

EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

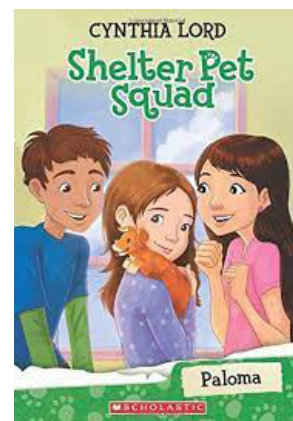
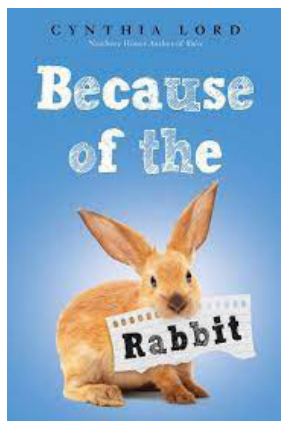
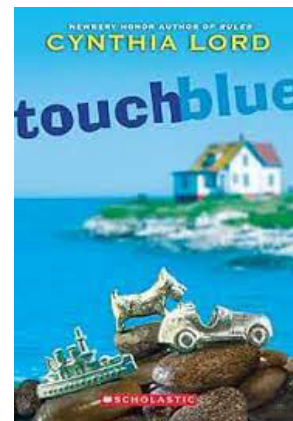
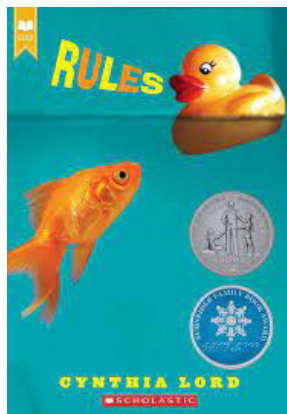
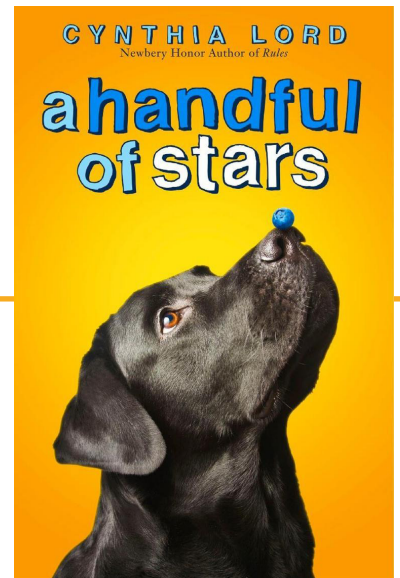
Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!

MEET CYNTHIA



Cynthia Lord is the award-winning author of *Rules*, a Newbery Honor Book and a Schneider Family Book Award winner, as well as the critically acclaimed *Half a Chance*, *A Handful of Stars*, and *Because of the Rabbit*. She made her picture-book debut with *Hot Rod Hamster*, which won several awards, including the Parents' Choice Award, and is the author of the several early chapter book series and lives in Maine with her family.

Learn more about Cynthia [HERE](#).



EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

LET'S BEGIN! BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Use the Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) questions below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

- *What is going on in this picture?*
- *What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)*
- *What more can we find?*

Watch this [VIDEO](#) for a quick VTS demo

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Alison Johnson at Island Readers & Writers, 207-460-6828 or ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org.

STANDARDS

Covered throughout this Explore More Book Guide:

SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

SL.3 Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.

R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.

R.5 Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.

R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

R.8 Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.

R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.

Focus in Geography and History

LET'S TALK! Discussion Questions

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BOOK

1. What is the importance of chance in the story?
2. What are some of the sayings that Pépère shares with Lily? Explain them and give examples from your experiences that show these to be true.
3. Explain why Lily is called "Tigerlily." How does she feel about it? What would you choose for a nickname and why?
4. Compare Lily's friendship with Salma vs. her friendship with Hannah. What traits do you look for in a friend?
5. Discuss the place where you live. Is it where you belong? Do you always want to live there? Why or why not?
6. What did Lily wish for when she ate the blueberry? What would you wish for?
7. If Salma had won the \$5,000.00 first prize, would the ending be different? If so, how?
8. Where are stars used in the story? Why are they important?
9. Migrant workers are part of the fabric of this country. Does your community have a migrant population and, if so, what elements of their culture have become part of the community?

Migrant Worker:

A migrant worker is a person who migrates within a home country or outside it to pursue work. They do not have an intention to stay permanently in the country or region in which they work.

LET'S CREATE! Book-Inspired Art

1. Read about how a Maine non-profit welcomes migrant workers for the blueberry season. Check out [WELCOMING WORKERS IN MAINE](#). Make your own sign to help welcome them!
2. Lily paints houses for Mason bees. Make a diagram of a mason bee's life cycle and then build a bee house! Here's how: [DIY BEE HOMES | CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN](#)
3. Interview a veterinarian. Find out what it takes to become a vet. Make an illustrated schedule of a day in the life of a veterinarian.
4. Soccer is played all over the world. The soccer game in *A Handful of Stars* was for recreation among migrant workers coming together from different countries while they worked the blueberry barrens. Can you think of other games that might bring people together? Brainstorm and schedule a welcoming game night in your community.
5. Research and profile the nutritional value of Maine wild blueberries. Make a poster about the health benefits to share what you've learned.
6. Make blueberry enchiladas! Here's a [RECIPE](#)!

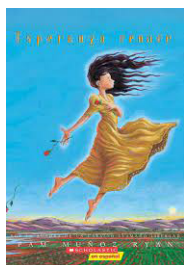


LET'S DIVE DEEPER! [Explore More](#)

1. Watch this amazing [STORY](#) about how an abandoned puppy becomes a seeing-eye dog for another!
2. [VIDEOS](#) about blueberry growing in Maine.
3. Learn about the [ANNUAL MACHIAS WILD BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL](#). And Enter the t-shirt design contest!
4. Learn about Maine's wild bees with the [UNIVERSITY OF MAINE](#)

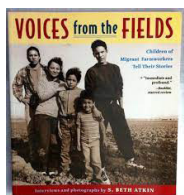
LET'S READ MORE!

Text to Text Connections



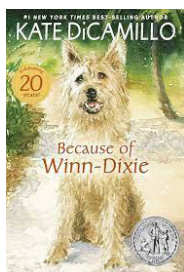
Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan:

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico - she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.



Voices From The Field by S. Beth Atkins:

This critically acclaimed book features photographs, poems, and interviews with nine children who reveal the hardships and hopes of today's Mexican-American migrant farm workers and their families.



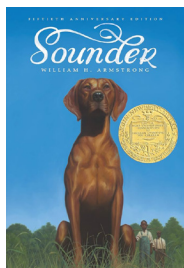
Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo:

Because of Winn-Dixie, a big, ugly, happy dog, 10-year-old Opal learns 10 things about her long-gone mother from her preacher father. Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal makes new friends among the somewhat unusual residents of her new hometown, Naomi, Florida. Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal begins to find her place in the world and let go of some of the sadness left by her mother's abandonment seven years earlier. With her newly adopted, goofy pooch at her side, Opal explores her bittersweet world and learns to listen to other people's lives. This warm and winning book hosts an unforgettable cast of characters, including a librarian who fought off a bear with a copy of War and Peace, an ex-con pet-store clerk who plays sweet music to his animal charges, and the neighborhood "witch," a nearly blind woman who sees with her heart.



Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez:

After Tyler's father is injured in a tractor accident, his family is forced to hire migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure. Tyler isn't sure what to make of these workers. Are they undocumented? And what about the three daughters, particularly Mari, the oldest, who is proud of her Mexican heritage but also increasingly connected to her American life? Her family lives in constant fear of being discovered by the authorities and sent back to the poverty they left behind in Mexico. Can Tyler and Mari find a way to be friends despite their differences? In a novel full of hope, but no easy answers, Julia Alvarez weaves a beautiful and timely story that will stay with readers long after they finish it.



Sounder by William H. Armstrong:

A classic of children's literature, this novel is about a loyal dog, Sounder, and the African American sharecropper family that owns him. When his master is arrested for stealing a hog to feed his family, Sounder is shot and disappears. Sounder's eventual return doesn't change the fact that the oldest son in the family is forced to take on a man's work to support the family. This is a must read book about resilience and hope in the face of tragedy.