

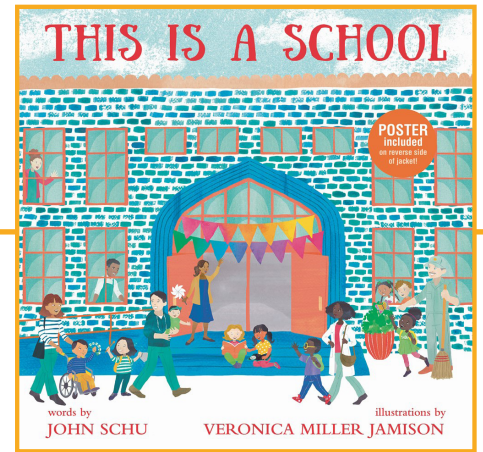
# EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!



## Meet the author

John Schu is the children's librarian for Bookelicious, a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University, and a former classroom teacher and teacher-librarian. He is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Louder Than Hunger*, a Schneider Family Book Award Honor Title; *This Is a School*, illustrated by Veronica Miller Jamison; *This Is a Story*, illustrated by Caldecott Honoree Lauren Castillo; *Ruthie Rose's Big Idea*, illustrated by Holly Hatam; and *The Gift of Story: Exploring the Affective Side of the Reading Life*. John lives in Naperville, Illinois; you can find him at [JohnSchu.com](http://JohnSchu.com) and on social media at [@MrSchuReads](https://twitter.com/MrSchuReads). Learn more about John [ONLINE](#).



## Meet the illustrator

Veronica adores stories about discovery, creativity and connection. She illustrates children exploring their inner and outer worlds, and taking delight in their gifts. Biographies are particularly fun for her—her favorite part is the research! When Veronica is not painting things, she can be found taking dance class, tending to her plants, or following the orders of her cat, Winston. Learn more about Veronica [ONLINE](#).

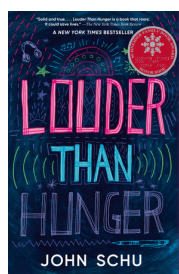
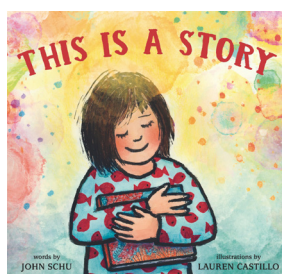


## Interviews with Mr. Schu

[\*This Is a School\* by John Schu and Veronica Miller Jamison](#)

[\*This Is A School! The Joy of Reading, Writing and Connecting with Students\*](#)

## Read more with John



# 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](mailto:ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org).

## BEFORE READING THE BOOK



*This is my school!*

**Teachers:** Considering the title of the book, discuss with your students what makes up your school, especially its unique qualities. Brainstorm a list, read the story and then compare and contrast between your school and the one in the story.

**Art Extension:** Using your list from above, assign each student an element of your school. Make a whole group mural and celebrate why it's special!

## 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.*

## CAREER & EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

*A. Learning About Self-Knowledge and Interpersonal Relationships*

*B. Learning about and Exploring Education and Career and Life Roles*

*C. Learning To Make Decisions, Plan and Create Opportunities, and Make Meaningful Contributions*

## LET'S TALK!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite subject in school? Why do you like it?  
*Teachers - Discuss with your entire class, take a poll, and chart everyone's preferences.*
2. Think about **community**. Discuss what your community looks like. What are some important roles? How could working together help make your community better?
3. Look at the page that says, "This is a community, transforming."

What jobs on this **spread** have you done? What jobs would you like to do at school or home? Think of helpful activities you can add to this page.

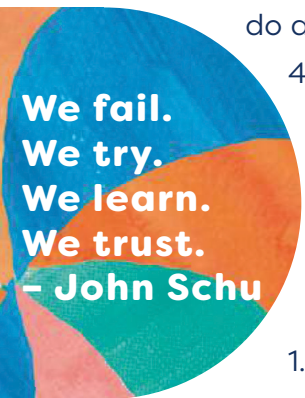
4. Why do you think the author chose to have a page that says "sometimes we fail"? How do you think the student felt after they dropped the fishbowl? Have you ever felt that way? What helped make the situation better?

### COMMUNITY:

a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common

### SPREAD:

a left and a right page forming a single, cohesive unit where they are visually seen together.



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

1. Decorate your classroom door or school!
  - Watch this [PINWHEEL TUTORIAL](#) for step-by-step directions.
  - Check out this [BUNTING VIDEO](#). You can also use this [TEMPLATE](#). Use different colors and different sizes.
  - *Writing Extension: Write a word that describes your school community on each pennant.*
2. Look at the page where the little girl is wearing the star on her shirt. She gets hurt and has to stay home to recover. Her school friends decide to make cards to cheer her up.
  - Think of someone that may need encouragement. Create a card for them to help make them smile.
3. Mr. Schu uses verbs to tell about a school. Brainstorm a list of **verbs** and **adjectives** that describe your school, then use them to write a poem.

### VERBS:

action words

### ADJECTIVES:

describing words

*create...cheer...play...learn...fail...try...look...listen...grow...change...work...care...hope...help...share...trust...*

4. Play Find and Seek, as you read the book...(Look for the following items and see how many you can find!)



baseball

star

turtle

hopscotch

bear holding a candle

rainbow

beanbag

6 different color striped shirts



scissors



menorah

trowel

open locker

pair of maracas

stop sign



**BONUS:** Find one child whose costume in the play matched their shirt



## LET'S MOVE!

1. Create a Hopscotch game and play with your friends: create squares in the sand, use chalk on a sidewalk, or mark the floor with masking tape.
2. Learn different [JUMP ROPE GAMES](#) and play with your friends.

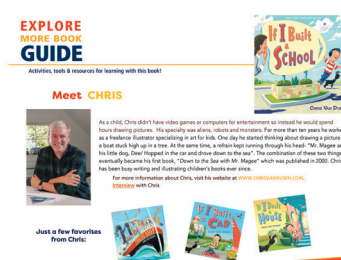
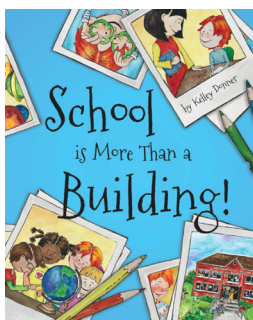
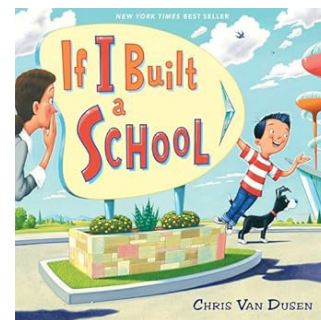
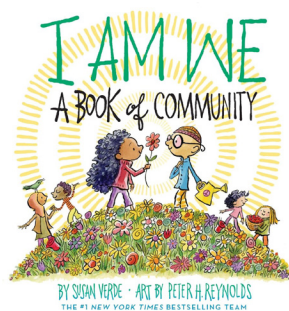
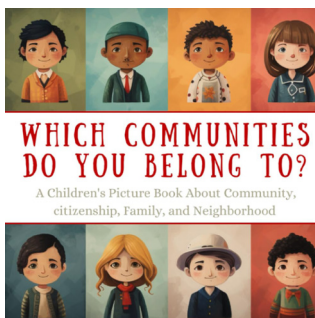
## LET'S DIVE DEEPER! Explore More

1. In this book the students are putting on a play and are all dressed in costumes. A costume designer brainstorms, creates and manages the costumes and wardrobes for theatrical productions, plays, or television shows. Watch this [VIDEO](#) to learn more about costume designers.
2. Think about the design and layout of a school building; the walls, the decor, the furniture, etc. How does light, sound and space affect one's learning and mood? What is your idea of a perfect school? What is important to you about a school? Does the school you go to match your ideas? Watch this [VIDEO](#) to see a fun, bright school in a city.

*Activity Extension: Illustrate your one of a kind school!*

3. This [SITE](#) lists key components to designing a good school for children. Look through the list and notice all the things school architects need to consider. Did you have any idea that there were so many things to think about when designing and building a place for kids to learn?

## LET'S READ MORE! Text to Text Connections



*If I Built a School EMBG*

