

EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!

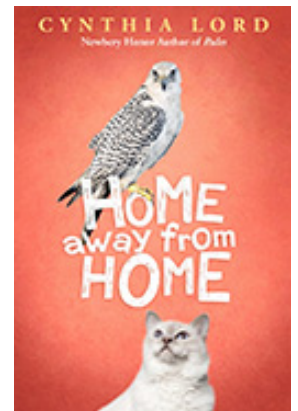
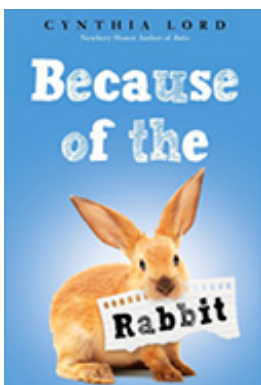
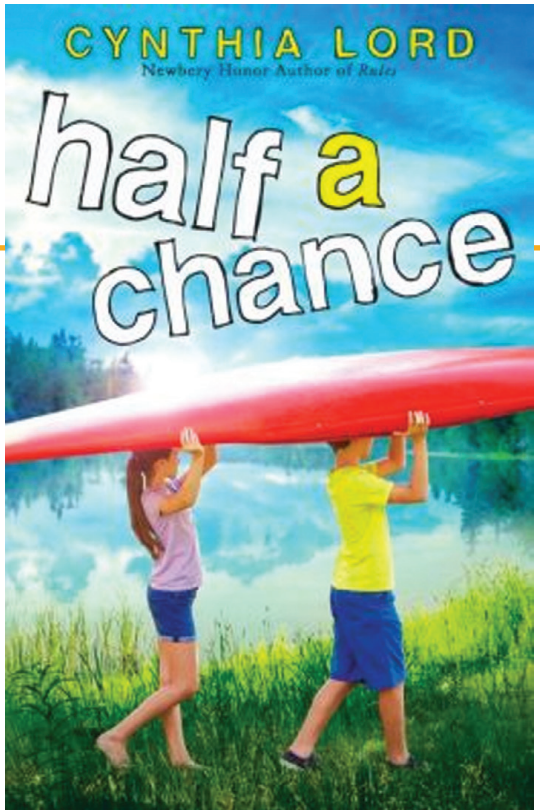
Meet the author



When Cynthia Lord sat down to write her first children's book, she knew it would be a middle grade novel. As she recalls, "I grew up next to a lake in New Hampshire and I remember being ten years old, lying on our pier, listening to the seagulls calling, and daydreaming about Borrowers and Chocolate Factories and Secret Gardens." Cynthia Lord is the author of a host of award-winning books. These include *A Handful of Stars* (2015); *Half a Chance* (2014), Junior Library Guild Selection and Book Page Top Pick in Children's Books; *Touch Blue* (2012), winner of the 2011 Lupine Award, Maine Library Association; and many others.

A few more novels from Cynthia:

Learn more about Cynthia: www.cynthialord.com



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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.

LET'S TALK! *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

When Lucy first meets Nate and Megan, she fears that saying the wrong thing would “blow her chances.” Do you decide right away whether you are going to like or dislike someone? After you get to know them better, is your first opinion of someone usually proven right?

Megan and Lucy both feel jealousy about each other's relationship with Nate. Is Nate just an unaware nice guy or do you think he is making a conscious effort to avoid conflict and favoritism?

Lucy feels that kids “care a lot about other people, but most times, we don't have the power to change things for them.” Do you think this is true? What would you change if you could?

When Lucy tries to justify skirting the rules of the contest so she might make enough money to take Lilah out to see the loons, her mother tells her “You can't do the wrong thing, even for the right reasons.” Do you think this is true? Under what circumstances?

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! *continued*

What do you make of the reconciliation between Lucy and Megan? Lucy would seemingly be justified in disliking Megan not only because she deleted the pictures of the baby loons but also for Megan's transparent attempts to monopolize Nate. Would you be as forgiving?

Lucy's dad mentions that it's important to show the hard things as well as the beautiful ones because they all show "bits of wonder." Toward the end of the book, we encounter this issue when Lucy is struggling with how to deal with the picture she took of Grandma Lilah. Do you think Lucy's dad's advice is generally true, and particularly so in the case of Lilah's picture?

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

- ❖ Research dementia, including symptoms and ways to interact with someone showing signs of dementia
- ❖ Visit a memory care facility in your neighborhood
- ❖ Create a photo scavenger hunt contest using your own word list.
- ❖ Create your own photo album of what is most meaningful to you in your world – things that may not be that obvious to others.
- ❖ Design a scrapbook, report, or display about loons using facts and methods of conservation
- ❖ Go on a field trip to find loons and, without disturbing them, take photos or sketch them with pencil
- ❖ Investigate opportunities with a Citizen Science project.
- ❖ Law of Probability: Create games of chance and chart the probabilities of each
- ❖ Use your school or class as examples of probability statistics
- ❖ Interview professional photographers to understand what skills they need and what their life is like.
- ❖ Shadow a wildlife photographer in real time or on the web – report out on most interesting facts and elements of their line of work.

LET'S DIVE DEEPER!

Explore More

What is **DEMENTIA**?

Watch this **VIDEO** on the Difference Between Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia?

The Loon Preservation Committee

The Three Basics of Photography: ISO, shutter speed, and aperture

Read this **ARTICLE** on How Single Photographs Are Saving the Lives of Shelter Animals Across the Country.

LET'S READ MORE! Text to Text Connections

