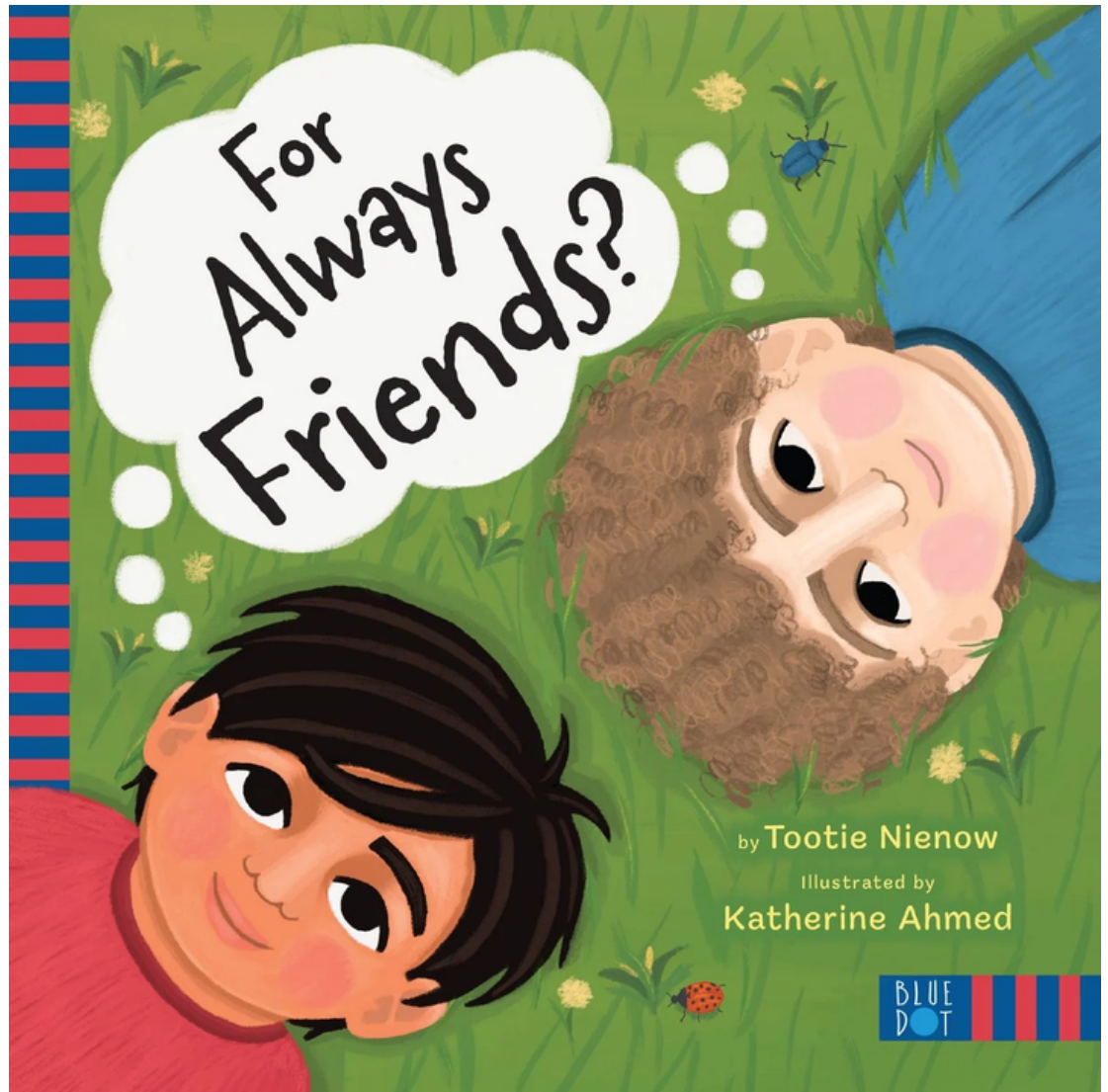




Your Teacher's Guide

from Blue Dot Kids Press



For Always Friends written by Tootie Nienow and Illustrated by Katherine Ahmed
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We intentionally leave this page blank so our guides can be printed like a book.

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Themes to Discuss

Moving, friendship, cooperating, apologizing.

Before Reading

By looking at the cover, what do you think the book is going to be about? Who do you think the main characters might be?

What do you think about the image on the cover? What do you think the boys are looking at or thinking about?

Why do you think there is a question mark in the title? Look under the jacket on the cover of the book. Why do you think the question mark is now a period?

Look at the end pages. Why do you think the first boy is sending a paper airplane to the second boy's house? What do you think the message might say?

During Reading

The first line in the book is, "The sign came down three days ago." What do you think that means?

Have you ever moved to a new house? Have you ever had to change schools? Have you ever made a new friend?

Have you ever been left out? Have you ever said something mean? How did that make you feel? Did you apologize?

Did you notice when one boy said a mean thing and the storm came that it felt like things were getting worse? Does it feel like that sometimes? One bad thing happens and then another? What made it better?



After Reading

Go back to the beginning of the story. What do you think happened before this story started?

What are some feelings you felt while you read this story?

Vocabulary Words

Sadness, Worry, Excitement, Adventure, Cooperation, Compromise, Kindness, Joy, Anger, Hurt, Conflict, Apology, Feelings, Mending, Differences, Acceptance

Class Activities

- Find a Friend Activity Sheet (see attached)
- Have students write a message on paper and fold it into a paper airplane. Ask the class to throw the airplanes in the air all at once. Then each student can pick one up and read the message. Share with other students.
- Write something mean that someone once said to you. Crinkle the paper up and throw it in the trash.
- Make up a secret handshake with a buddy.
- Draw a “Dollhouse View” of your house that shows all the rooms and where you sleep.
- If someone is new to your school, what is something you can do to make them feel welcome?

Name: _____

Find a Friend

Likes reading

Partner A: Ask
Partner B: Answer
Partner A: Record
Partner B: Initial

Likes popcorn Initials: _____	Loves sleepovers Initials: _____	Likes reading Initials: _____	Likes playing games Initials: _____
Is taller than you Initials: _____	Who made up a secret handshake Initials: _____	Likes to make forts Initials: _____	Has the same color eyes Initials: _____
Likes riding bikes Initials: _____	Has made up a secret code Initials: _____	Doesn't like sleepovers Initials: _____	Has ever had to say sorry Initials: _____
Has the same name as you Initials: _____	Has ever said something mean to a friend Initials: _____	Is shorter than you Initials: _____	Knows how to ride a skateboard Initials: _____





Writing

Write a message to a classmate using the secret code (see attached).

For Always Friends uses only 314 words to tell the story. Can you write a story using only 314 words?

One line in the book reads: “I eat alone and wonder why dad still cuts the crusts off my sandwich.” That is a funny thing for the character to think about after having a fight with his friend. Why do you think the author put that in the story?

Critical Thinking

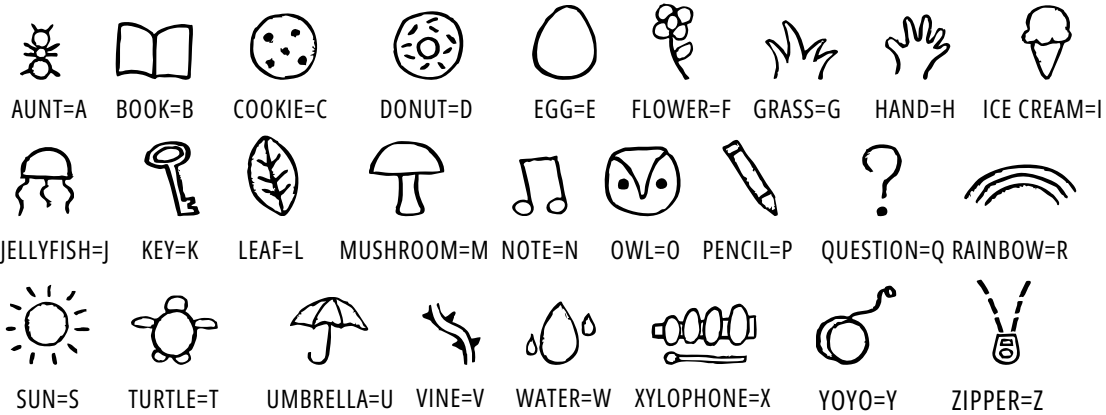
Do you think these characters will ever have a disagreement again?

What do you think the character said to his friend?

What would you do if a friend said something mean to you?

Did you notice that the friends had different interests? Do you think that is a good quality to have in a relationship?

WRITE A SECRET MESSAGE IN CODE TO A FRIEND.



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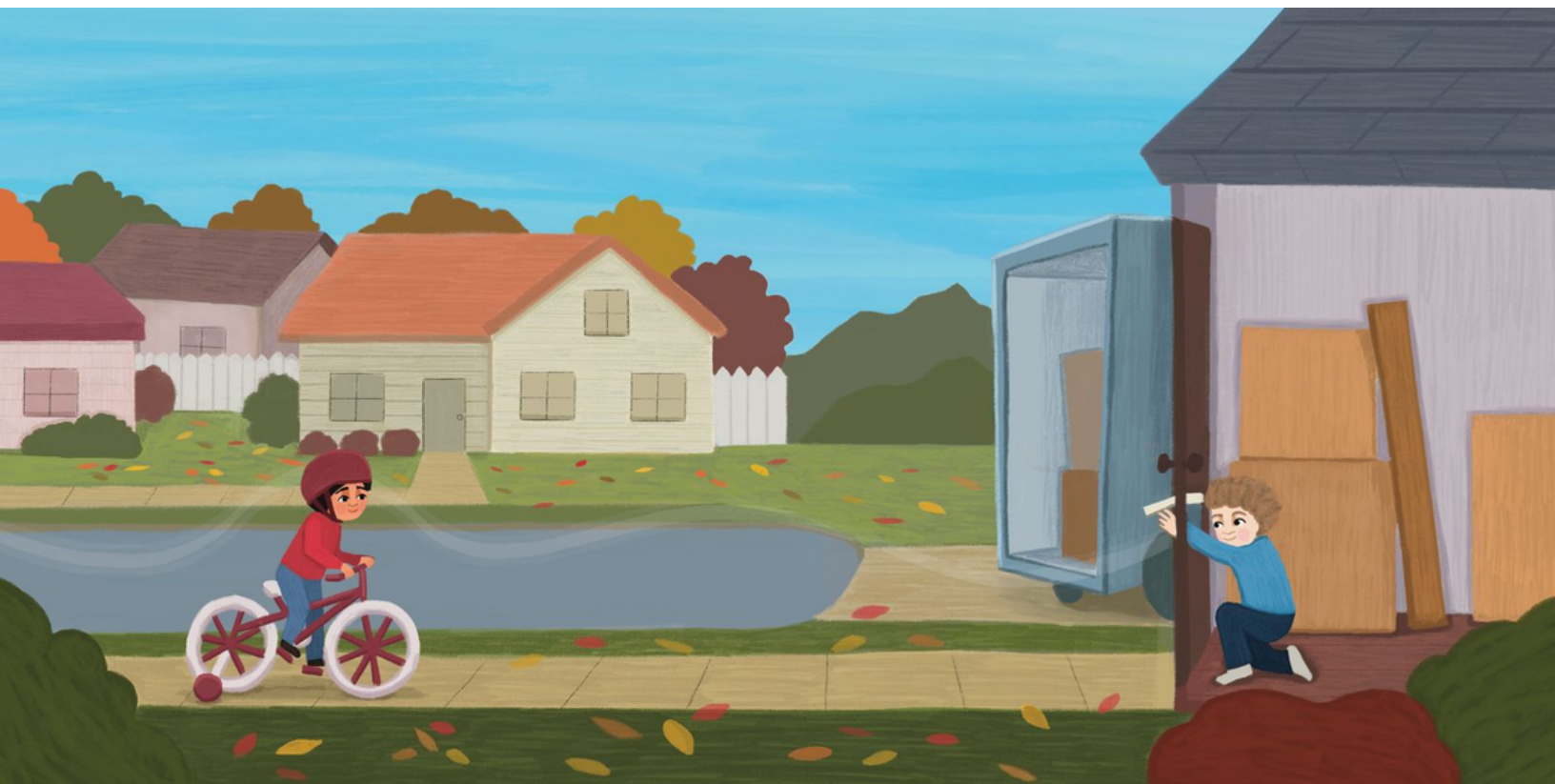


For Always Friends?

Social Emotional Learning

This story uses these social and emotional learning (SEL) points to discuss with your students.

- Self-awareness
- Self-management
- Social awareness
- Relationship skills
- Responsible decision-making



Blue Dot Kids Press inspires curiosity with beautifully crafted stories that connect us to each other and the planet we share. Written and illustrated by impassioned **storytellers and artists from around the world**, our books engage young readers' innate sense of **wonder and empathy**, connecting them to our global community and **the pale blue dot we call home**.

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