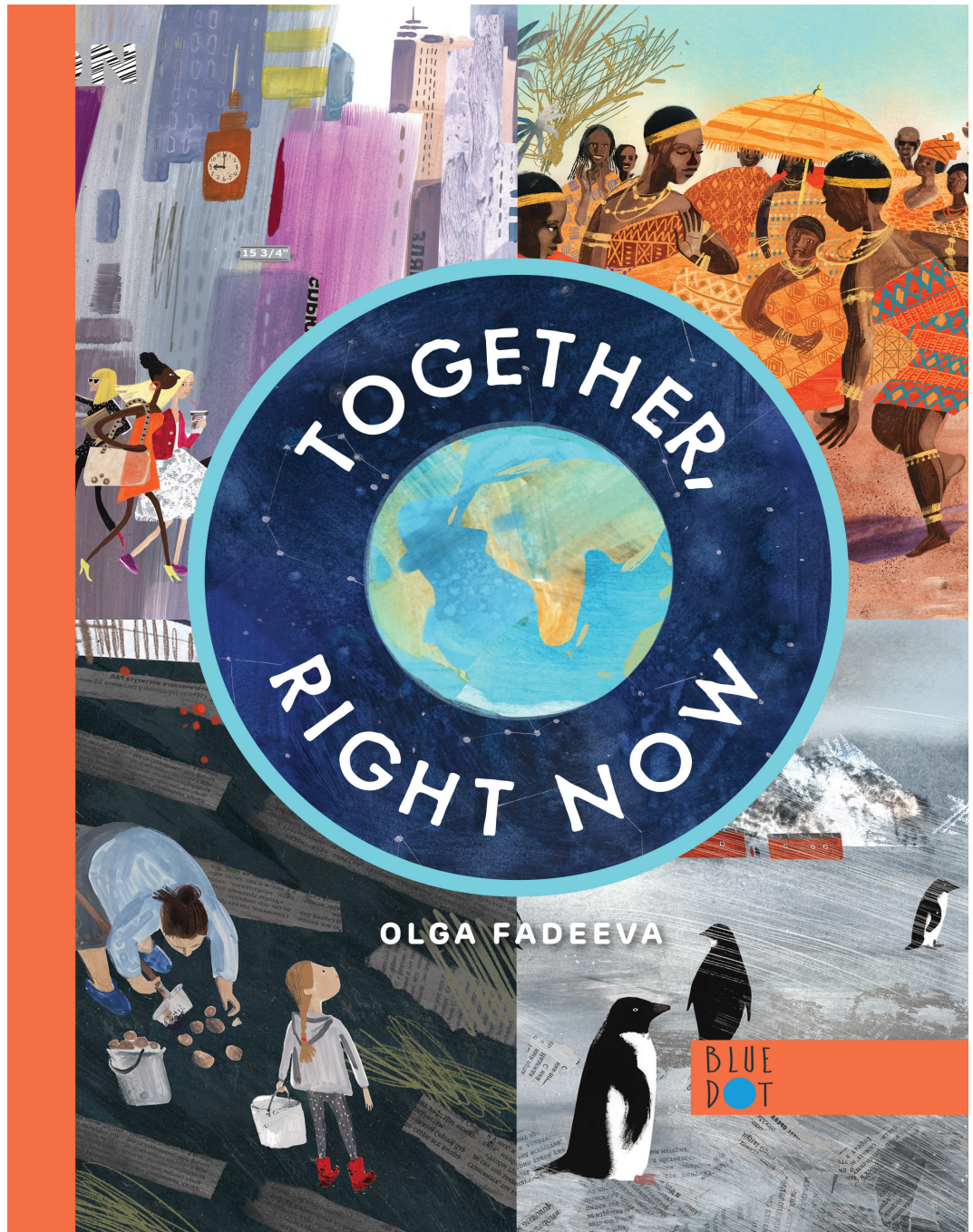


# Your Teacher's Guide

from Blue Dot Kids Press

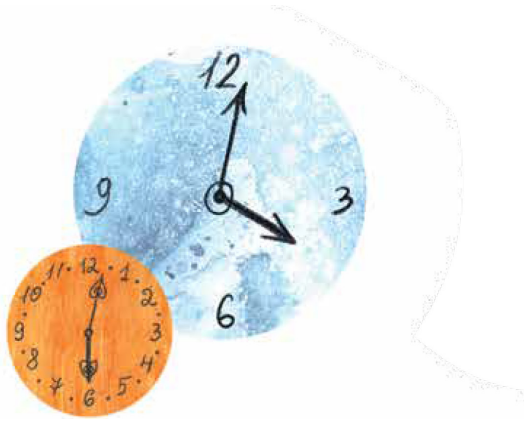
Grades pre-K-K-2



*Together Right Now*, written and illustrated by Olga Fadeeva  
Pub Date January 27, 2026 | ISBN 9798985849455 | Ages 3–7



*We intentionally leave this page blank so our guides can be printed like a book.*



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## Before Reading

Establish background knowledge.

- What do the title and front and back cover illustrations tell you about the book? Where do you think the story takes place? Who will be in the story? What might happen in the story?
- What does the bio on the inside flap of the back cover tell you about the author and illustrator, Olga Fadeeva? Where in the world is Russia? What do you know about Russia? Is it cold or warm there right now? Day or night? Right now, you're reading this book—what do you think Olga is doing right now in Russia?

## During Reading

As you read, think about the elements of the story.

- Setting: Where and when is the story taking place?
- Point of view: Who is telling the story?
- Cause-and-effect relationships: What is happening and why?
- Characters: Who is in the story? How are they related? What are their traits—their characteristics, their motivations, and their feelings?
- Pause occasionally and wonder, What will happen next?
- How do the illustrations create mood, emphasize aspects of a character, and show the setting?



## After Reading

### Check for understanding.

- Who was telling this story?
- Who were they telling the story to?
- What happened in the story?
- Did you laugh at any point during the story? Were you ever scared? Sad? Surprised? Talk about those times.
- Which scene in the story was most like where you live? Which felt most different? For the different places, can you still see any similarities to your experiences?
- Which scene would you most like to travel to and why?
- What are the themes or messages of the book?
- *Together* is an important word in this book. Talk about what “together” looks like on these spreads, including who is involved and how they are being together with each other (remember to look closely at all the clues on each page!):
  - The first one, looking out the window and imagining
  - The second one, at home reading
  - The eighth one, in the jungle
  - The ninth one, in Egypt
  - The final one, in space
  - What’s another picture you want to talk about? What picture feels very much about togetherness? Which one surprises you that it’s in a book on togetherness?
- What was the author’s purpose for writing this book?



## STEAM Art Activity: Collage Your Togetherness

The author and illustrator of this book incorporates collage in her illustrations. Collage is when you glue various materials together into a picture. Look, for example, at the fourth spread, of the busy city scene. What do you see that isn't paint but that is used to create the picture?

- Newspaper
- Calendar
- Barcode
- Some of the stripes of color that look like paint may actually be cutouts from magazine photos!

How does the author and illustrator use these pieces to convey meaning?

- Newspaper forms a suit on a businessperson.
- The calendar and barcode on a building may indicate busy business days for workers buying and selling things.
- A cutout word like active on the yellow shirt of the person with the pink hair may indicate they are heading for a run with friends—it does look like they're wearing orange sneakers!

What is something in your life that makes you think of togetherness?

- Dinner with your family
- Going to school on the bus
- Playing with your friends
- Fishing in the stream with your grandparents and your dog by your side, birds flying overhead

Gather items to make a collage of that scene. All you need are magazines or newspapers, scissors, glue and tape, and a backing (like a piece of paper or cardboard) to glue the pieces to. But you can also use bits of fabric and ribbon, old buttons, leaves and petals—anything that is small enough and light enough to attach to the picture! Remember to look at shapes, colors, and meanings when you make your collage. For example:

- Use bits of dried grass for your elderly aunt's hair.
- Use a scrap of your old black shirt for your cat's fur.
- Make a square of text from a magazine article into a tiny book in your sister's hand.

Share your collage with the rest of the class.



## STEAM Writing Activity:

### Together, Right Now, with a Friend Far Away

Think of a friend or family member who doesn't live with you—and who you have a mailing address for—and imagine what they might be doing at the same time as the scene you just collaged for yourself. Make a collage of what you imagine—this time, on a postcard you can mail to them!

The National Postal Museum has a great Make Your Own Postcard activity online (<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/make-your-own-postcard>). For this collage, you'll have to stick with magazine and newspaper clippings, so that the postcard stays flat. And remember to glue each piece really well, so it doesn't fall off as it goes on its adventure across the city, state, country, or world!

Then write your postcard. Start with a greeting—how would you say hello to this person? Next describe the picture you made and why it made you think of them. End the postcard with a goodbye—will you say you love the person, miss them, or will see them soon? Don't forget your name!

### Learn More: There Is So Much to Know About the World!

What do you think kids are doing right now in a place you do not know much about?

As a class, in small groups, or by yourself, look at a world map and choose a place you have never read about or visited. Using the internet and books, learn about that city, town, or country. You may try to answer any of these questions, or research a different topic!

- Is it usually cold, hot, sunny, or rainy? Do people live near the water, high in the mountains, or somewhere else?
- What is school like there? What are homes like?
- What might kids there enjoy as their favorite foods?
- What kinds of animals live there? Do many people have pets?

Share what you learn with the class. For a more extensive activity, you could write, draw, or collage about the place or even organize a party and make or bring in food from that place.

## Read More: Be Together, Through Stories

There are lots of stories about connecting with other humans, animals, and plants.

Learning another language is one way to be together, right now, with other people—some of whom live around the world and others who are down the block from you or even in your classroom. Our Words of the World board book series with collages by Motomitsu Maehara, encourages language exploration by even the youngest readers (ages zero to five). These books burst with colorful collages of animals and plants, alongside their names in English, Mandarin, Hindi, Spanish, French, and Arabic, as well as the language of universal friendship, Esperanto.

There are books on *Animals* (ISBN: 9781736226445, Ebook ISBN: 9781737603283); *Plants* (ISBN: 9781736226438, Ebook ISBN: 9781737603290); *Birds* (ISBN: 9781735000565, Ebook ISBN: 9781736226483); and *Ocean Animals* (ISBN: 9781735000558, Ebook ISBN: 9781736226476). Students can choose a favorite word or two along with the translation in a couple of languages and practice writing those out. Decorate the words with drawings of what they mean.

In *Sunday*, written and illustrated by Marcelo Tolentino (ISBN: 9798989858811; <https://www.bluedotkidspress.com/sunday>), a child and his dog connect with the world and the creatures in it through imagination. By looking closely and then imagining different possibilities, they become familiar with their home environment, everything that lives there, and what they're all doing.





**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**.

As an **independent, mission-driven**, children's publisher based in San Francisco, California, and Wellington, New Zealand, our **passion for nature and its stewardship** are evident in every book we publish—as well as in our business practices.

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