

Nonfiction Gems for Kids & Teens from texas Topaz



txla.org/topaz

PERMA-BOUND®

THE STRONGEST BOOKS YOU CAN BUY

Lex Anne Seifert

lexanneseifert@perma-bound.com. ,
Sales Consultant, North, Central Texas



txla.org/topaz

About Us



Candace
Hudson

Librarian
Mesquite ISD
chudson@mesquiteisd.org



Paige
Bowman

Library Director
Andrews County Library
pbowman@andrews.lib.tx.us



Bethni
King

Youth Services Librarian
Georgetown Public Library
bethni.king@georgetowntexas.gov



Curren
mclane

Library director
Azle Memorial Library
cmclane@cityofazle.org



Monica
deleon


Librarian
Uvalde High school
mdeleon7854@uvaldecisd.com



Bone Wars: the TRUE STORY OF AN EPIC BATTLE TO FIND DINOSAUR FOSSILS

- Venn Diagram comparing Edward Cope and O.C. Marsh
- Dinosaur dig: Place small plastic bones in a box of sand for kids to dig up. If you can find a cheap model dinosaur to put in it, they can assemble after.
- PBS online game: Fossil finder
- Dino Dig with Dino Dan-Online game
- Recommendation 3-5th grades





mOUNTAIN OF FIRE: THE ERUPTION AND SURVIVORS OF MOUNT ST. HELENS

- ECOYSTEM RECOVERY SIMULATION: RESEARCH PLANTS, ANIMALS, SOIL, AND WATER. HOW THEY WERE AFFECTED AND HOW THEY CAN RECOVER WITH TIME.
- NEWS REPORT: BREAKING NEWS WITH FACTS AND PRIMARY RESOURCES
- COMPARE AND CONTRAST TECHNOLOGY/COMMUNICATION THEN AND NOW.
- RECOMMENDATION 6 - 8TH GRADES





Attacked!: Pearl Harbor and the Day War Came to America

- Research tensions between Japan and the U.S leading up to the attack
- Create a timeline of events (early morning attack, targets, damages)
- Cause/effect to the attack
- Write a diary entry or letter describing the attack from a first person point of view
- Free online battle ship game
- Recommendation 6 - 8th grades

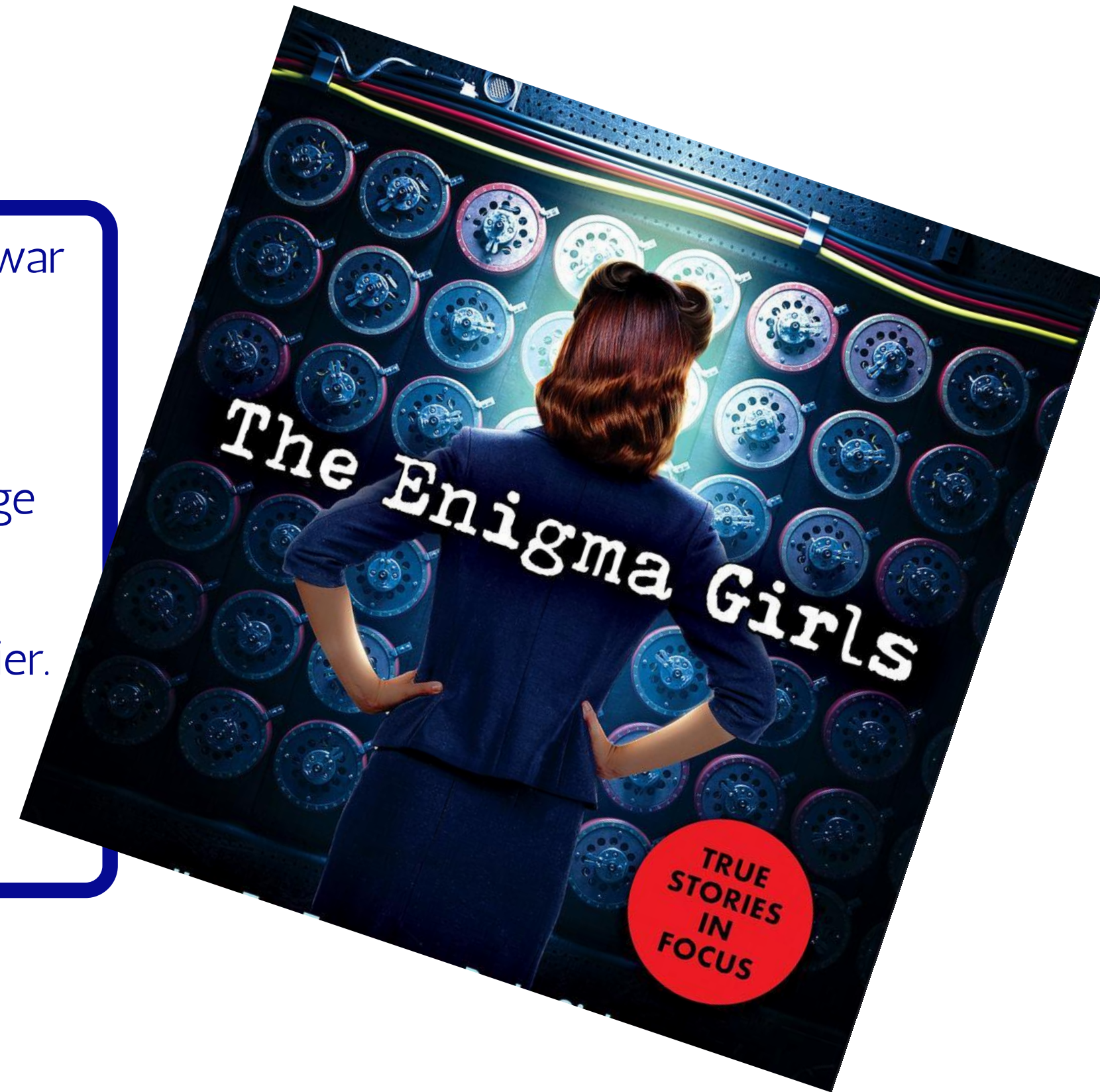





The Enigma girls: how ten teenagers broke ciphers, kept secrets, and helped win world war

II

- Research the role the Enigma Girls played on ending the war
- Compare/Contrast Enigma to modern day cybersecurity and AI
- Give students a cipher and have them decode the message
- Ethics debate: was the secrecy necessary or should the women have been recognized for their contributions earlier.
- CIA.GOV. Spy Kids code breakers game
- Recommended 9 - 12 grades

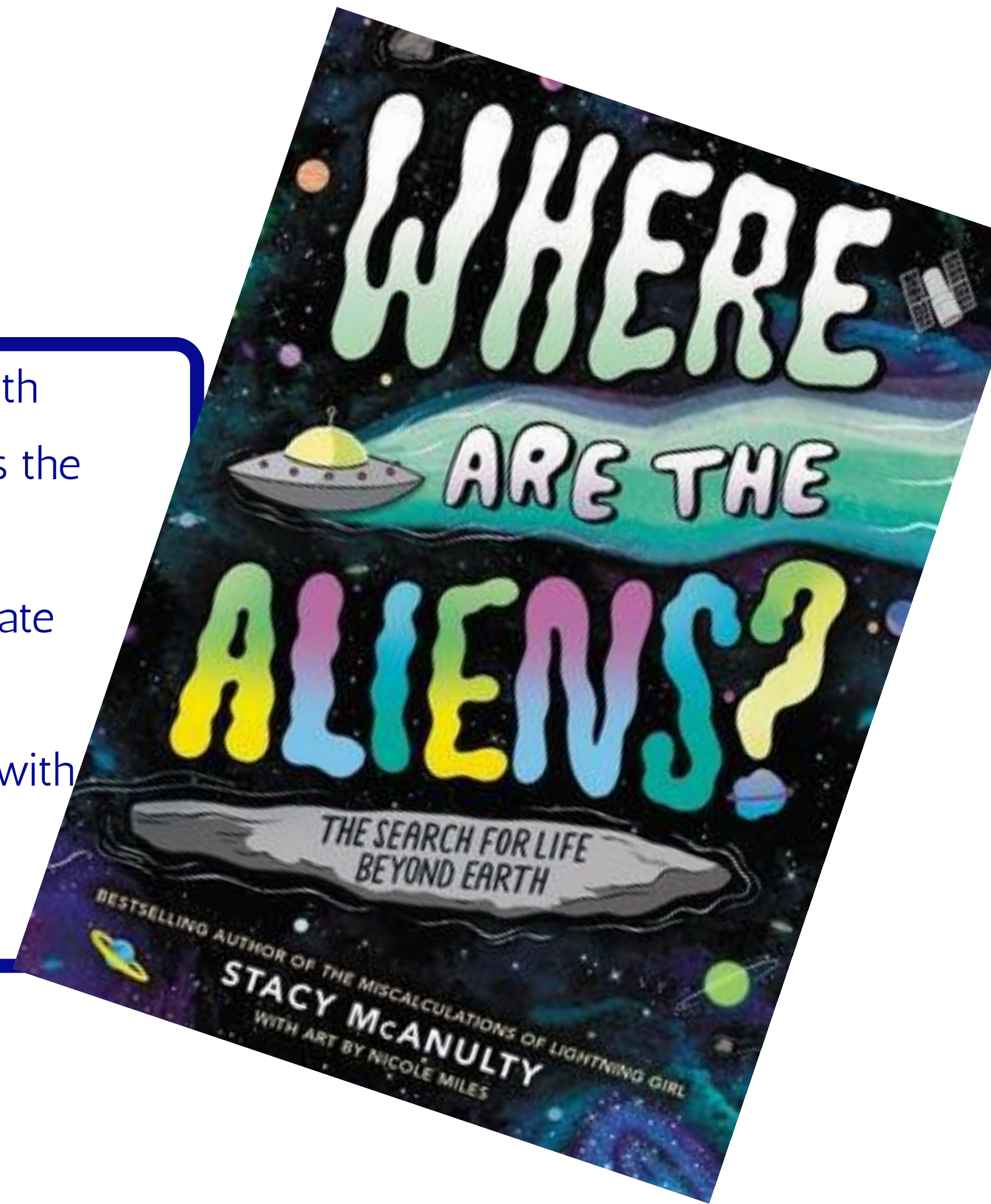




Where Are the Aliens? The search for life beyond earth

- Host an astronomy night - A stargazing event with telescopes and invite local astronomers to discuss the search for extraterrestrial life.
- Alien Art Contest - Encourage participants to create their own alien designs and display in library
- Science Talks - Organize lectures or discussions with scientists who specialize in astrobiology or space exploration
- Recommended 6 - 12 grades

Strange and Unique





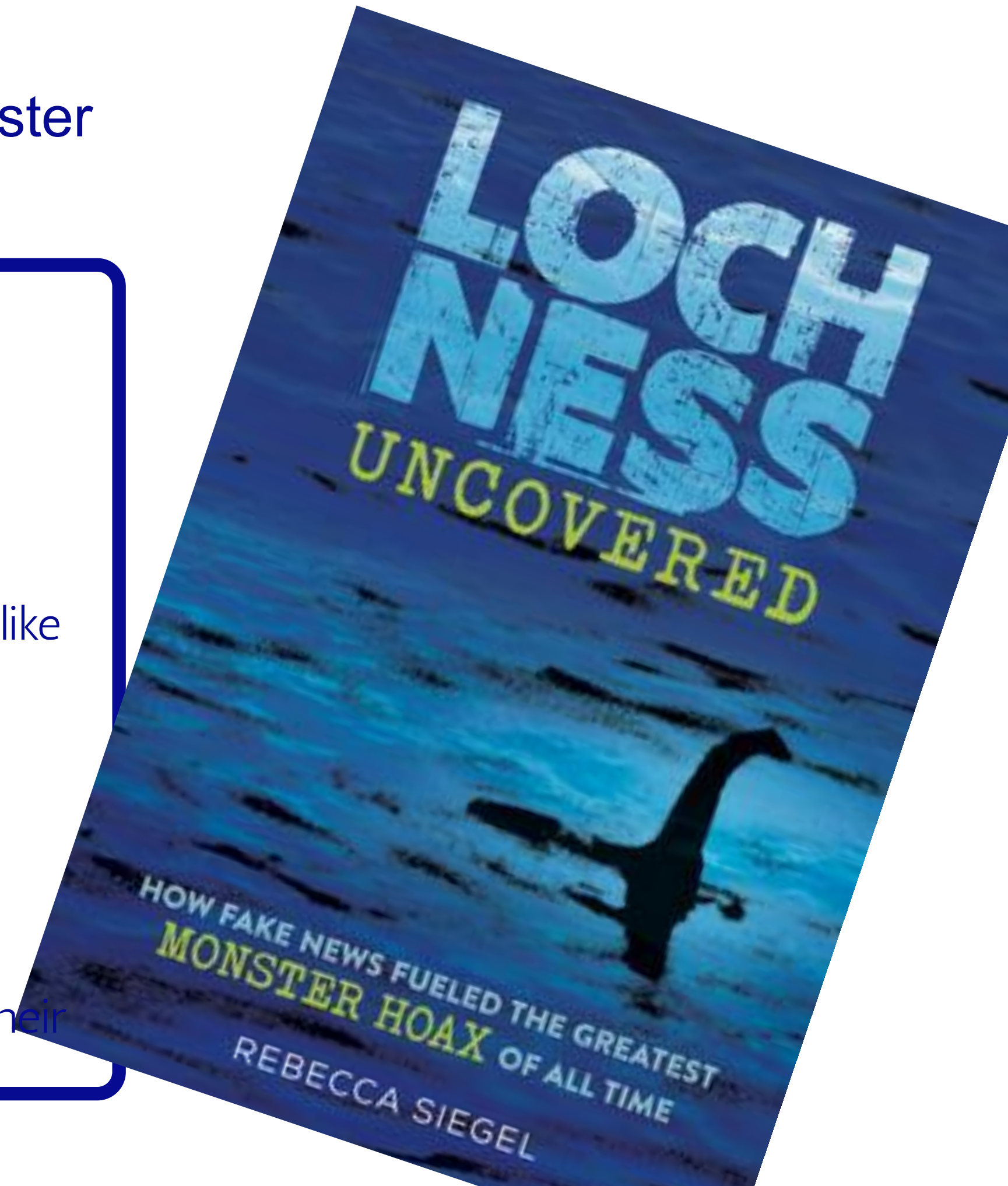
Loch Ness Uncovered: Media Misinformation, and the Greatest Monster Hoax of All time

- Myth-Busting Workshop - How to identify and debunk myths and misinformation in media. Could include Mythbusters type activities.
- Cryptid Crafting - Have a crafting session where participants create their own versions of cryptids like the Loch Ness Monster
- Photo Analysis workshop - How to analyze and authenticate photos using Loch Ness photos as examples as well as AI photos
- Cryptid Storytime - Famous Cryptids in history, their

origin and folklore

Strange and Unique

- Recommended 6-12 grades



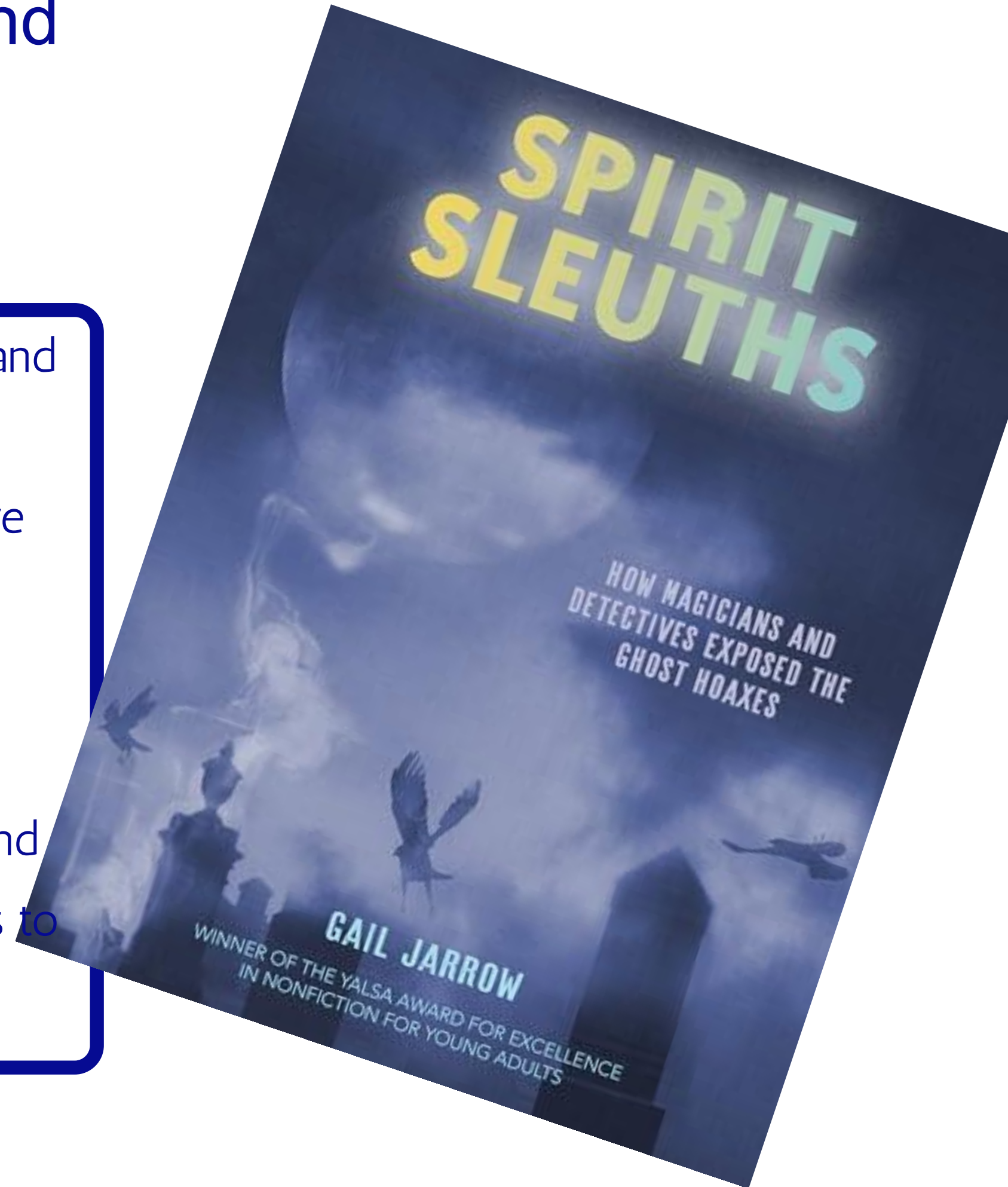


Spirit Sleuths: How Magicians and Detectives Exposed the Ghost Hoaxes

- Magic Show - Invite a magician to perform tricks and explain how they debunked the ghost hoaxes.
- Breakout Room activity to talk about using detective skills. Teach basic detective skills and how to investigate a hoax.
- Haunted History Tour - Organize a local or virtual haunted history tour complete with ghost stories and the history behind the ghosts as well as any efforts to debunk.

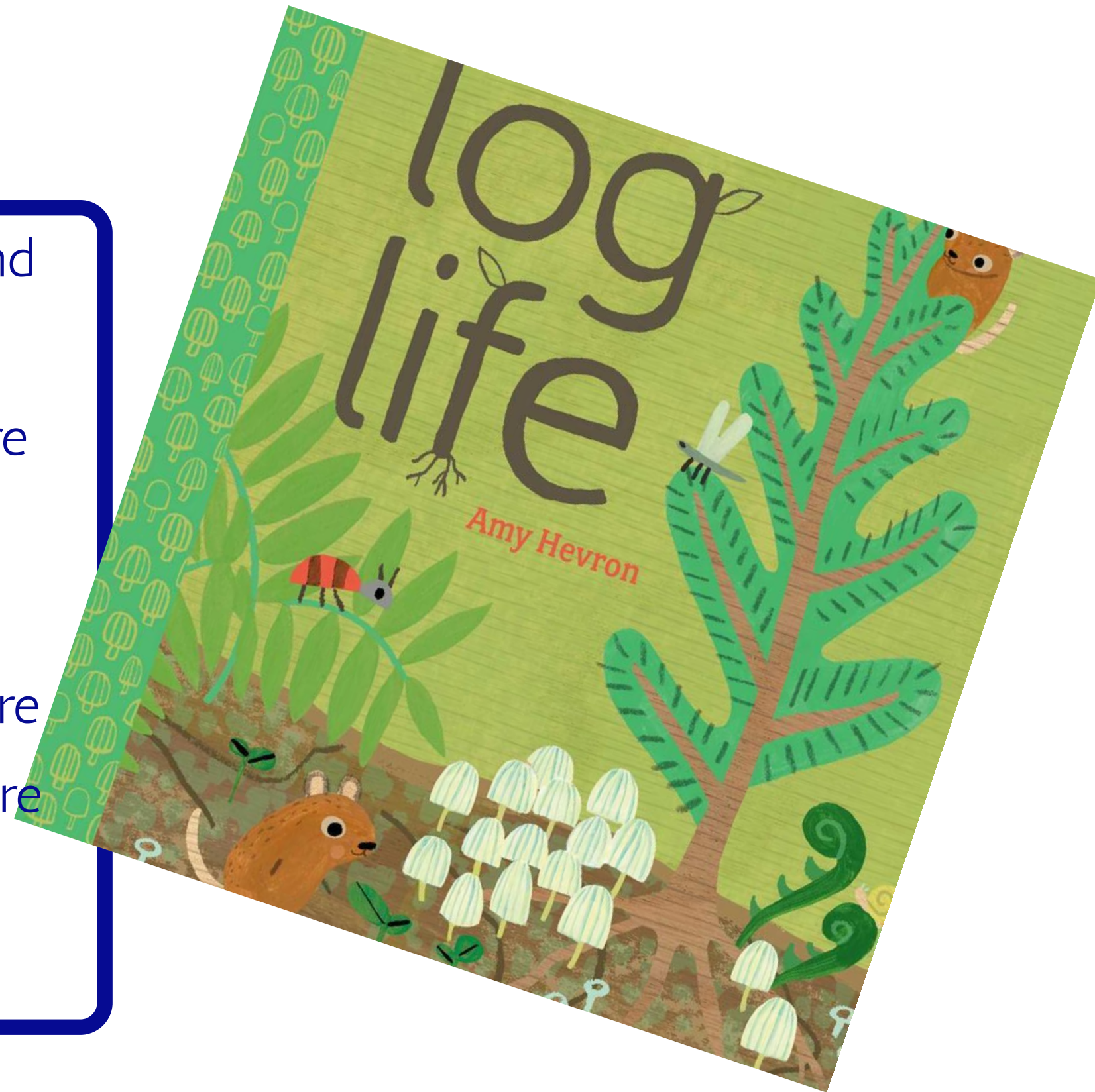
- Recommended 9 - 12 grade

Strange and Unique



Log Life

- Log Life Diorama - Create dioramas of the life found in and around logs
- Nature Walks - Organize guided nature walks where participants explore and learn about the ecosystem around them
- Nature Journaling - Document observations in nature
- Log Life Scavenger Hunt - Search for items in nature to add to nature journal
- Recommended K-5 Grade



Nature

Mushroom Rain

- Science Experiments - Conduct simple experiments to show how mushrooms grow and their role in decomposition
- Fungi Folklore - Share stories and myths about mushrooms from different cultures
- Mushroom Spore Prints - Teach participants how to create spore prints from mushrooms which can be both educational and artistic
- Recommended grades K - 5

Nature

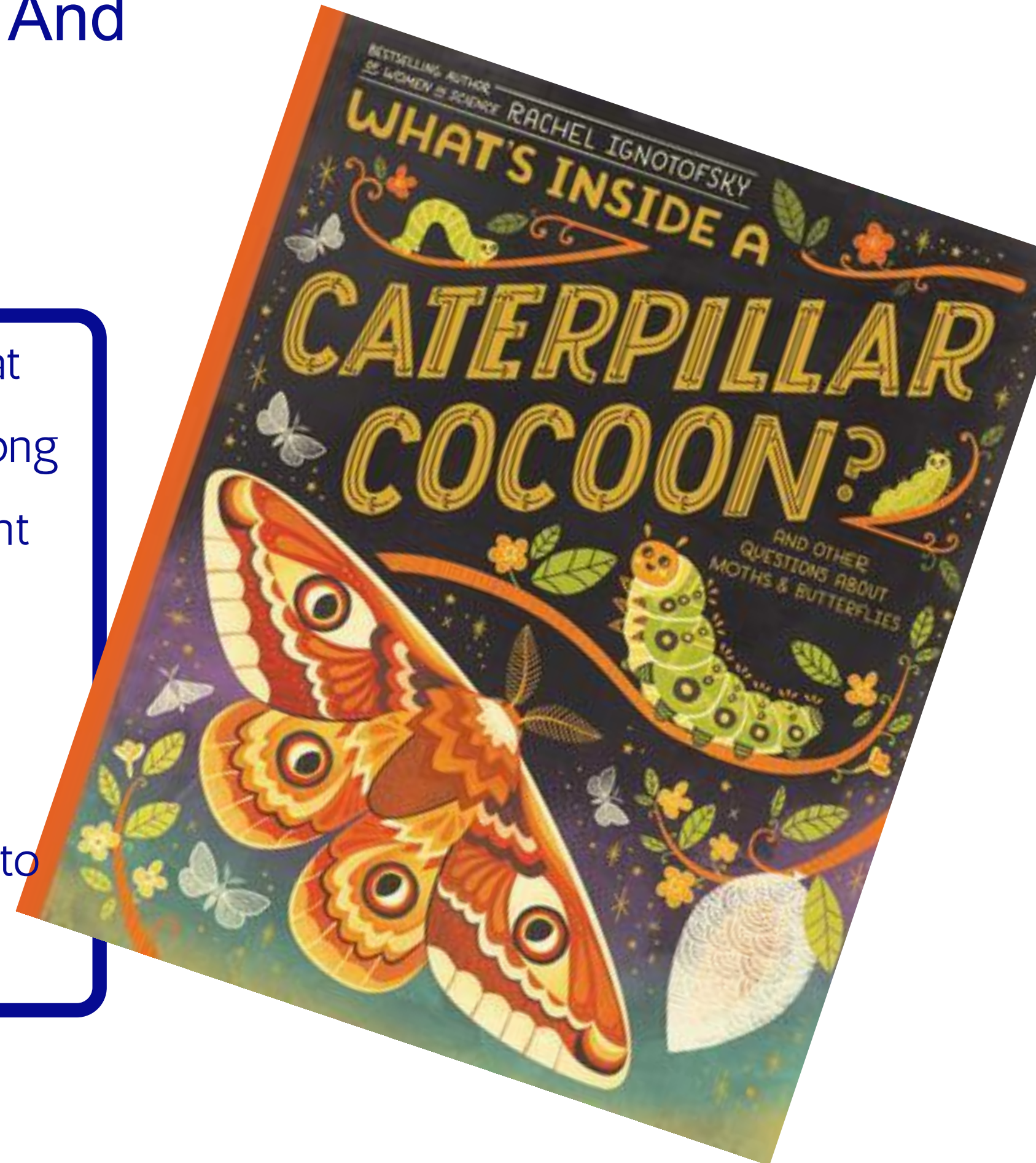




What's Inside a caterpillar cocoon?: And other questions about moths & butterflies

- Butterfly Garden - Create a small butterfly garden at the library where kids can observe the life cycle along with magnifying glasses and pictures of the different stages.
- Butterfly Garden Planting - Learn about and plant flowers that attract butterflies.
- Butterfly crafts - Life cycle mobile, butterfly wings to wear, use different materials to create butterflies.
- Recommended grades K - 2

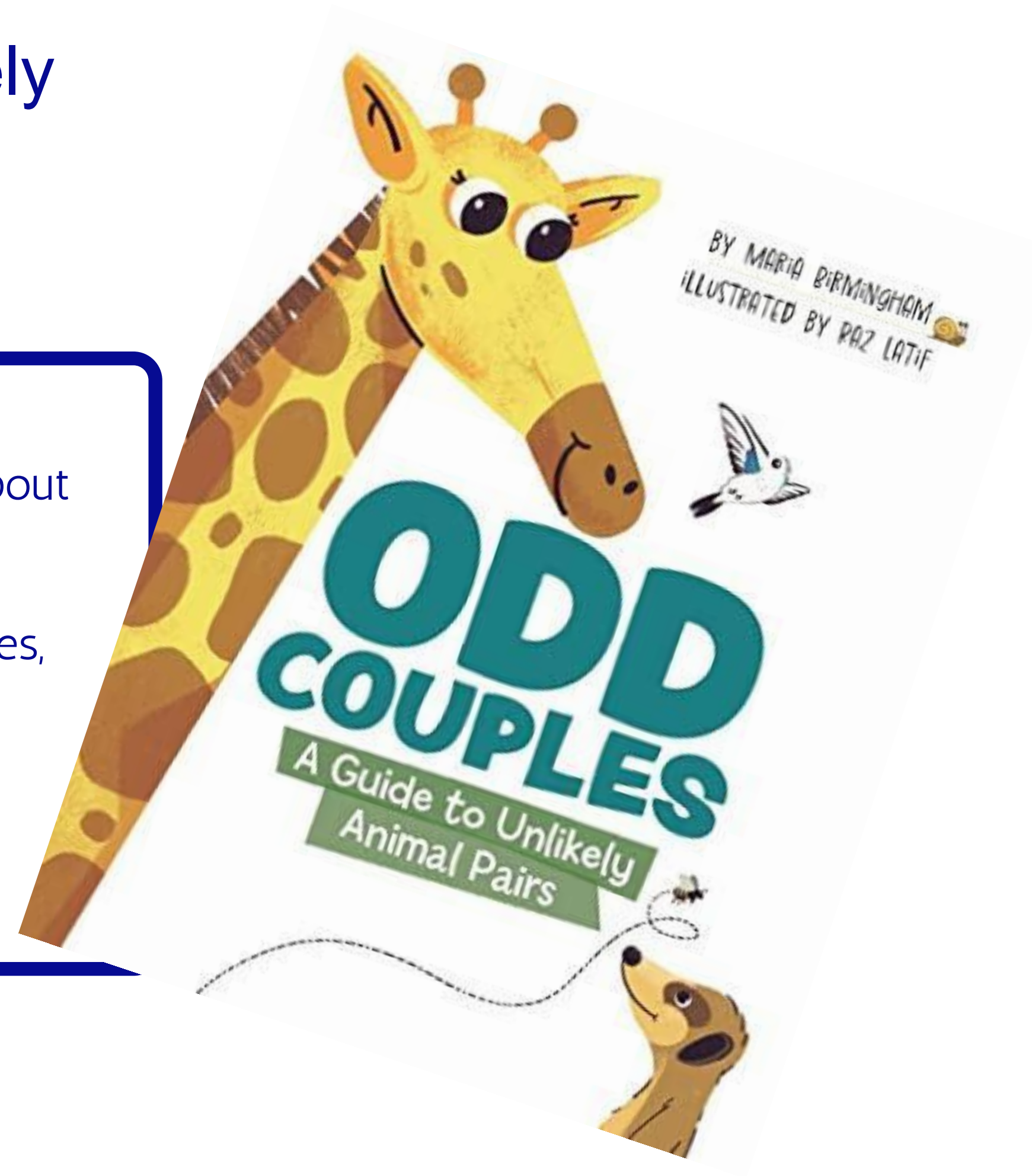
Nature





Odd Couples: A Guide to unlikely animal pairs

- Animal Pairing Game - Create a matching game where kids pair up different animals and learn about their unique relationships
- Animal Pairing Craft - Using various craft supplies, create artwork featuring unlikely pairs
- Animal Pair Parade - Kids can dress up as their favorite animal pairs.
- Recommended grades K - 2

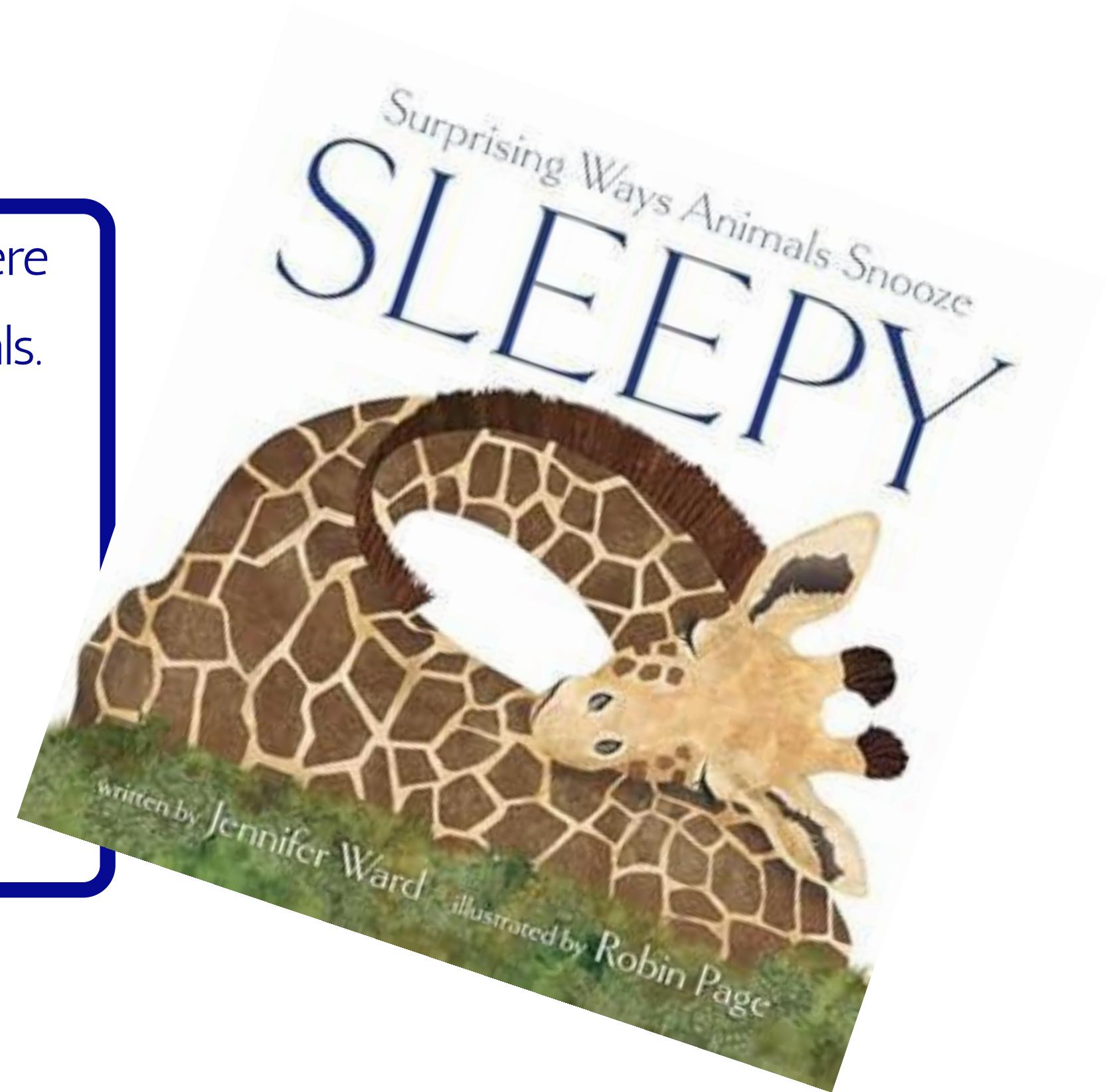


Animals



Sleepy: Surprising Ways animals snooze

- Sleepy Animal Yoga - Conduct a yoga session where kids mimic the sleeping positions of different animals.
- Sleepy Animal Pajama Party - School PJ day - kids learn about animal sleep habits
- Compare and contrast Venn Diagram to compare animal and human sleep characteristics
- Recommended grades K - 2



Animals



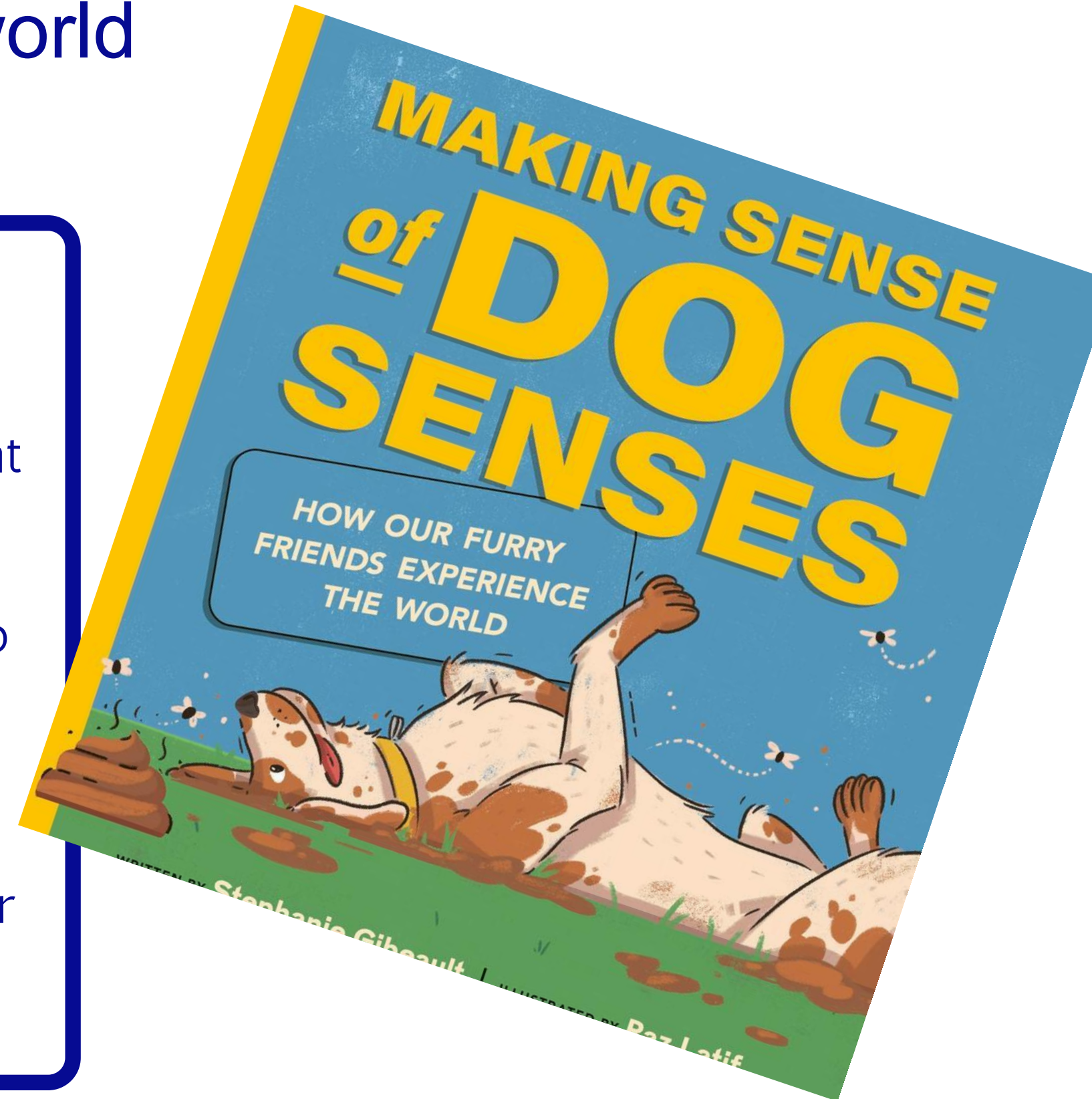
Making Sense of Dog Senses: How Our furry friends experience the world

- Dog Senses Workshop - Learn about the different senses dogs use and how they differ from human senses. Pair with a scavenger hunt that uses different senses to find items.
- Dog Training Demonstration - Invite a dog trainer to demonstrate how dogs use their senses and how they are trained.
- Human Senses - What senses do we use to discover the world? Have items that appeal to all senses to

explore and discuss.

Animals

- Recommended ages K - 2



The Bees of Notre-Dame

- Make Bees Wax Candles - order Beeswax sheets on Amazon, roll around a string wick for simple candles.
- Taste different honeys from different regions - discuss how bees make honey and why they taste different (Different flowers and pollen in different areas)
- Make Bee Hummers -
<https://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/bee-hummer>
- Find a Life Cycle of a Bee song and let kids create motions to show each stage
- Recommended ages K - 2

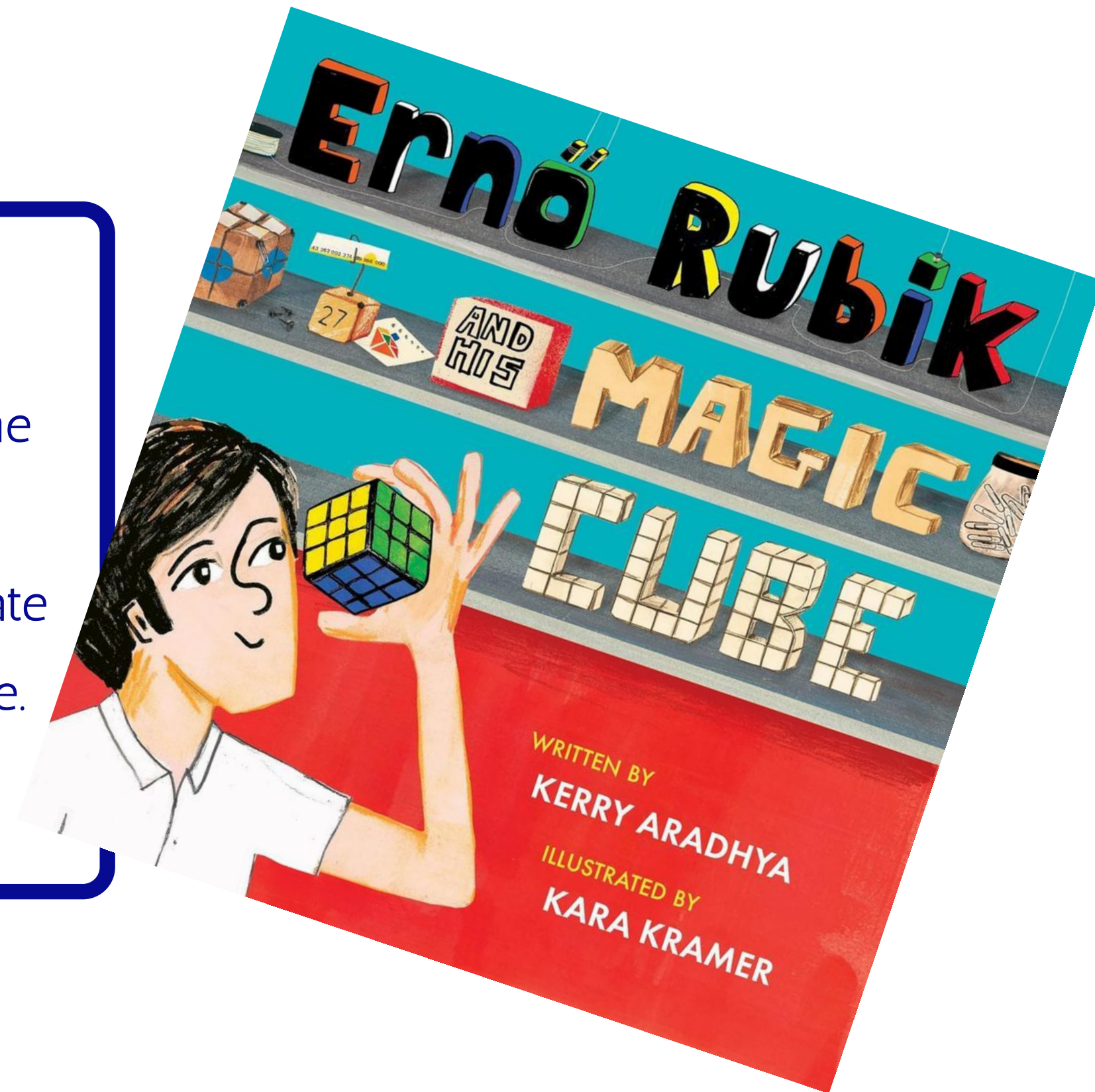


Animals

Erno rubik and his magic cube

- cube.academy: Online instructions on how to solve the Rubix Cube.
- Cube Challenge: Students race to solve a design, one side, or the entire cube
- Mosaic Design: Teams of 6 use graph paper to create a design for each side and glue the tiles to the cube.
Ex: smiley face, rainbow,
- Research Inventors
- Recommended grades 3-5

Innovation

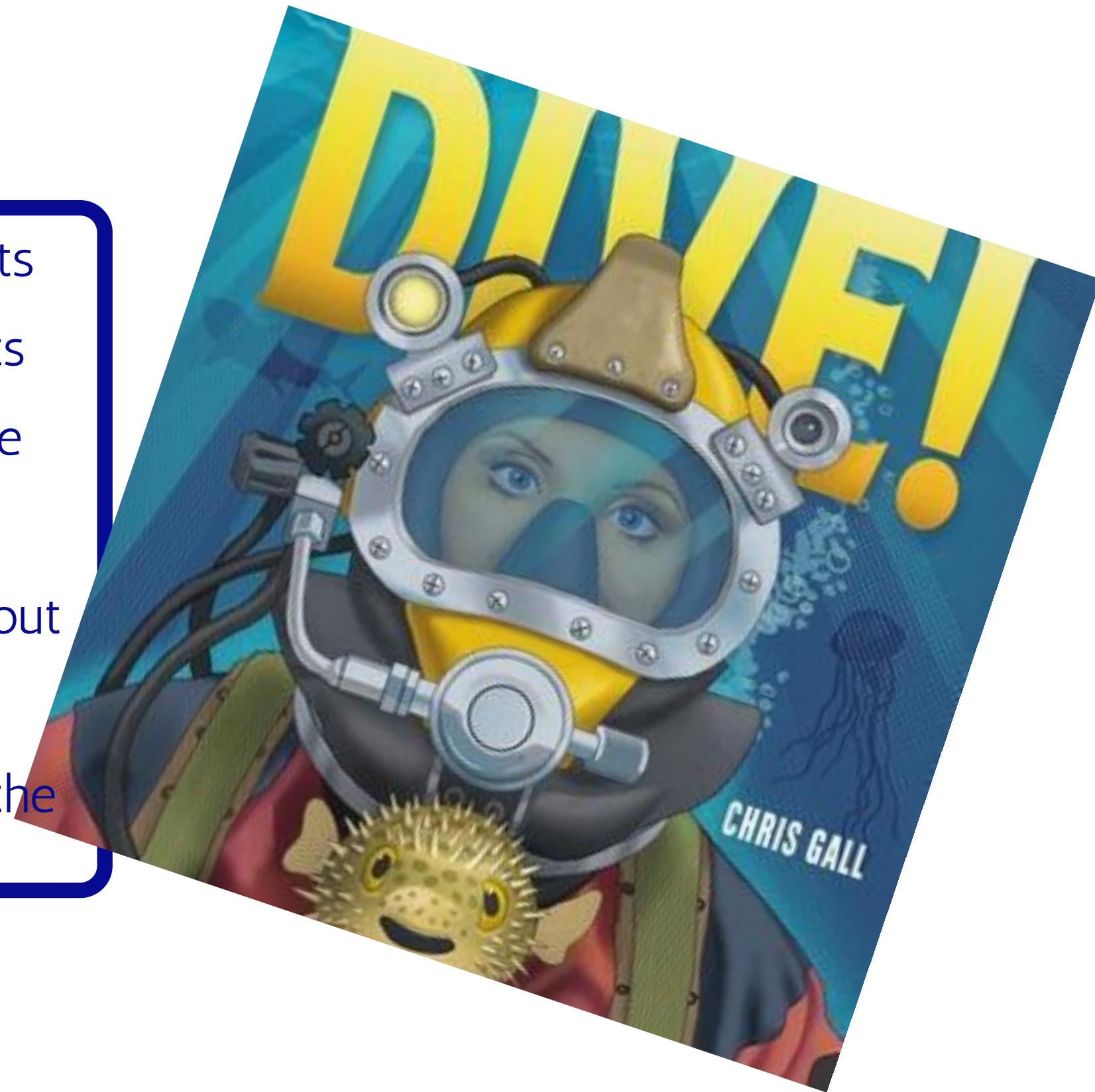




Dive!: The story of breathing underwater

- How Hard is it to Breathe Underwater?: Have students breathe normally for 30 seconds, then have students breathe through a straw for 30 seconds. Discuss the difference.
- Watch [bit.ly / divelesson](https://bit.ly/divelesson) and have students write about their fantasy dive describing what they see
- ABCmouse.com: STEM Activity for Kids: Exploring the Human Lungs
- Recommended grades 3-5

Innovation



The Fabulous fannie farmer: kitchen scientist and america's cook

- Pancake Experiment: Teacher uses a griddle to cook 3 pancake mixes: 1 correct, 1 with too much flour, 1 with too much water. Discuss look, taste and why measuring matters.
- Measurement Match-Up: Label index cards with measurements (1 c, 1/4 c, 1 tspn). Have students use measuring utensils to scoop rice/beans/water into separate bowls and compare
- Recommended grades 3-5

Innovation





Stealing little Moon: the legacy of the american indian boarding schools

- Students research a Native American boarding school. Pin locations on a map and discuss the scale of forced assimilation.
- Write a free verse poem from the perspective of a child in a boarding school.
- Analyze boarding school primary resources (pictures, letters, articles) and discuss how they connect to Stealing Little Moon

- Recommended grades 9-12

Resilience

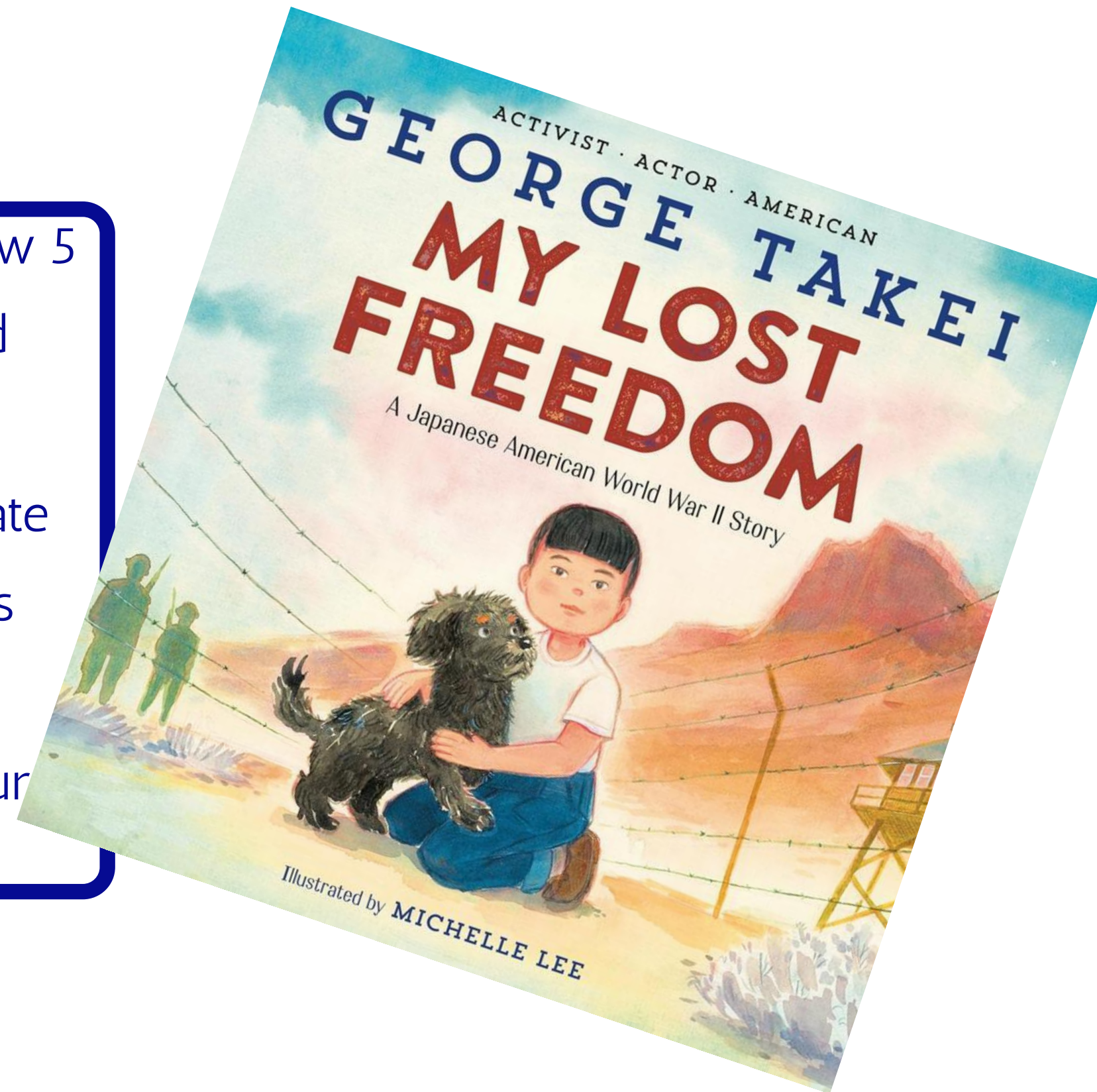



my lost freedom: A japanese american wwii story

- Suitcase: Imagine you have 10 minutes to pack. Draw 5 items you will take with you. Share what you packed and why.
- Create a timeline of events and have students illustrate each event and discuss the impact on George Takei's family.
- Imagine you are news reporter in 1942. Present your report on the internment camp as a broadcaster

- Recommended grades 3-5

Resilience

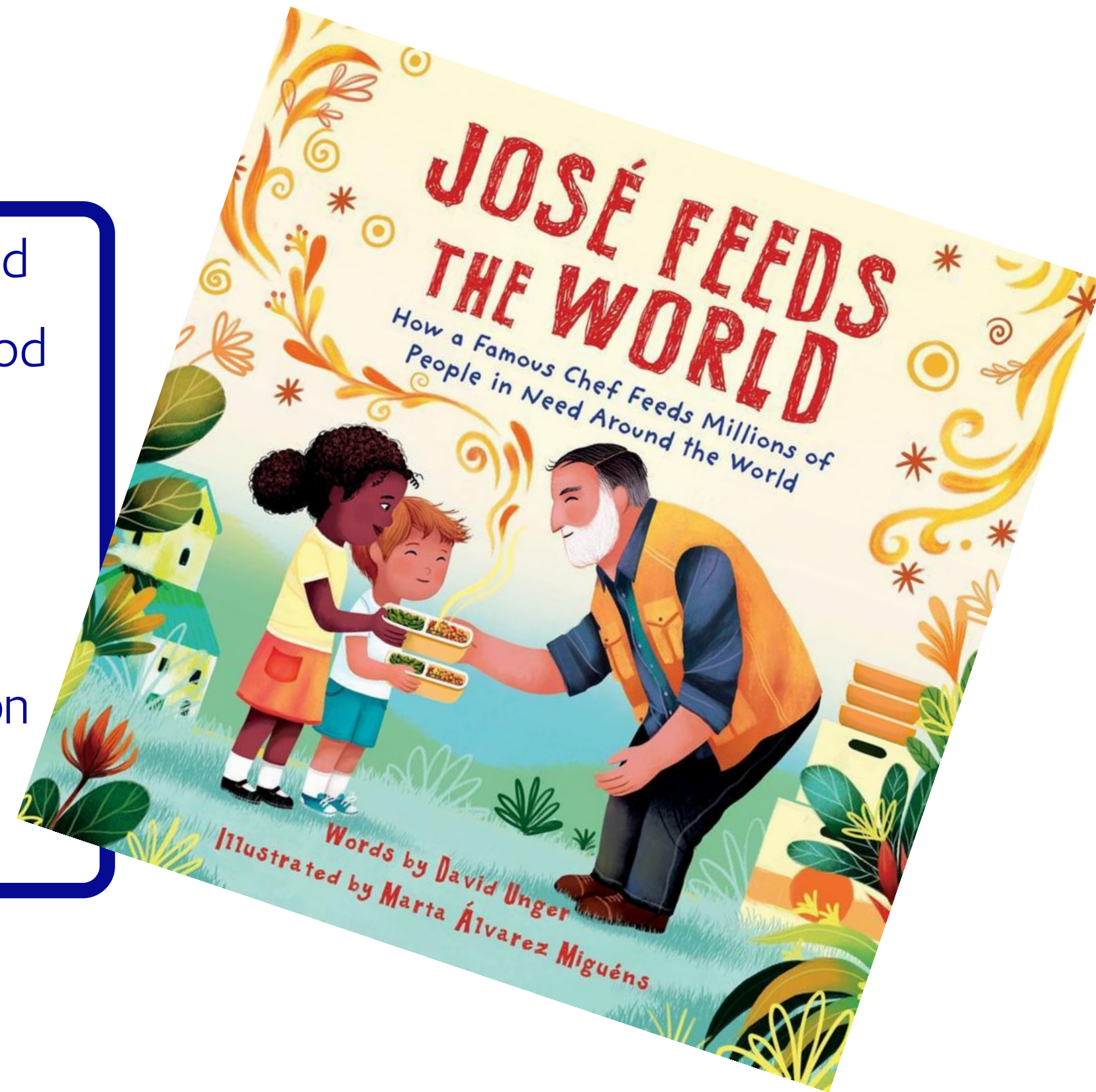




Jose feeds the world: How a famous chef feeds a million people in need around the world

- Research teacher selected locations WCK has helped and the event that happened there. Discuss why food is needed based on the event.
- Create a classroom cookbook of favorite meals.
- Food is Love wall: Students draw a picture of how food brings their family together and write a caption describing how it makes them feel happy and safe.
- Recommended grades 3-5

Resilience





I Was

The Stories of Animal Skulls

- Reserve the Texas Wildlife Association Discovery Trunk - Adaptation Investigations
- Texas Wildlife Association's Wildlife by Design Classroom Presentation - Skins & Skulls
- Skull Detectives from the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
- Explore the skull artwork of Georgia O'keeffe
- Draw or paint a skull of an imaginary animal
- Recommended grades K-2

High Interest topics



Poetry Comics

- Introduction to poetry comics by Grant Snider
- Create poetry comics - How to make poetry comics from Grant Snider
- Celebrate National Poetry Month with a poem in your pocket, read a poem a day, read books in verse
- Introduce students to a variety of poetic forms and authors
- Have students share a favorite poem
- Recommended grades 3-5

High Interest topics





total garbage: a messy dive into Trash, waste, and our world

- Conduct a garbage audit of your classroom
- Learn the difference between garbage, recycling and compost- watch PBS video then play the [Trash Dash game](#)
- Research the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and ways to clean it up
- Trash to Treasure craft
- Recommended grades 6 - 8



High Interest topics

Thank you!

Questions?



