

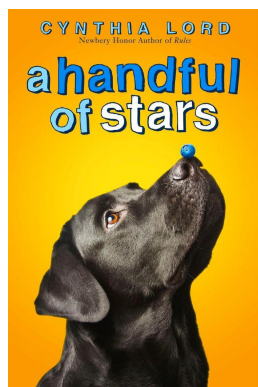
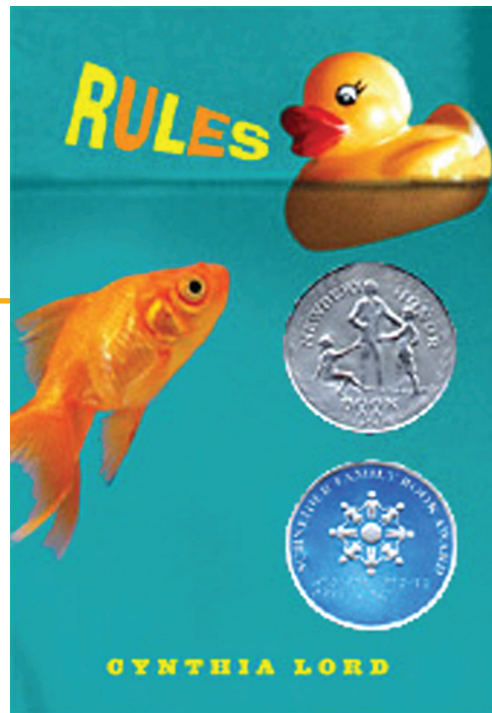
EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!

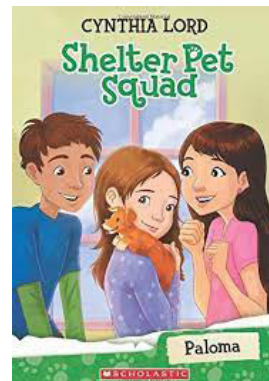
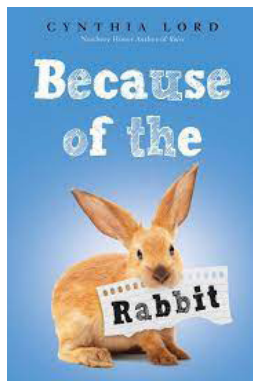
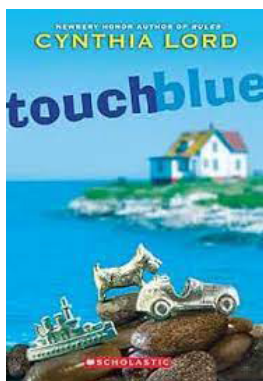


Meet the author

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.

RULES FOR DAVID

If the bathroom door is closed, knock!
(especially if Catherine has a friend over).

Say thank you when someone gives you a present
(even if you don't like it).

Don't stand in front of the TV when other people are watching it.

A boy takes off his shirt to swim, but not his shorts.

Some people think they know who you are,
when really they don't.

No toys in the fishtank.

- Cynthia Lord's [WEBSITE](#)



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.

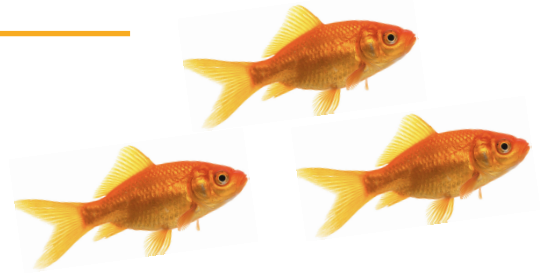
R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

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.

LET'S TALK!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Why is the rule “Sometimes people don’t answer because they didn’t hear you. Other times it’s because they don’t want to hear you,” different from “Close your mouth when you chew.” Which do you think is harder for David to understand and why?

How are rules important to us? Give examples of some social rules that you think David would need to learn and explain your reasoning.

Imagine having a little brother like David. What might be some challenges and what might be some of the joys?

Why does Catherine go to the clinic with her mother and David? Would you want to do the same if you were Catherine? Explain

Catherine feels very ashamed for drawing Jason, even though she didn’t mean any harm. Describe a time you were made to feel bad about something you did, even though it was a misunderstanding. What does Catherine do to try and fix the problem and what did you do?

Catherine’s meeting with her new neighbor doesn’t live up to her expectations. Describe a time when you had high hopes for something and were disappointed. How did this affect you and your attitude?

How would you feel if someone in your family was always late for something that you felt was important? What might you do to address this with them? What does Catherine end up saying to her father and do you agree with how she handled it?

What are David’s conversation rules? How do these differ from your conversation rules?

Catherine is often embarrassed by David’s behavior even though she knows he can’t help it. Describe a time when you felt embarrassed by someone you were with and explain how you dealt with it.

Compare and contrast Mrs. Morehouse with Catherine’s mom.

On page 43, Catherine volunteers herself to help with Jason’s book and then wonders why that popped out of her mouth. Describe a time when you spoke first without thinking and what the effect was.

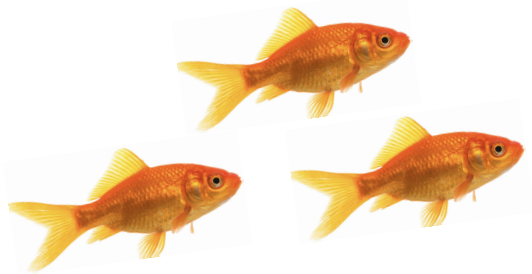
Catherine tells several lies during the course of the book. Explain the situations where she lies and why she does this. Would you do the same in her position? Explain.

Catherine has a lot of tough decisions in the book. How does she change as a character throughout Rules?

Discuss the ending of the book. How did you feel about it and why? Would you have written things differently if you were the author? Discuss.



LET'S CREATE (AND DO)! Book-Inspired Art



There is a lot of **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE** in *Rules*, for instance Catherine says her hopes “rush with the water under the bridges.” Find other instances of figurative language such as personification, simile and metaphor and draw or paint an illustration of the language conveys.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:

a type of descriptive language used to convey meaning in a way that differs from its literal meaning

Write a short piece or poem from Jason’s point of view about his experience when Catherine pushes him in the wheelchair.

Imagine you were creating a movie version of *Rules*. What important scenes would you include in your screenplay and what might you leave out?

Imagine you had a “word book” like the one Jason uses and those words were the only way you could communicate. Create your own “word book” using index cards or heavy weight paper. Label and illustrate your book and then try it out with friends or family. Was it challenging?

Volunteer to work with the Special Olympics or other organization that works with people with special needs.

Do research on Autism and write a report about the spectrum and how it affects individuals.

Since Catherine is the narrator, we hear about things from her perspective. Imagine how her parents feel and the challenge it must be to raise David as well as provide for her needs. Write a scene from *Rules* from either parent’s perspective.

If David was your brother, you might want to have a list of rules posted on your door. Make a decorative poster with your important rules for David.

LET'S DIVE DEEPER!

Explore More

Cynthia Lord’s **LIVE JOURNAL**

Links: [Autism Speaks](#) & [Autism Society](#)

Cynthia Lord's Resources

[Writing Rules](#)

[Activities](#)

[Discussion Guide](#)

LET'S READ MORE!

Text to Text Connections

