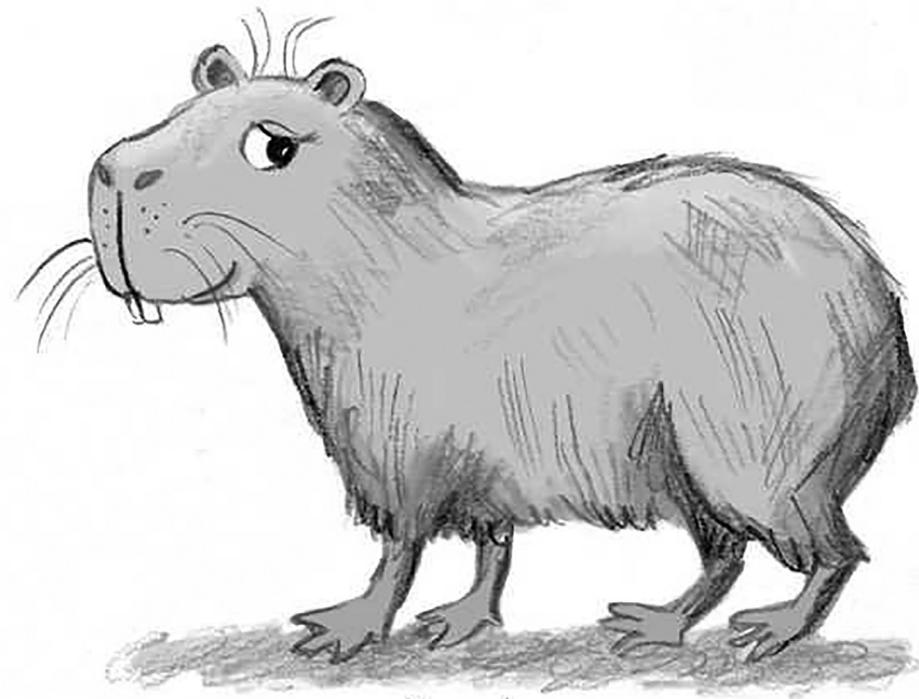




MEGAN FRAZER BLAKEMORE

is an author for children and young adults. Her middle grade novels include *The Story Web* (Bloomsbury, 2019), *The Firefly Code* (Bloomsbury, 2016), *The Daybreak Bond* (Bloomsbury, 2017), *The Friendship Riddle* (Bloomsbury, 2015), *The Spy Catchers of Maple Hill* (Bloomsbury, 2014), and *The Water Castle* (Bloomsbury, 2013), the latter of which was named a Kirkus Best Children's Book of 2013, a Bank Street College Best Book 2014, a Junior Library Guild Selection, and has been included on numerous state lists. Her books for young adults are *Good and Gone* (HarperTeen, 2017), *Secrets of Truth & Beauty* (Disney-Hyperion, 2009) and *Very in Pieces* (HarperTeen, 2015), which has been named a Junior Library Guild selection. She is also the author of the Frankie Sparks: Third-Grade Inventor chapter books, a STEAM-focused series for younger readers. A former school librarian, Megan enjoys connecting with students around reading, writing, and making.

For more, visit WWW.MEGANFRAZER.COM



Megan Frazer Blakemore

LET'S TALK

- + Were you ever disappointed by a friend that did not want to do the same thing you did? How did you solve this problem? Did it change your friendship?
- + Have you ever had a great idea that you felt no one was listening to? How did you get people to listen?
- + Frankie wanted a rat and Maya wanted a fish, using Ms. Cupid's "parameters," what class pet would you chose and why?

LET'S CREATE

Using the Design Process in the back of the book (*problem identification, brainstorm ideas, design, test/ retest and share*) see if you can create a prototype solving a problem in your own life. Think of something you need to fix or something that helps you do a task more efficiently. This could be an item to help in the kitchen with cooking or something to help hold a pencil or, like Frankie, something to help feed a pet when you are away. Use your imagination and things from recycling or whatever you can find to make this design or make a detailed drawing of your design.

+ What are your three favorite animals? Design and draw a picture of a new, made up animal that has parts from all three of your favorites such as, ears of a dog, head of a gecko and tail of a monkey. Be creative!

Frankie's dad makes a pun about his work as a gardener, "When I'm feeling frustrated, I dig into my work."

A **pun** is a joke that makes a play on words. A pun makes use of words that have more than one meaning, or words that sound similar but have different meanings, to humorous effect. On the right are some examples:

+ See if you can write a pun or two about the mismatched animal you made-up from the question above.

Maya doesn't get her favorite classroom pet but you could craft an aquarium out of a jar or clear plastic container. Just add clay, felt or paper fish and fill line with gravel and shells. See this video for ideas: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=LQvRO3ZS_DO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQvRO3ZS_DO)

The pigs were a squeal.

A chicken farmer's favorite car is a coupe.

A boiled egg every morning is hard to beat.

Always trust a glue salesman. They tend to stick to their word.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.

I went to a seafood disco last week... and pulled a mussel.

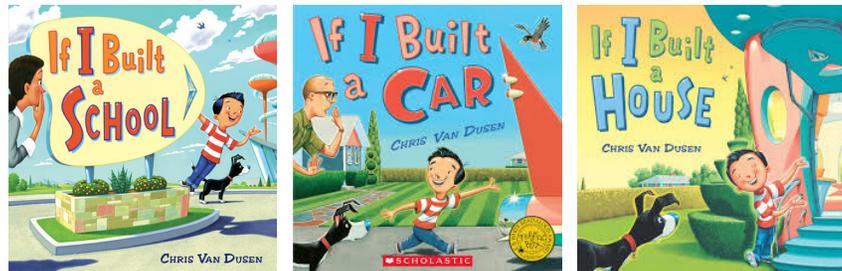


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READ MORE



More by Megan Frazer Blakemore



by Chris Van Dusen



by Andrea Beaty, Anica Mrose Rissi, and Cynthia Lord

LEARN MORE

+ Did you know that Kid Inventor's Day is January 17th? Check out these amazing kid inventors in the websites below. Pick one to research and answer these questions;

What is their name?

Where did they live?

How old were they when they made their invention?

What year did they invent it?

Describe their invention?

Is this invention something we still use today?

[HTTPS://WWW.OVOENERGY.COM/BLOG/LIFESTYLE/NINE-INCREDIBLE-KID-INVENTORS.HTML](https://www.ovoenergy.com/blog/lifestyle/nine-incredible-kid-inventors.html)

[HTTPS://INVENTIONLAND.COM/BLOG/TEN-KID-INVENTORS-THAT-CHANGED-OUR-LIVES/](https://inventionland.com/blog/ten-kid-inventors-that-changed-our-lives/)

+ Watch these short videos about pet rats and what makes a good classroom pet.

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=B47V49YXRow](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B47V49YXRow)

[HTTPS://WWW.THESPRUCEPETS.COM/PET-RATS-1236745](https://www.thesprucepets.com/pet-rats-1236745)

[HTTPS://WWW.PETMD.COM/EXOTIC/SLIDESHOWS/CARE/BEST-CLASSROOM-PETS](https://www.petmd.com/exotic/slideshows/care/best-classroom-pets)

