



Grades
K & 1

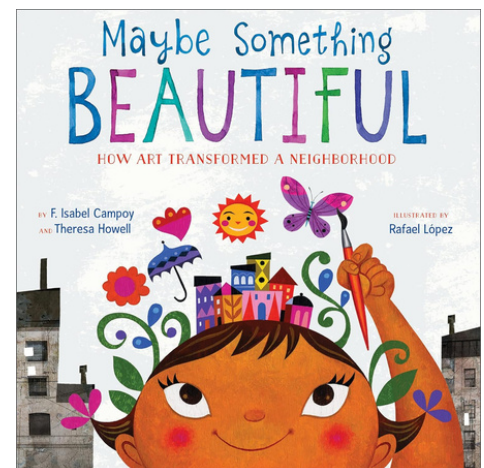


Maybe Something Beautiful By Isabel Campoy, Theresa Howell, and Rafael López

A captivating story that illuminates a neighborhood through the eyes of a child, who engages the world through her art and inspires innovation and creativity within her community.

Mira lives in a gray, urban community until a muralist arrives and, along with his paints and brushes, brings color, joy, and hope to the neighborhood.

Based on the true story of the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, California, *Maybe Something Beautiful* reveals how art can inspire transformation—and how even the smallest artists can accomplish something big. Pick up a paintbrush and join the celebration!



Goals:

The Battle of the Books is all about making reading an exciting adventure! We want campers to dive into their books and be excited and inspired by what they read. Our goal is to be there every step of the way, showing them how to explore their reading material while keeping the fun alive and making sure they understand everything they read.

Through engaging in this book, campers will reflect on the beauty within their own community and inspire creativity and innovation through classroom collaboration.



PREPARATION

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What to tell campers:

Test your power of reading in the annual Battle of the Books!

- Read the book and prepare for battle!
- Be ready to compete against readers just like you from across the county.
- Get excited for teamwork, fun activities, and the competition of the summer with prizes to win.

Engage:

Introduce yourself and the Battle of the Books initiative. Battle of the Books is a way to get kids excited about reading through a lively competition packed with engaging activities. Build excitement and anticipation for each day's adventure by letting campers know the theme, the exciting activities planned, why we're doing them (hint: it's all about fun and learning!), and what to look forward to on the day of the battle.

Prizes:

A fun field trip, lunch, and the pride of knowing how well you understood the book!

This summer, Battle of the Books is ON! Enjoy a thrilling competition!

Literacy Tip: Build the excitement for reading by creating a special experience when handing out new books to the campers. Invite them to notice how the new books look, feel, smell, and even sound when they flip through them. Invite them to put their names on the inside cover and then find a special place, or library, in the room to keep their books.

BOOK ACTIVITY 1

Read-Aloud Reflection and Comprehension

Before Reading:

- Introduce the book to campers and explain to them that they will read this book two times today and additional times throughout the next few weeks. They're going to become experts on this book!
- Encourage campers to flip through the book and start looking at the cover page, the back of the book, and the pictures throughout. Then, engage in a discussion surrounding these questions:
 - What do you think this book will be about? Why?
 - What do you think makes your community beautiful?
 - What colors stand out on your street?
 - What colors would make your street more beautiful?

During Reading (types of questions to ask during a second readthrough of the story):

- What does Mira think to herself when she sees the blank piece of paper? Why?
- What are some of the items Mira gives to her neighbors?
- Why do you think Mira gives these items to her neighbors?
- Who helps Mira take away the doom and gloom in her neighborhood?
- What materials are they using?
- What are some of the images they painted?

After Reading:

- After reading, engage campers in a discussion surrounding the following questions:
 - Who was the main character in the book?
 - What did Mira do in her community?
 - How did people in the community feel when they saw the mural?
 - How did this book make you feel?
 - What was your favorite part of this book?
 - What was your favorite page that you saw in the book?
 - How could you spread joy in your own community?

Literacy Tip: Pre-Reading lays a foundation for reading comprehension. Never skip this essential stage when introducing new reading material.

BOOK ACTIVITY 2


Summarizing the Story with Story Frames

- Reread the story aloud to the campers and tell them that today they are going to summarize, or retell, what happened in the story by identifying the most important parts.
- Story Frames:
 - Show the campers the story frame and discuss each box:
 - Setting: Where does this story take place?
 - Characters: Who is the main character?
 - Beginning, Middle, and End: What happens in the beginning? Middle? End? Flip through the book together.
- Provide each camper with a blank [story frame graphic organizer](#) and model how to fill in the boxes.
 - Encourage campers to use words, pictures or a combination of both to show their understanding.
 - Encourage them to work together to complete their story frames and then invite them to share their story frames with the group.

Story Frame Name: _____

Title: _____

Where does the story take place?	Who are the main characters?	What happened first?
What happened next (the exciting part)?	How does it end?	

 Reading Rockets

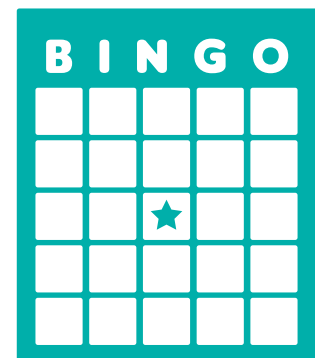
Literacy Tips:

- Vary your summarizing strategies to keep campers engaged.
- Reading Rockets offers many creative suggestions for [Quick Summarizing Strategies](#).

BOOK ACTIVITY 3

Maybe Something Beautiful Word Bingo Vocabulary Builder

- Reread the book aloud to campers again, and this time, tell the campers that you are going to focus on some vocabulary words that they may or may not know. Teach campers that they can figure out the meaning of words they don't know by looking at clues in the pictures or even by reading the other words around that word.
- Say to the campers:
 - "Let's look at some examples: On the first page, it says '...there lived a girl who loved to doodle, draw, color, and paint.' Hmm, I may not know what the word 'doodle' means. I have never heard that word before. But, I notice in the picture that she has a pencil and seems to be drawing pictures. I also noticed that in the text, right after the word 'doodle,' it said 'draw, color, and paint,' so doodle must mean to draw pictures."
- Repeat this process with any vocabulary words that the children may not be familiar with. There are some example words listed below:
 - **Gazed:** He **gazed** at the wall. He **looked** at her sun.
 - **Peered:** He held his fingers up in a square and **peered through them.**
 - **Muralist:** "I am an **artist.**" "A **muralist.**"
- For other interesting words found in the text, have a conversation with the campers about what the words mean in the context of the story, using child-friendly language. You may also add visuals to make the words come alive.
 - Scurried, Gloom, Pizzazz, Splattered, Canvas
- Make bingo cards for class participation and engagement. This game is played like traditional bingo. Consider having a prize for the child who wins word bingo. Create additional word bingos to increase word frequency and reading fluency throughout the summer and year.



Literacy Tip: Having the vocabulary words written out and posted on a "word wall" can help campers to visually see the words as they are learning about them. Adding words to a "word wall" and referencing them helps to build children's vocabulary.

BOOK ACTIVITY 4

Maybe Something Beautiful Art Cover Sheet & Image Wall

- Reread the book aloud to the campers, paying special attention to the cover art and the art of the mural.
- Each camper is given a [one-page cover sheet](#) for *Maybe Something Beautiful* or a [one-page coloring sheet](#) to create their own mural.
- Campers are then asked to become an artist just like Mira and draw the beauty they would like to see inside their community.
 - Scholars will use crayons, color pencils to create their version of community beauty.
 - They can be provided with blank paper, a [freestyle template](#) or [recreate some of the images Mira made](#).
- Children can place their art on a wall within the camp building to remind themselves that they are all artists spreading joy around their community through their art.



Literacy Tip: Hanging up campers' work not only adds beauty to space but also helps to build community. It can build pride within the campers and help them remember the lessons they learned.

BOOK ACTIVITY 5

Move to the Music!

- Before rereading the book, explain to students that music is also a form of art. It allows someone to express their emotions, tell a story, or just be creative. As we read today, let's pay attention to how music plays a part in this story.
- As you read, have campers pay attention to the page that says "Everyone painted to the rhythm. Salsa, merengue, bebop!"
- After you read, go back to that page and ask students if they have ever heard salsa, merengue or bebop music.
 - Engage children in a discussion about the music they like and the experience they have with music and dancing.
 - Why do they like listening to music and/or dancing?
 - What memories do they have of listening to music and dancing?
 - Who do they usually listen to music or dance with?
 - How does it make them feel?
- Play a [short clip of merengue music](#). Have campers march and step to the beat, moving their arms like dancers.
- Switch to [salsa](#) and encourage side-to-side steps and playful spins.
- Finally, play [bebop](#), and have campers freely move, wiggle, and jump to the lively rhythm.



Literacy Tip: Help campers make the connection that songs are just stories being sung. Artists sing their stories, just as authors write their stories. There are many different ways to express yourself and share your stories. If they show interest, consider creating an activity where they write the lyrics to a song about *Maybe Something Beautiful*.

GO FURTHER

Community Service

- Before rereading the story to campers again, tell them that today they are invited to think about how they could make their camp community even more beautiful, just as Mira made her community even more beautiful.
 - Invite the campers to think about what Mira did to spread beauty and joy around her community as they read.
- After reading, engage children in a discussion about what Mira did to transform her community.
 - Encourage children to think about the fact that even though she is young and small, she still made a difference.
- Engage campers in a discussion about what they would want to transform in their own camp community. Brainstorm a list of ideas that campers have on a large piece of paper.
 - Some examples: adding more artwork to the rooms, painting a community mural, cleaning up trash and picking up after each other, planting more flowers, painting rocks and spreading them around the camp, painting pictures and sharing with fellow campers and staff, etc.
- Then, as a group, decide on what you are going to do to create a more beautiful camp community. Invite campers to create change for the community and spread joy and love through art!

