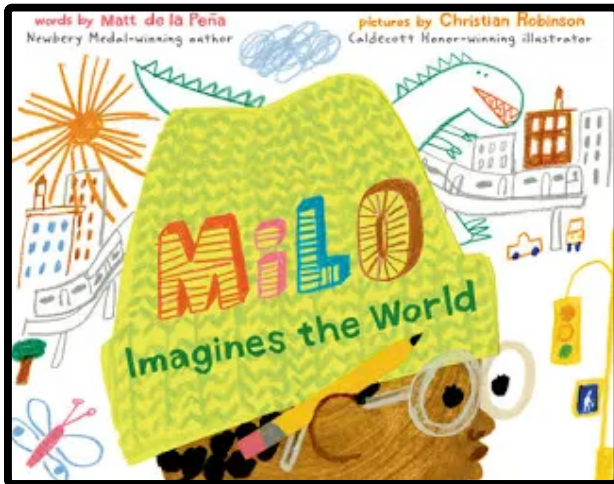


MILO IMAGINES THE WORLD

Written by Matt de la Peña and illustrated by Christian Robinson



WHY WE CHOSE IT

We find this book to be a thoughtful, imaginative story about empathy, assumptions, family, and learning to look beyond first impressions.

SUMMARY

Milo rides the subway with his older sister, passing the time by drawing pictures of the people around him and imagining what their lives might be like. As he invents stories about each stranger, he begins to realize that the assumptions we make from appearances can be incomplete or wrong. An unexpected connection helps Milo see that every person carries a story he may not be able to see, just as the reader may not see the story under the story at first.

VOCABULARY

screech: a loud, harsh, high sound
lolling: rolling out and extending
clatters: makes a loud rattling noise
trudging: walking with heavy steps
whiskered: having hair on the face
crossword: a word puzzle with clues

parakeets: small, colorful pet birds
slush: wet, partly melted snow
scuff: to scrape or mark lightly
butler: a household attendant
concrete: a hard building material
shuffle: to walk without lifting feet

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE READING

1. Look at the cover. What do you think the book is about?
2. What does it mean to imagine something?
3. What do you notice about Milo and the people around him?

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE READING

1. How do you think Milo is feeling? What clues tell you?
2. What does Milo imagine about the people he sees?
3. Do you think Milo really knows their stories? Why or why not?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AFTER READING

1. What did Milo learn about making assumptions about people?
2. Why did Milo change the way he imagined some people?
3. What can we do instead of assuming we know someone's story?

EARLY LITERACY ACTIVITIES DURING OR AFTER A READ-ALOUD

- Point out letters and sounds in the story.
- Clap syllables in character names or interesting words.
- Find rhyming or alliterative words together.
- Play "I Spy" with beginning sounds using objects in the illustrations.
- Trace or build letters from favorite words in the book.
- Find describing words Milo uses for people, places, and sounds.
- Act out movement words such as trudging, shuffling, and lolling.
- Listen for sound words like screech and clatter, then make the sounds together.
- Draw a subway passenger and imagine different possible stories about them.