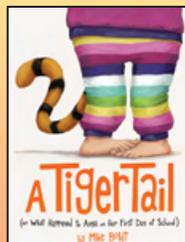
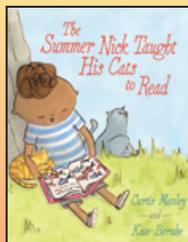
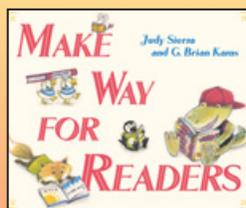
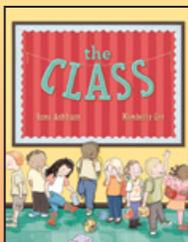




FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL ACTIVITY KIT

Includes:

- First Day of School Survival Tips
- Reproducible Activities
- First Day of School Classroom Activity Suggestions



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AGES 4-8

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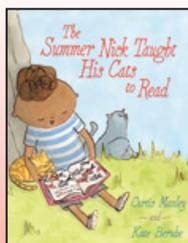
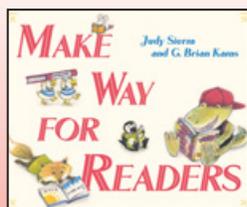
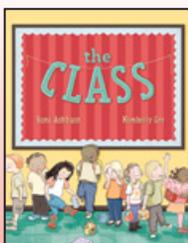
Illustrations © 2016 Kimberly Gee

REPRODUCIBLE

Tips to Surviving Your First Day of School

The first day of school can be a little scary. *What will you wear? Will you make friends? Will you get assigned a nice teacher?* But worry not! Your first day of school can be wonderful. Here are some handy-dandy tips to help you navigate a brand new school year:

1. Plan ahead! So you don't get in a jam the morning before your first day, pick out your first day outfit ahead of time.
2. Sometimes you'll find it's difficult to sleep the night before the first day of school. Those pesky butterflies in your tummy will keep you up! Try getting all of your energy out the day before and head to bed early. You don't want to fall asleep in school!
3. If you have NO trouble falling asleep the night before the first day of school, remember to set your alarm. You don't want to sleep through it and wake up feeling grumpy!
4. Hopefully you won't wake up in the morning having grown an unusual body part like a tiger tail! But if you do, fear not—it's important to always be yourself, especially in a new school.
5. Eat a healthy, yummy breakfast. You don't want your stomach rumbling all morning!
6. Don't be late! Save yourself plenty of time to get to school.
7. Come prepared! Make sure you pack all of your essential school supplies, like pencils, a pencil sharpener, erasers, notebooks, crayons, and more. P.S. Don't forget one of the most important items of all: your lunch!
8. A new school can be awfully confusing. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Your teacher is there to help!
9. Smile! The first day of school is a great time to catch up with old friends and make new friends.
10. Enjoy! Make the most of your first day and all of the new experiences. Your new classroom will become a place you can learn, laugh, create, and have fun!



GRADES P-3

AGES 4-8

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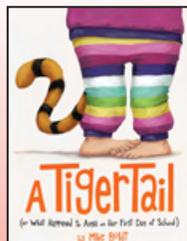
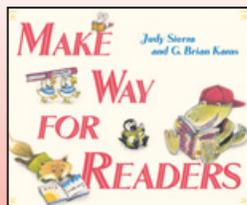
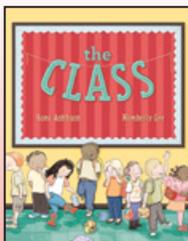
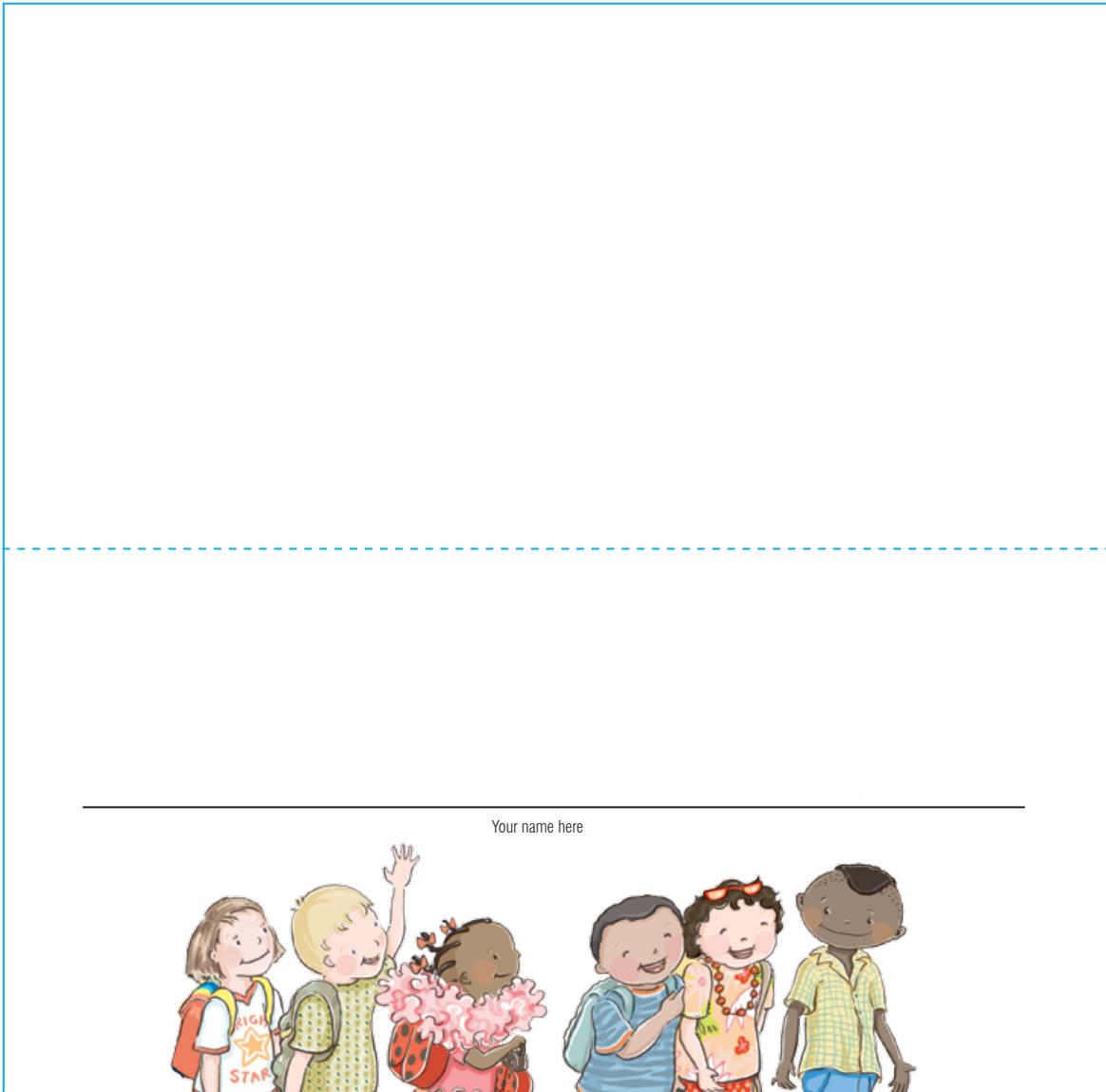
REPRODUCIBLE

A New Nametag for a New School Year

The students in *The Class* realize how wonderful it can be to meet a whole new group of students. Introduce yourself by writing and decorating the nametag below using crayons, markers, stickers, and even glitter! Cut it out and prop it on your desk so all of your new friends know your name.

Cut out on solid lines.

Fold in half on dashed line.



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Storytime Awaits

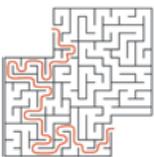
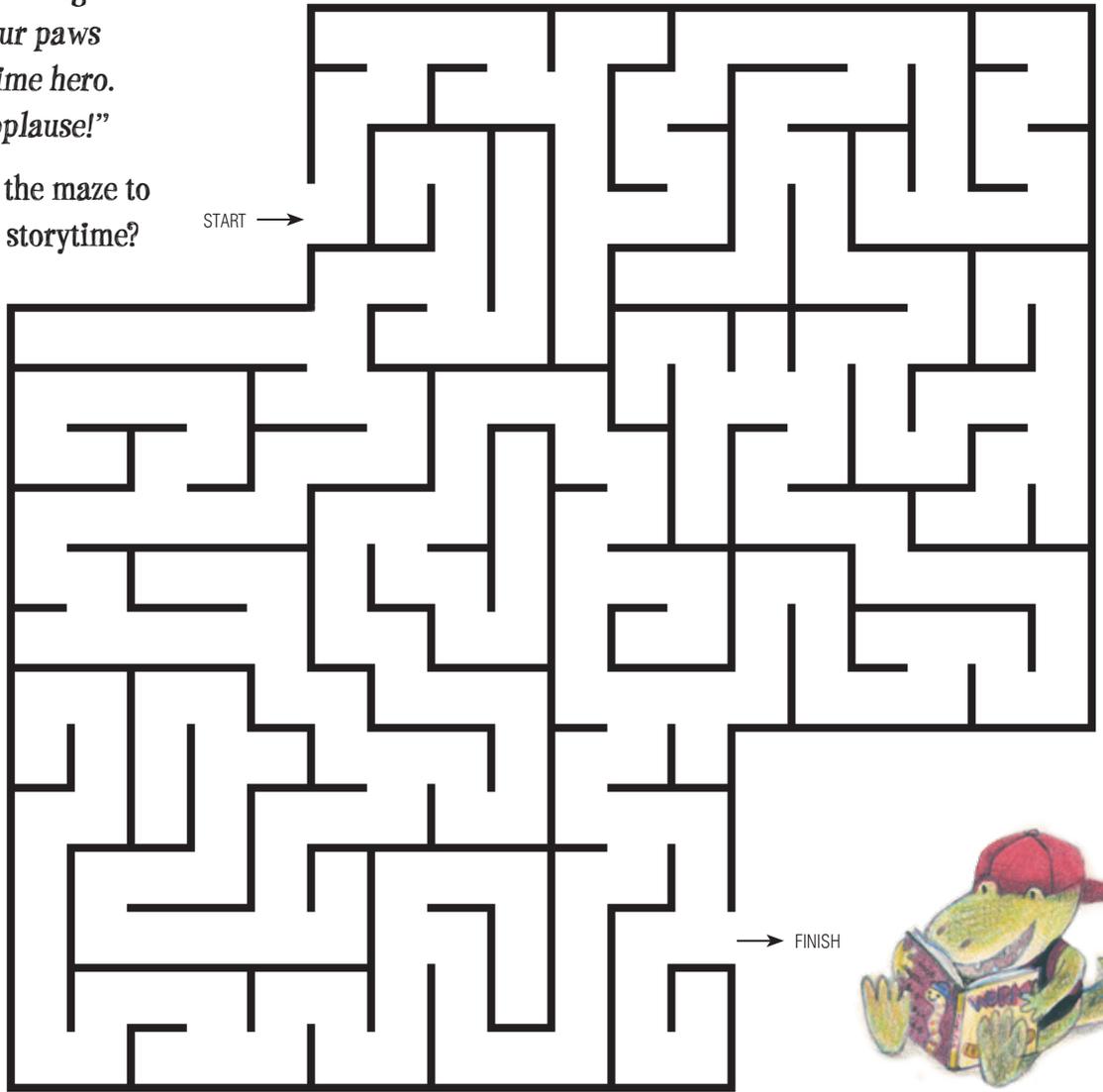
In *Make Way for Readers*, Miss Bingo, the storytime rhymers, cheers:

*“Waggle your tails!
Show me your claws!
Flap with your wings!
Clap with your paws
for our storytime hero.
Applause! Applause!”*

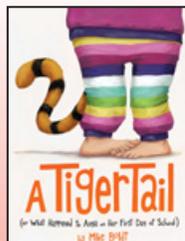
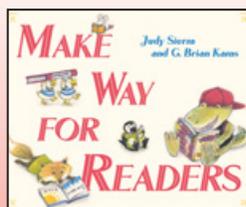
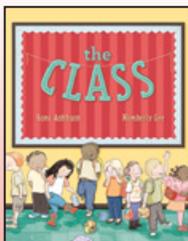
Can you navigate the maze to find your way to storytime?

START →

→ FINISH



ANSWERS



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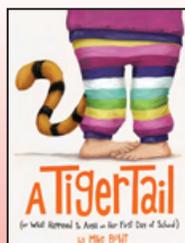
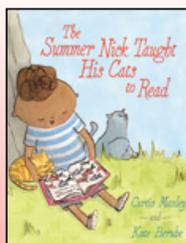
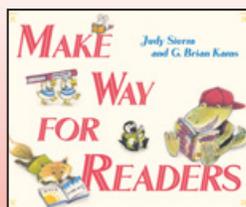
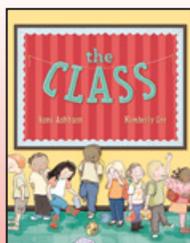
From FIRST to LAST



The first day of school is full of NEW—new teachers, new friends, new desk, new EVERYTHING! Take some time to think about what you would like the LAST day of school to look like. Use the storyboards below to write and illustrate how you would like your school year story to develop. Then, cut along the solid lines, fold along the dotted lines, and staple the pages together. In the end, you'll have your very own story, just like Nick in *The Summer Nick Taught His Cats to Read*.

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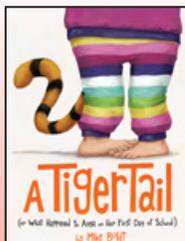
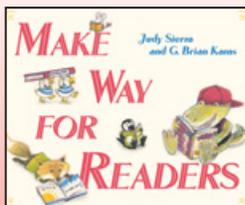
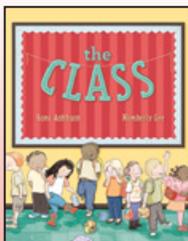
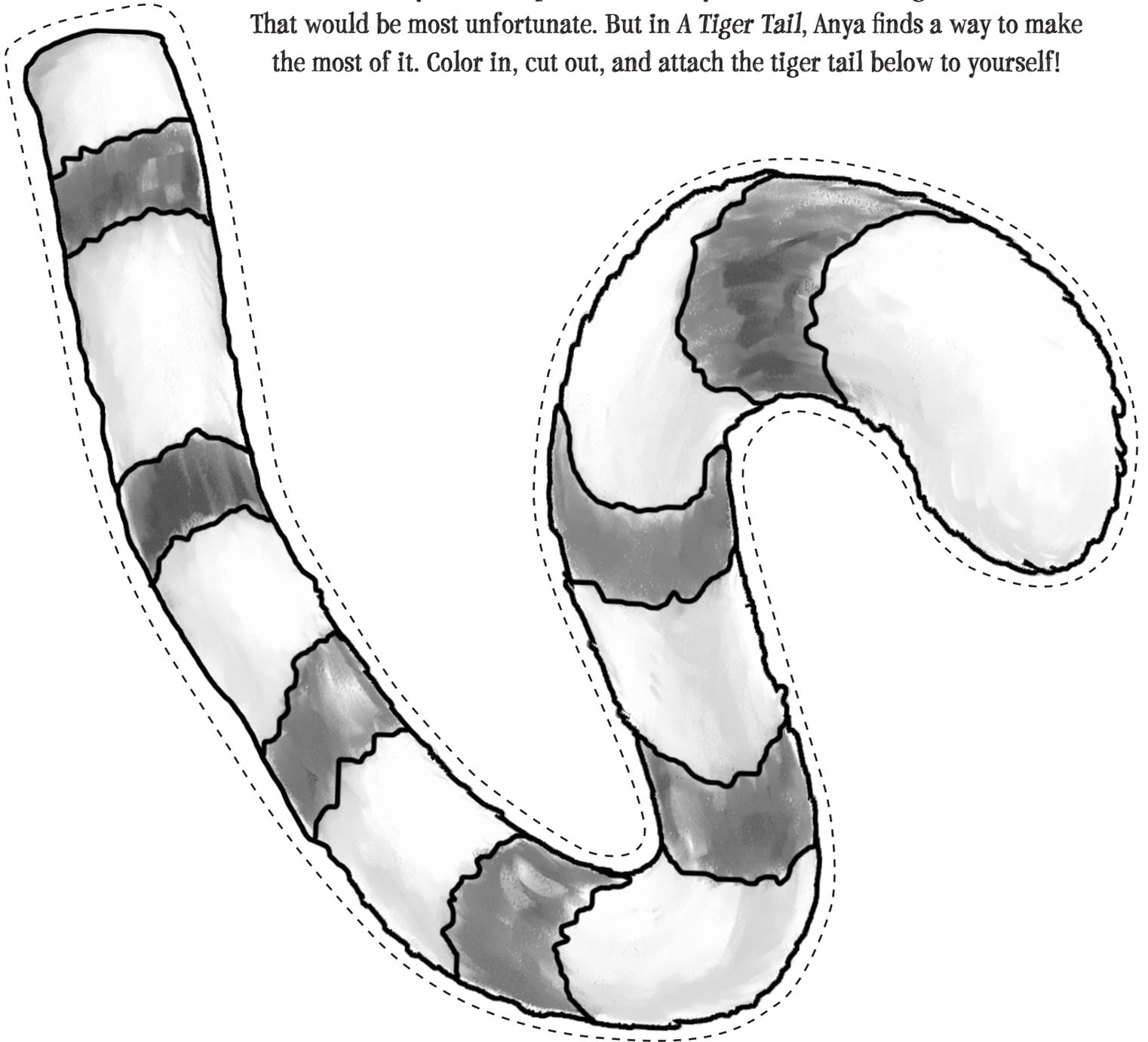
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Illustrations © 2016 Kate Berube

REPRODUCIBLE

Tiger Tail Time

What if you woke up on the first day of school with a tiger tail?! That would be most unfortunate. But in *A Tiger Tail*, Anya finds a way to make the most of it. Color in, cut out, and attach the tiger tail below to yourself!



GRADES P-3

AGES 4-8

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Illustrations © 2016 Mike Boldt

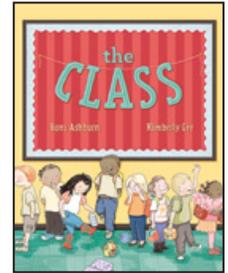
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Classroom Activity Suggestions for Your First Day of School

The first day of school is new for students AND teachers. Here are a handful of icebreaker activity suggestions to help everyone get to know each other!

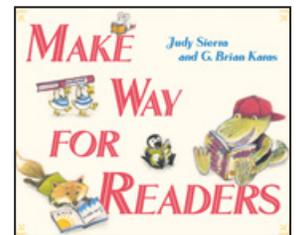
1. Count Your Way to School

In *The Class*, children all over town are getting ready for their first day of school. The story begins, “Four are eager, up since dawn. Three just sit and yawn and yawn.” Ask students to track the morning of their first day of school in NUMBERS! The teacher will ask ten “yes or no” questions about their first day, and each student should keep track of how many times they answer “yes” to a question by raising their hand. Once all the questions have been asked, each student will tally up however many times they raised their hand and then tell their classmates that many facts about themselves. Here’s an example: The teacher asks, “How many students couldn’t sleep and were up at dawn?” Students who answer “yes” should raise their hand and tally one (which will be one fact they will share with the class).



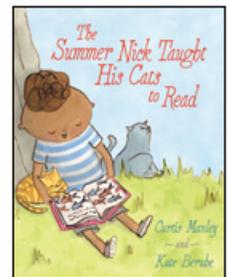
2. Readers, Readers, Everywhere

In *Make Way for Readers*, a cast of animals is experiencing and sharing the fun of picture books. Here’s an engaging activity for students who are getting a little antsy! Group students according to a particular type of book, such as “funny,” “scary,” or “exciting.” Each group should come up with a skit that fits their theme and present it to the class. Then, they should each give an example of a book they’ve read that fits this theme.



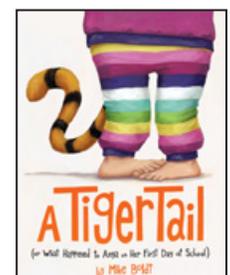
3. A Story of Your Own

In *The Summer Nick Taught His Cats to Read*, Nick learns that reading just the right book can make all the difference (particularly when teaching your cats to read!). Have students create their very own illustrated story. If they are having trouble thinking of an idea, have them write about their summer vacation or first day of school. Students can even pair off with one another so that one writes the story while the other illustrates.



4. What Makes You YOU?

In *A Tiger Tail*, Anya unexpectedly wakes up on her first day of school with a tiger tail. You read that right. Not like a ponytail or pigtailed. A TIGER tail. But Anya learns to embrace her very new (and very peculiar) tiger tail because it’s a part of who she is. Ask students to draw a picture of one of their defining characteristics.

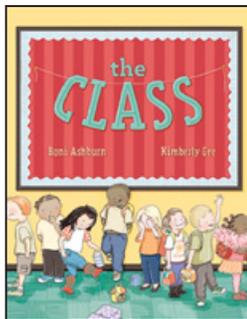


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About the Books

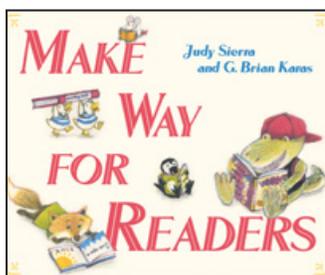


THE CLASS

Written by Boni Ashburn • Illustrated by Kimberly Gee

★ “An original take on the first-day-of-school theme.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Alarm clocks go off and students all over town wake up and get ready for their big day. Some feel eager, others are nervous, and a few are even grumpy! But they all get dressed, eat breakfast, pack backpacks, and make their way to school, where they will meet their new teacher and become a wonderful new class. Boni Ashburn’s snappy rhyming text and Kimberly Gee’s adorable and diverse group of children make this a great pick for little ones getting ready for their first day of school.

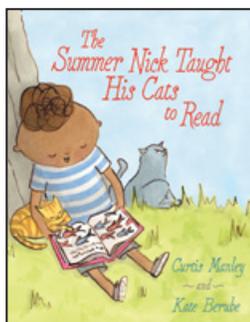


MAKE WAY FOR READERS

Written by Judy Sierra • Illustrated by G. Brian Karas

“Perfect for read-alouds and one-on-one sharing.” —*School Library Journal*

In Miss Bingo’s classroom there’s always time to tell a story! Here are Jiro and Annabelle, Rufus and Rory. They’re here to have fun with amazing Miss Bingo—the storytime rhymer and singing flamingo. She tells them of kittens, and mittens, and mice, Miss Muffet, her tuffet, and sugar, and spice. Master storyteller Judy Sierra’s latest read aloud celebrates stories, friendship, and the joy of reading in a picture book that can be shared over and over again.

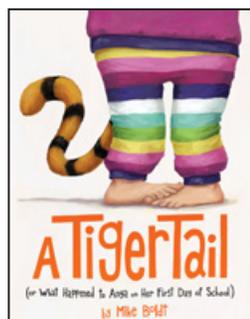


THE SUMMER NICK TAUGHT HIS CATS TO READ

Written by Curtis Manley • Illustrated by Kate Berube

★ “Sometimes it takes the right nudge to fall in love with books.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

Nick loves to read books—and he loves to play with his cats, Verne and Stevenson. So naturally Nick decides it’s a great idea to teach his cats to read. But Verne and Stevenson don’t appreciate when Nick wakes them up with a flashcard that says NAP. Nick finally piques Verne’s interest with words like MOUSE and FISH. But not Stevenson’s. While Nick and Verne go to the library, Stevenson hides under the porch. Will Nick ever find a way to share his love of reading with his feline friends? This sweet and silly picture book captures the challenges and rewards of learning to read.



A TIGER TAIL

Written and illustrated by Mike Boldt

“Readers are sure to find a niche to call their own.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

Anya wakes up to discover that she has grown a tiger tail. Yes, a striped tiger tail. It also happens to be the first day of school. What will the other kids think? Are girls with tiger tails even allowed to go to school?! Anya is about to find out. From the creative mind of Mike Boldt comes a hilarious and original tale about overcoming back-to-school jitters, making new friends, and taking things in stride.



GRADES P-3

AGES 4-8

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