

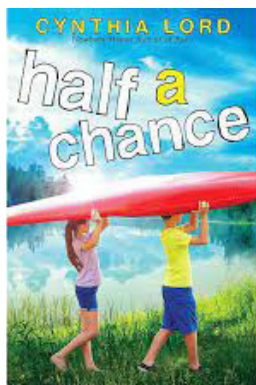
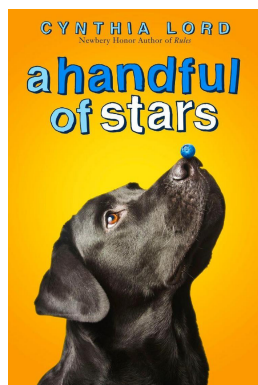
EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!

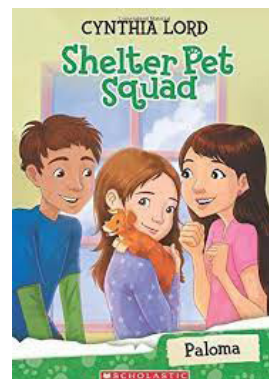
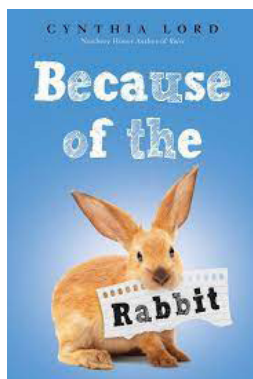
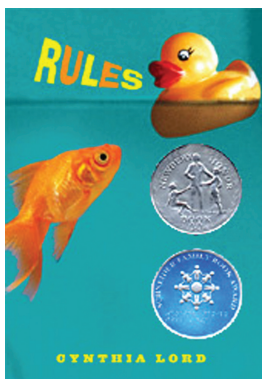


Meet the author

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.

Touch Blue

Never whistle on a boat.

A rainbow means change is coming.

It's bad luck to change a boat's name.

If you write your wish beneath the stamp on a

letter, the letter will carry the wish with it.

Start your journey with your right foot and good

luck will walk with you.

Touch Blue and your wish will come true.

- 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

BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Looking at the cover, what do you think the story is about?

After reading the book, do you think it is a good cover for this story? If so, tell why. If not, choose another cover that you think would be better and explain your reasoning.

AFTER READING THE BOOK

How do you feel about luck?

Do you think that you can get luck from objects?

Why or why not?

Does luck matter? What creates/causes luck?

Do you have any lucky charms?

Do you believe in any superstitions? Do you think that they can actually help you? Do you believe that they can cause any harm?

If you could have one wish come true, what would your wish be? Why?

Why do you think Aaron wanted to see his mother?

What would you have done in Tess's situation? Explain your reasoning.

What do you think the blue lobster meant? Support your answer with examples from the story.

How would you act towards a foster child in your family? Give at least three examples of things you would do on your first day together.

Does the island that Tess lives on remind you of the coastal town that you live in? How is it similar? How is it different? From what you know of coastal Maine and islands, do you think it is an accurate depiction of island life?

Was Eben a bully? How do you know? Prove your answer with personal examples and support from the text.

Compare one-room schools to multi-room schools? Did your town ever have a one-room school?



-Wikimedia Commons

What are some lobstering traditions that you know exist in your town? What is the culture like among the lobstermen? Do you think the conversations between the fishermen in the story were accurate?

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

Draw a picture of an object you think can bring good luck and explain why.

Draw and label a coastal Maine eco-system.

Design a boat, give it a name and tell why you gave it the name selected.

Research the history of Whoopie Pies. Write an advertisement based on the research you found, as well as your taste experience.

Research the history of schools in your town? Visit your local historical society or talk to an elder who was raised in your town and research the first school. What was the school like? Can you find pictures? How many students attended the school when it was opened? Compare and contrast it to the school you are in today.

Tess wanted to take Aaron around and show him all of her favorite spots on Bethsaida in the hopes that he would love it like she did and want to stay. Create a travel brochure or poster that shares what you think are the best parts of your town.

LET'S DIVE DEEPER!

Explore More

LINK: Gulf of Maine Research Institute
The American Lobster

Win Watson, Professor of Zoology

Wikipedia, The American Lobster

Research the history of some common superstitions and/or lucky objects.

Cynthia Lord's **Discussion Guide**

Interview with Cynthia Lord

My Maine Island Tour: In October 2010, I was invited to do a tour for Touch Blue with Island Readers and Writers, a wonderful organization that connects Maine authors and illustrators with Maine island students. You can read about my visit to four Maine island schools in these archived blog entries:

- Cynthia Lord

LET'S READ MORE!

Text to Text Connections

