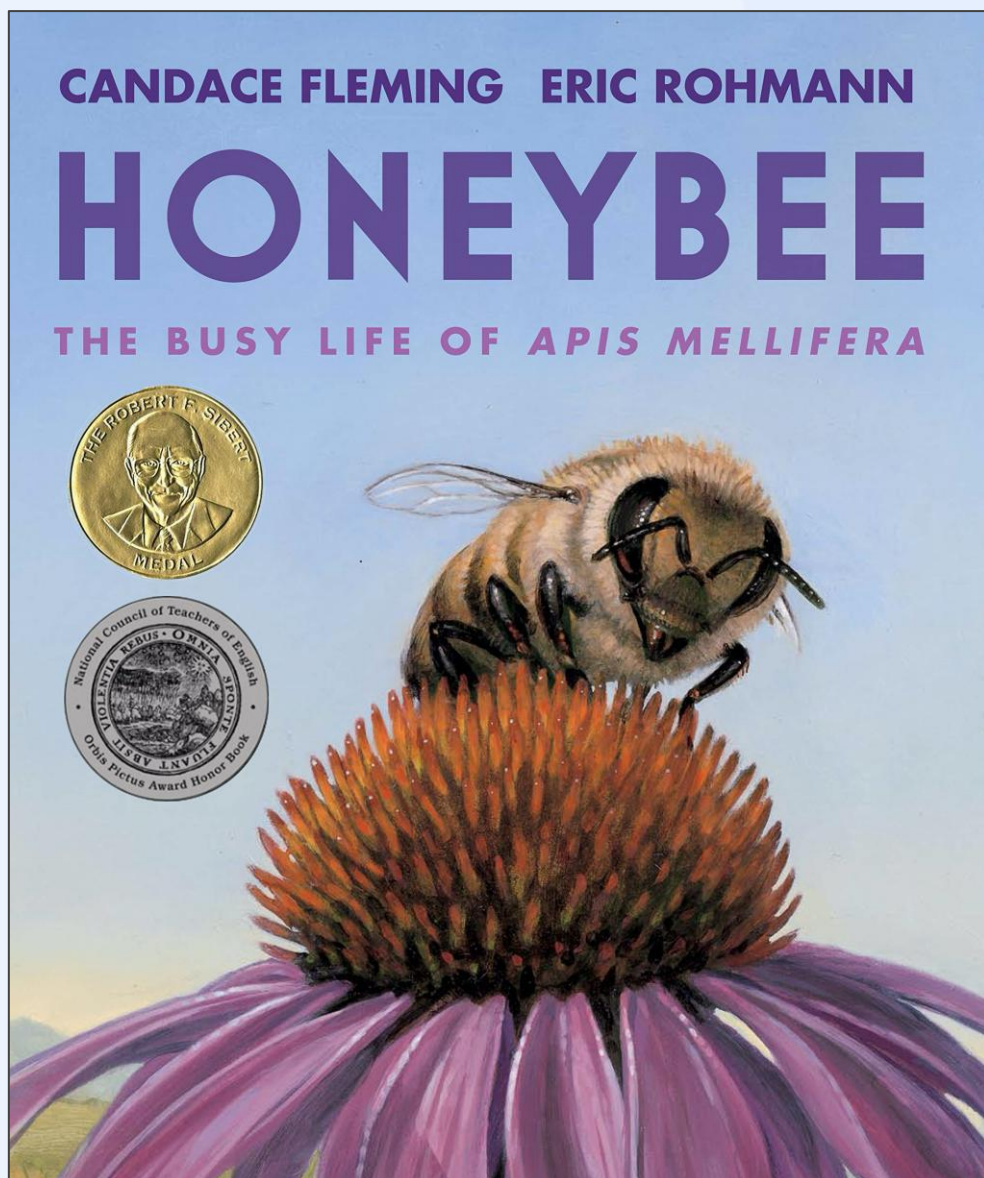
Take a good look around, Acorn.
Drink in the view.

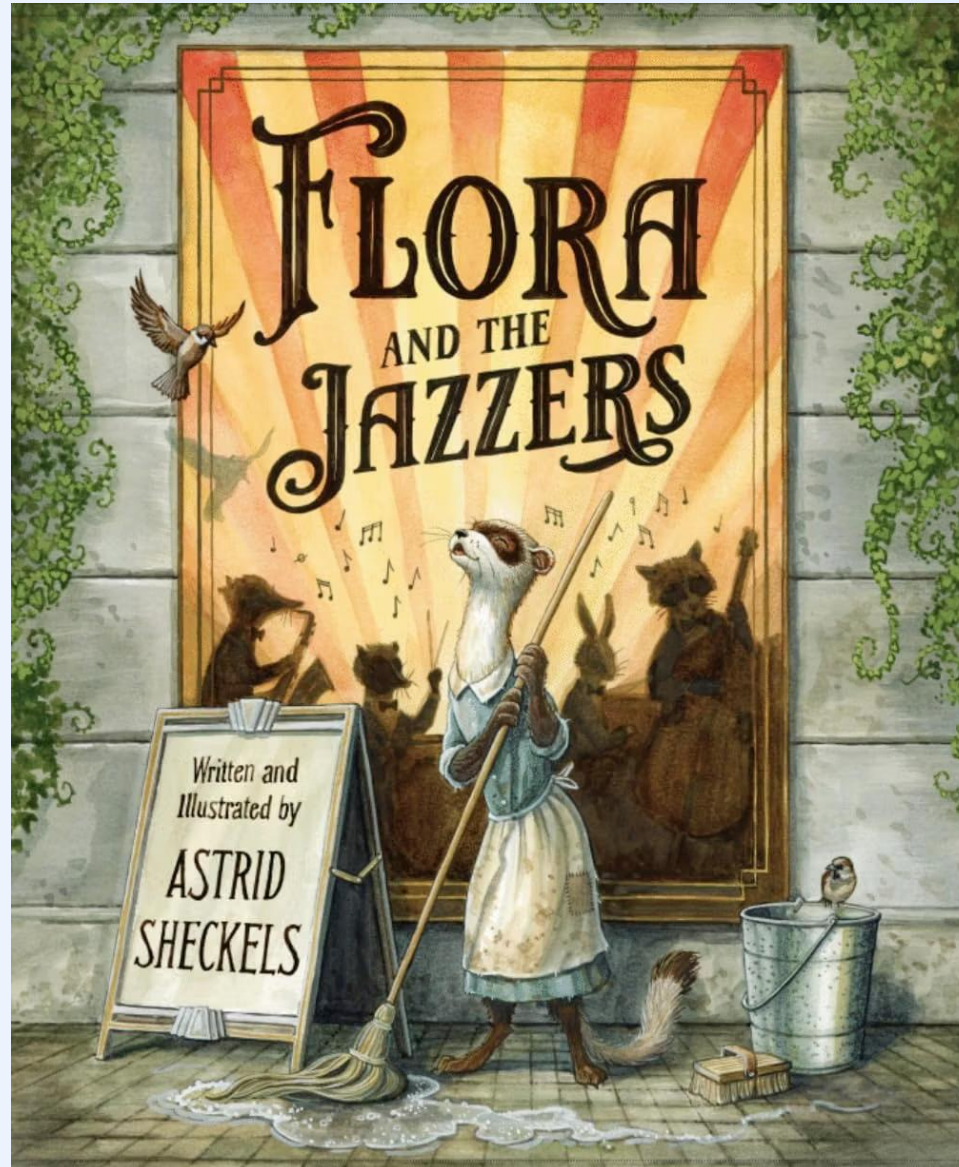
The next stop is earth.
Then years upon years
until you see this sky
this high
again.

Writing & Illustrating Letter Poems

- Choose a subject in the world around you. Could be anything!
- Think about why it's important.
- Write a poem addressed to your subject.
 - Start with a compliment or two.
 - Then ask a question or two.
 - End with a wish or two.
 - Now illustrate your letter poem!

(Try taking on the voice of your subject and write a letter poem back.)







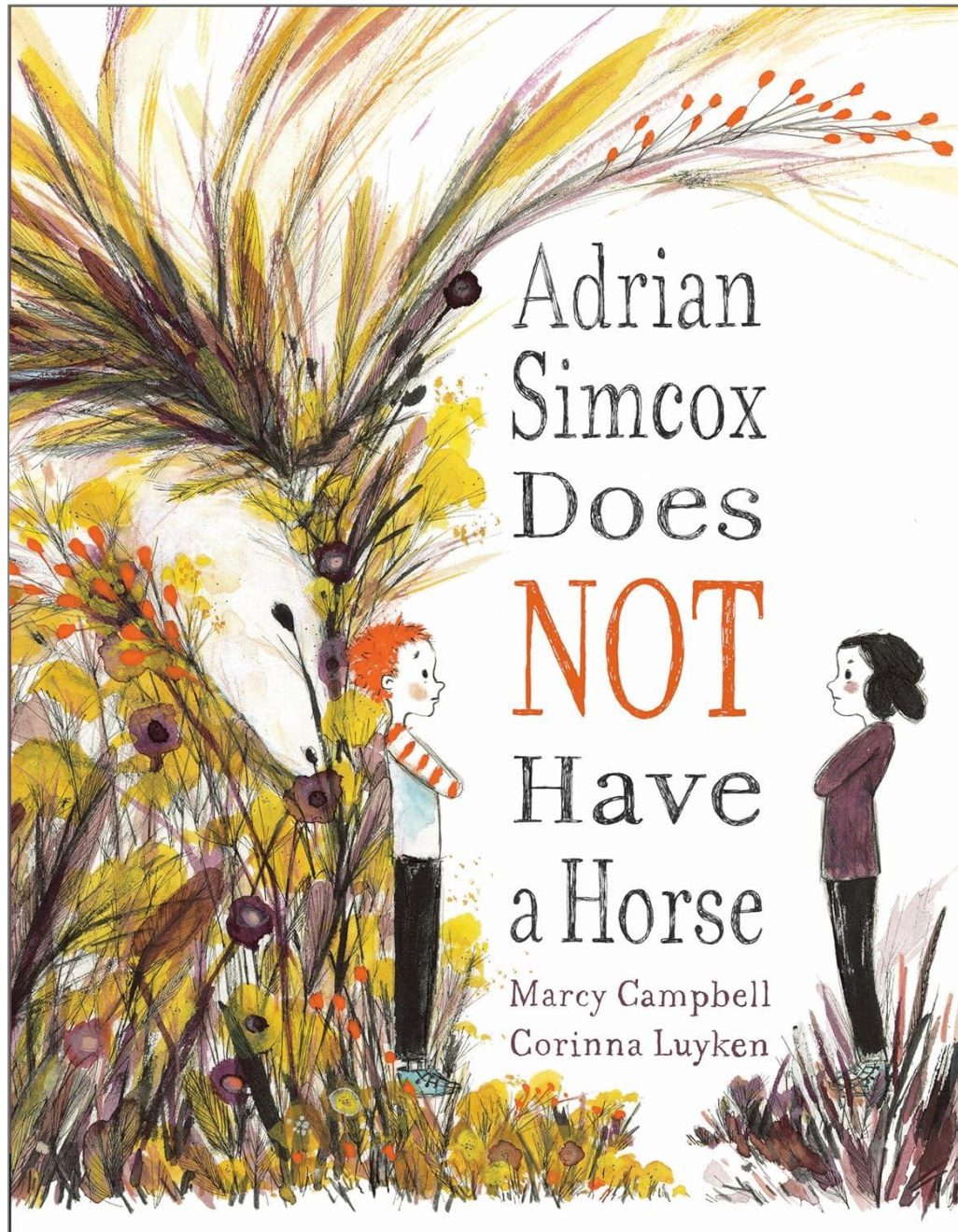
Sometimes strains from the piano
drifted down from the lobby.

Sometimes Flora caught snatches
of conversation about a new show
in the city.



Sometimes a small bird sang outside her window.
Flora treasured these moments.

Someday I will attend a concert, she promised
herself as she saved up her pennies.



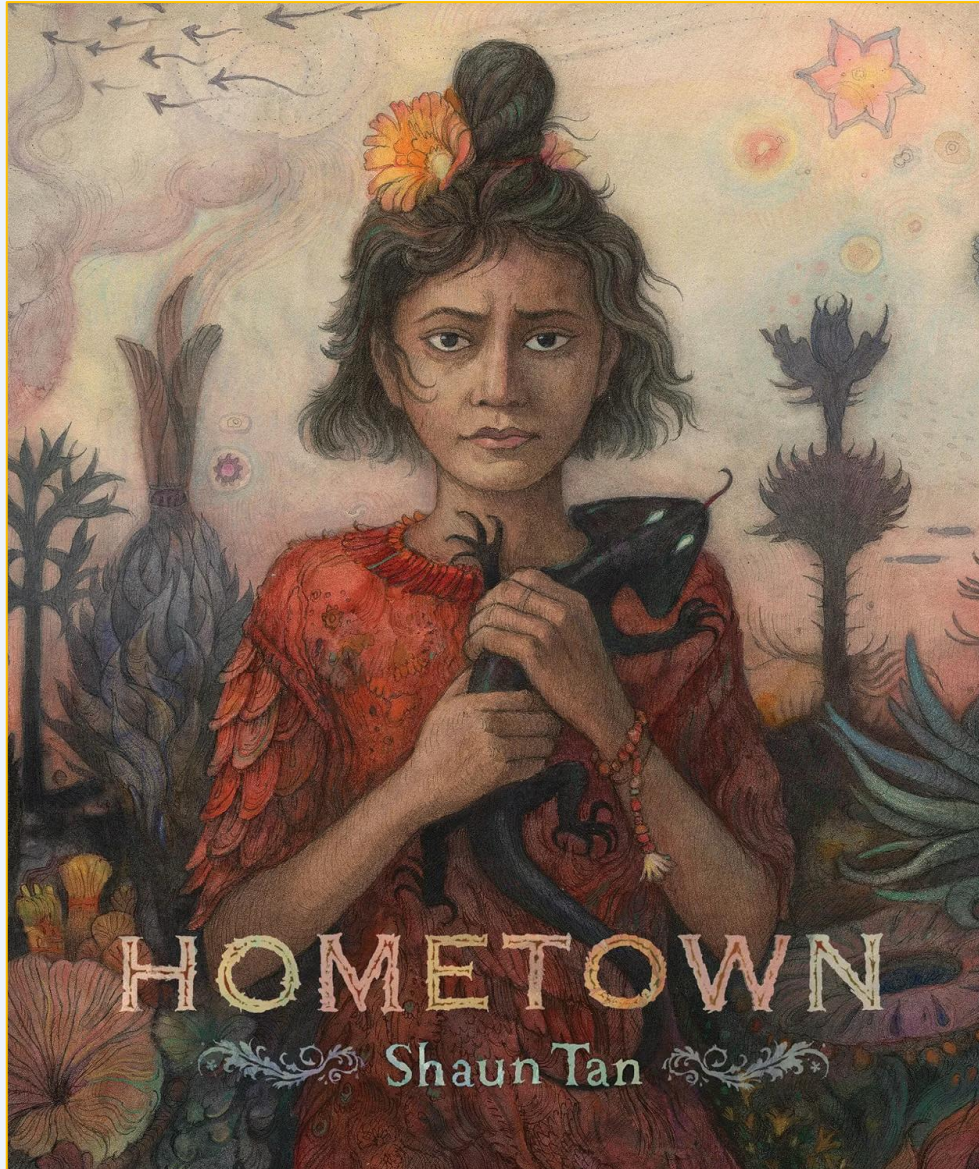
I could feel some words coming up in my throat and tangling in there,
like when I swallowed something and it went down the wrong pipe.

You. Do. Not. Have. A. Horse.



And then I thought Adrian Simcox had just about the best imagination of any kid in our whole school.





Picture books are complex texts, worthy of close scrutiny.

They seed imagination.

October

EVERY BOOK COUNTS

Reading Pictures: Building Visual Literacy Through Picture Books

DATE: Wed. Oct. 14*

TIME: 4PM ET

[REGISTER](#)



October

RALLY TO READ

Read Together, Inspire Together

DATE: Tues. Oct. 27*

TIME: 4PM ET

[REGISTER](#)



November

EVERY EDUCATOR COUNTS

More Than a Reading Level: Rethinking How We Match Readers, Texts, and Support

DATE: Tues. Nov. 10*

TIME: 3PM ET

[REGISTER](#)



November

EVERY BOOK COUNTS

Stories We Share: The Power of Oral Storytelling

DATE: Thurs. Nov. 19*

TIME: 4PM ET

[REGISTER](#)



*Webinar dates subject to change



Thank You!

