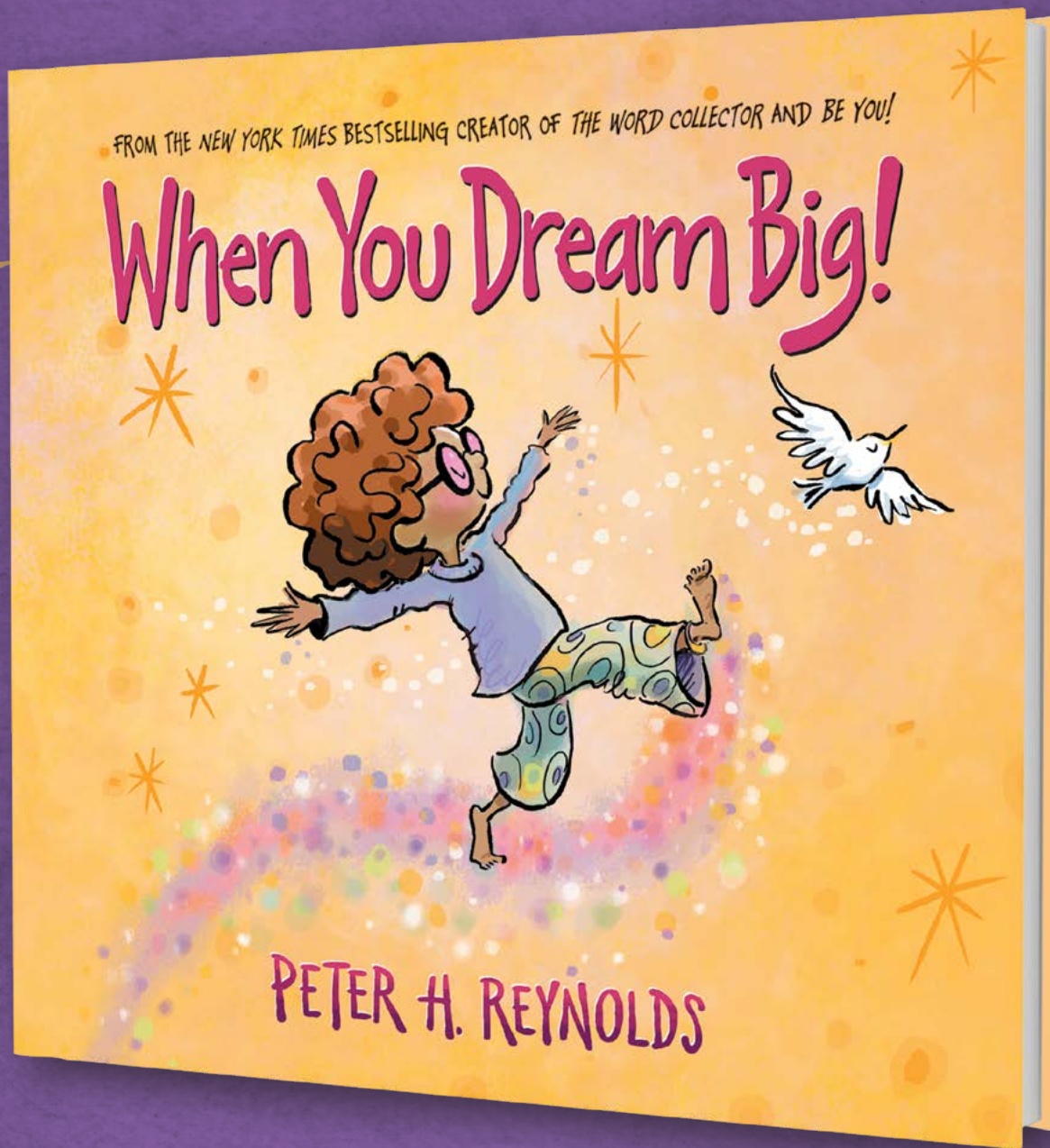


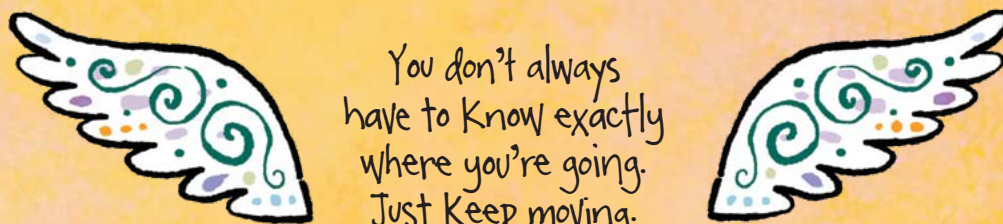
ACTIVITY GUIDE

AGES
4-8
GRADES
P-3



Host a DREAM BIG event!

The only limit is your imagination!



You don't always
have to know exactly
where you're going.
Just keep moving.
Moving forward. So go ahead.
I'm daring YOU to dream big!

Peter H. Reynolds

Dream Big!

Many of us may recall as children being asked the age-old question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” For some, that question may have sparked excitement—an endless list of potential careers. For others, it may have left them feeling anxious, worried that everyone else seemed to have life all figured out. In *When You Dream Big!*, Peter H. Reynolds navigates this very scenario with his unparalleled creativity, humanity, and heart. In the story, when asked to dream big about her future, young Charley comes to realize that *who* she becomes—what kind of person she wants to be—is even more important than what job she may dream of doing.

In this most affirmational story, Peter H. Reynolds empowers us to remember that when we find ourselves frozen, grappling with life’s big questions, all we have to do is trust ourselves, keep moving forward, and always DREAM BIG.

Host a Dream Big event!

Celebrate the power of imagination and self-reflection by hosting a Dream Big event in your community! Charley’s teacher coordinates a Dream Big Week for her students.

The activities and prompts in this guide can all be used individually to explore the book, but we’ve also included a list of tips to plan your own Dream Big event—whether it’s a week or a day!—ready to customize for your group of readers.



DREAM BIG Event Activity Ideas

- * Post flyers around your event space a few weeks prior to your Dream Big event. Encourage kids to make your advertising posters.
- * Make the Dream Big banner in this guide to decorate your event space. Make copies of the page, scissors, tape, and ribbon or string available to kids at your event and encourage them to create their own Dream Big banners to take home.
- * Invite a community leader (principal, librarian, town mayor, firefighter, etc.) to read *When You Dream Big!* at your event. Use the discussion questions in this guide to dive deeper into the story.
- * Write individual dream words on little slips of paper and put them in a bag labeled "Let's Dream Big!" Sample words: Adventurous, Loyal, Brave, Funny, Kind, Strong, Helpful, Friendly, Hopeful, Gentle, Powerful, Thoughtful, Happy, Curious, Positive, Understanding, Leader. Ask for volunteers to each pull a dream word from the bag, then ask the group to imagine aloud how they might live into that particular word. How might they become braver, for example, or what does being a thoughtful person look like to them?
- * Write the letters D-R-E-A-M B-I-G vertically on a large piece of paper, easel, or bulletin board and brainstorm words or phrases about dreaming big that begin with each letter. As a group, create an acrostic poem by selecting favorite words/phrases from your brainstorming session.
- * Use the wing template in this guide to envision colorful dreams for the future. Copy and cut out multiple wings and hand two to each child (wings should taper in opposite directions). In the story, Miss Rayna asks "Where will your wings take you?" Invite kids to decorate their wings with words and pictures showing the kind of people they want to become. Tape finished wings to the back of each child or use them to create a fun Wall of Dreams display in your event space.
- * In the story, when Charley gets anxious, she stops and looks down at her toes all pointing in the right direction, gives them a good wiggle, and then takes a slow, deep breath. She feels grounded. This helps her remember to keep moving forward and to not give up. Invite the kids to do the same exercise! Afterwards, talk about how and when this exercise might be useful in their own lives.
- * Show kids the inspirational posters in the classroom scenes in the book. Brainstorm a list of messages that would inspire themselves or others. Have the kids design posters with their favorite messages and display them!



DREAM BIG Banner



M

A

B

E

I

R

O

D

!



Cut out the triangles
and tape them (points facing down)
along a ribbon or string to spell DREAM BIG!

WHEN YOU DREAM BIG!

Discussion Questions

BEFORE READING

Set aside time to look closely at the book cover before starting to read, and invite kids to share what they notice, or any questions they may have based on what they see. Possible prompts: What do you notice about the book's cover? Why do you think there's an exclamation point in the book's title? What do you think the main character on the cover is doing here? How does her body language make you feel? How do the colors in her path and the stars and spots of color and white add to the movement of the character and the bird? Why do you think her eyes and the bird's eyes are closed? What do you predict this book will be about?

AFTER READING

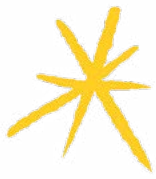
- When the story begins, Miss Rayna asks the class, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" How is Charley different from her classmates when thinking about this question?
- How does Charley feel when her classmates offer clear ideas about what jobs they want to do when they're grown up? Do you identify more with Charley in this situation or with her classmates who confidently answer the question?
- Charley doesn't feel happy as she walks home from school. Look at the page with text that reads, "After school, as Charley walked home, she grew more and more anxious. The more she worried, the slower she went. Until finally, she stopped." Turn back a page and look at the image of Charley. What change do you notice in the colors used to show Charley walking home? How does the shift from colorful to grey make you feel? How does it reflect how Charley is feeling?
- Turn the page to see the image of Charley's feet. What is Charley doing in this scene? What does it mean to feel "grounded"? How does grounding herself help Charley to feel less worried? How do you help yourself when you're feeling anxious or worried?



- How are Charley's dreams on the second day different from the dreams shared by her classmates the day before? How do her classmates respond to this new way of dreaming about the future? What dreams do you have about the kind of person you want to be?
- Look back through the book and notice the background colors when the students are first in the classroom. When Charley grounds herself, the background colors change dramatically. How? Why do you think this is so? How do the yellow-infused pages make you feel? How do they reflect Charley's feelings?

Wing Template



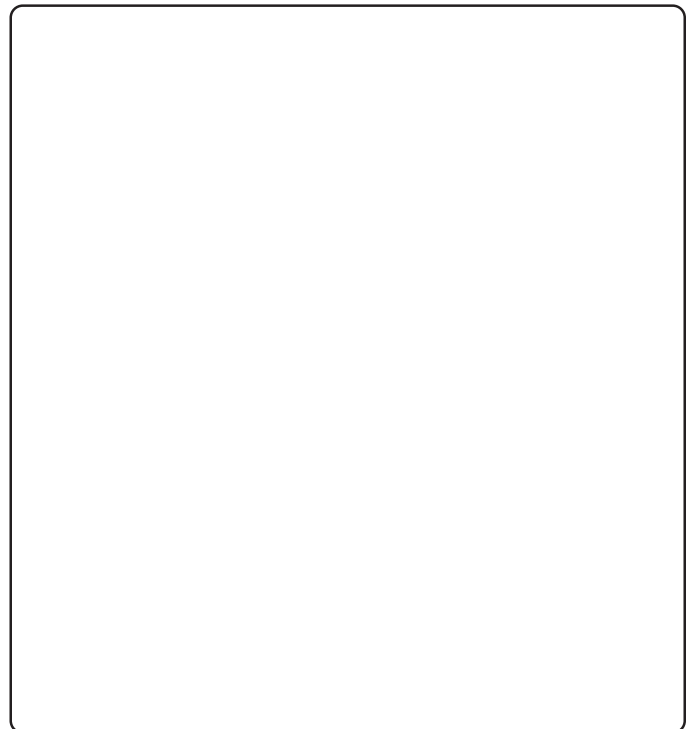
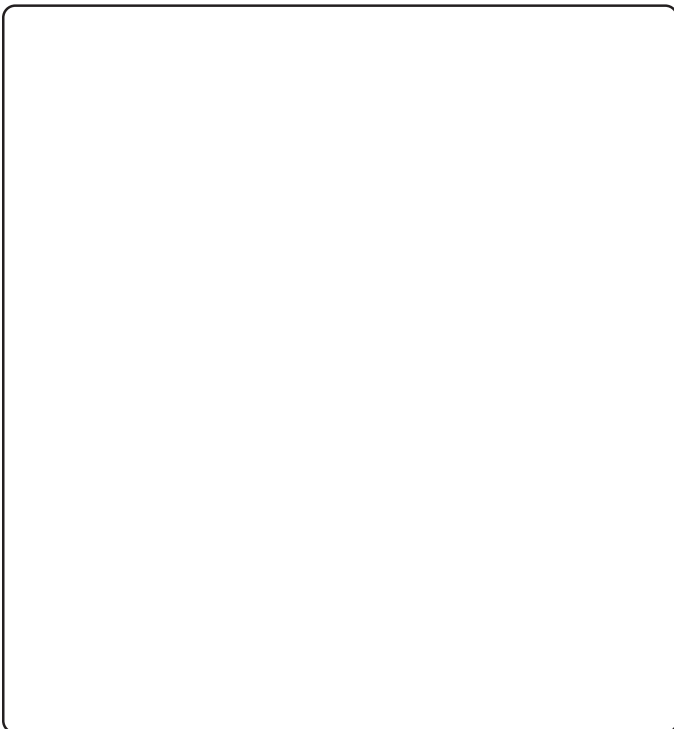


Emotion Self-Portraits

Choose one word to describe how Charley is feeling in each illustration below.
What clues in the artwork help you to determine Charley's emotions?
Draw two portraits of yourself expressing those same emotions.





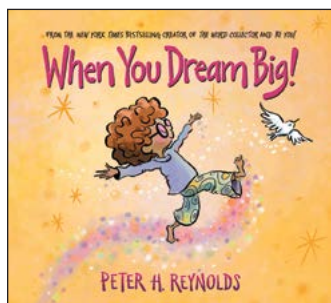




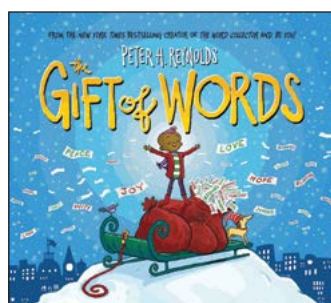
Peter H. Reynolds

Peter H. Reynolds is a *New York Times* bestselling author and illustrator of many books for children, including *The Gift of Words*, *Happy Dreamer*, *The Word Collector*, *Say Something!*, *Be You!*, *Our Table*, and *All We Need Is Love and a Really Soft Pillow!* He is also the illustrator of *When Things Aren't Going Right, Go Left* and *The Reflection in Me* by Marc Colagiovanni. His books have been translated into over 25 languages around the globe and are celebrated worldwide. In 1996, he founded FableVision with his brother, Paul, as a social change agency to help create "stories that matter, stories that move." He lives in Dedham, Massachusetts, with his family.

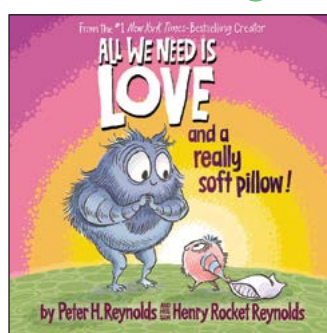
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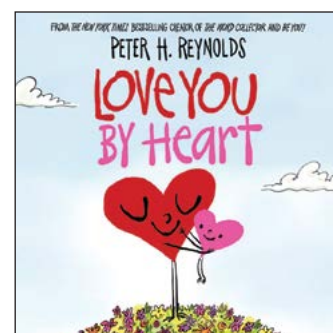
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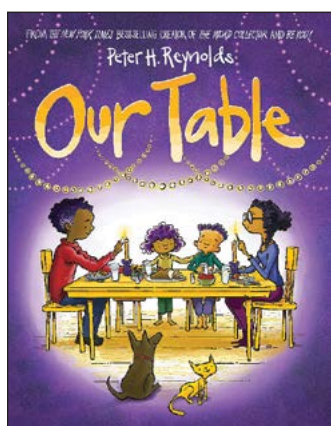
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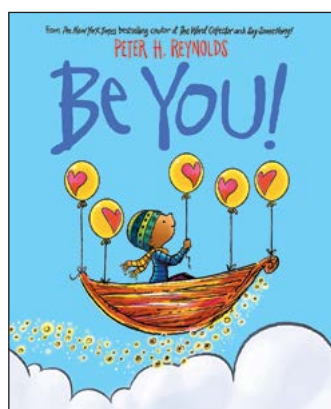
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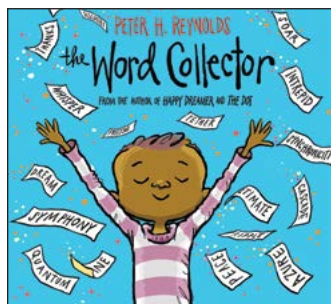
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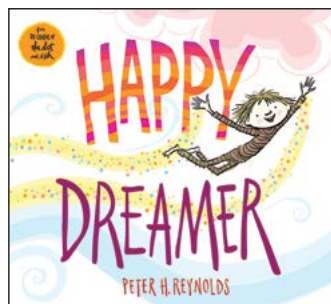
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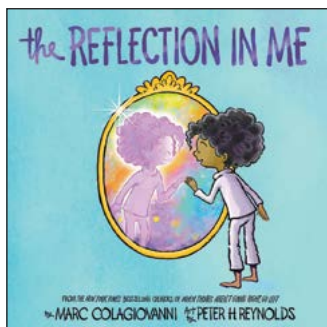
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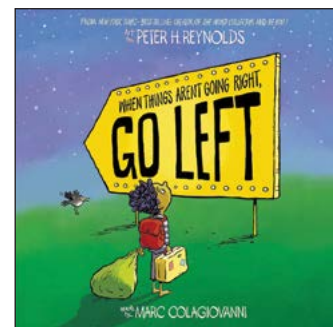
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