

Hardcover ISBN 9780735266513 | 44 Pages
Age: 3-7 years | Preschool-Grade 2

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Bianca gets stuck in Yolanda's line at the post office, she expects the worst: scowls, claws, teeth . . .

This is what she gets for having a five-letter day.

She might not survive . . .

Or will Yolanda surprise her?

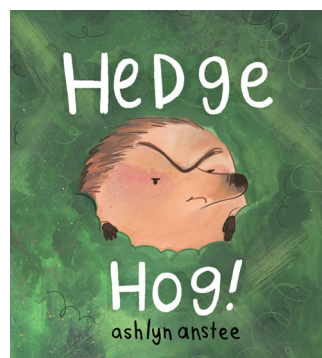
This hilarious story explores fear and kindness, in that order, when Bianca decides to overcome her terror and ask Yolanda very nicely how her weekend was . . . and learns that Yolanda is not scary, she's a delight! A truly lovely book about questioning your assumptions and reaching out to another person, no matter how scary they might be.



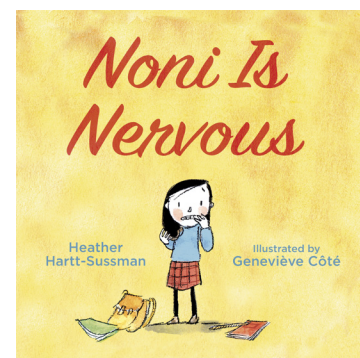
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KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

FEAR: Bianca is afraid of Yolanda. Why is she afraid of her? Does her fear seem reasonable?

GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE: At the end of the book, what does Bianca find out about Yolanda? Why might Bianca have gotten the first impression? Have you ever thought someone was one particular way but then discovered they were different from your expectations?

CONNECTION: What is “connection”? How was Bianca able to find a connection with Yolanda? What are some things that might connect two people?

YOUR BEST DAY EVER: For Bianca a “Five-Letter Day” is a very special day: it’s a day where she is able to write five letters to five people she loves, with drawings even. What would your best day look like?

COLLECTING: Bianca collects stamps. Do you collect anything? Why do you think people might collect things? What are some collections you could imagine or you have seen? What can you learn/notice from looking at a collection of things? Draw a collection of things, real or imagined.

LETTER WRITING: Bianca loves writing letters. Have you ever received or written a letter? What are some ways to start or end a letter? What supplies would you need? What does Bianca think is important when writing a letter? Write a letter to someone that doesn’t “bore their pants off.”

FAMILY CULTURAL TRADITIONS: Bianca loves writing letters and collecting stamps like her grandfather. Does your family have any hobbies, activities or interests you share together? Would you like to start any new family activities to pass down to the next generation?

FOOD: Yolanda loves to cook. Bianca wants to share her great-grandmother’s lentil soup recipe with Yolanda. Does your family have any food they especially like to cook? Do you have any recipes passed down from your ancestors? What’s your favorite food? Can you draw it? Do you have the recipe?

STAMPS AS HISTORY: Bianca talks about what she sees on stamps: “queens, villains and exotic birds.” Why might a villain be on a stamp? Who gets to choose who or what is on a stamp? Who or what would you choose to put on a stamp? Who is your hero? Draw your own stamp.

BOOKS: Yolanda’s favorite book is *Babette’s Feast*. The book inspired her to make a very elaborate meal to share with friends. What books have inspired you? How have books changed you? Draw your own cover for your favorite book or an imagined book.

MONEY: Bianca uses money to buy stamps. How much does a domestic stamp cost? How much for an international stamp? In the United States, a domestic stamp costs \$0.55 and an international stamp costs \$1.20. Can you add up how much money Bianca needed to buy her five stamps? If she uses a five-dollar bill, how much change would she get?

OVERCOMING DISAPPOINTMENT: Bianca had a few bad experiences with Yolanda. Can you describe what they were? Why did Bianca decide to go to the post office again despite these negative experiences?

CONFIDENCE/COURAGE/“GOOD LUCK CHARMS”: Sometimes we need confidence and courage to do the things we want. What kinds of things did Bianca do to build her courage to go to the post office? How do you make yourself feel more confident or courageous?

IMAGINATION: Bianca has a very vivid imagination. What does she imagine about Yolanda? When can imagination be positive? When can imagination feel overwhelming or scary? Do you have an active imagination? What does it feel like to you? What are positive ways to use your imagination?

THE WORLD/PEN PALS: Bianca writes letters to her friends and family members who live far away. Where do they live? Can you find these places on a globe? Do you have friends or family who live in different places around the world?

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

WRITE A LETTER

Write a letter to someone!

It could be to a friend, family member, a hero, or someone you admire.

Here are some ideas for starting a letter, or you can make up your own:

"Dear _____"

"Hello _____"

"Greetings _____"

In the middle of a letter, consider asking the person a question. Tell them something that is happening in your world or how you are feeling.

"What have you been up to?"

"How is your _____?"

"Yesterday, I _____."

"Tomorrow, _____."

At the end of your letter, you can sign off any way that you like. Here are some examples:

"Sincerely, _____"

"Love, _____"

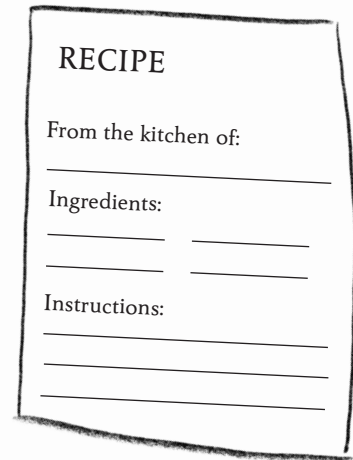
"Best wishes, _____"

"Peace, _____"

Don't forget: you can always include some doodles or drawings for fun!

RECIPE CARD

Collect and share a recipe with someone you love! Try cooking together—in person or online!



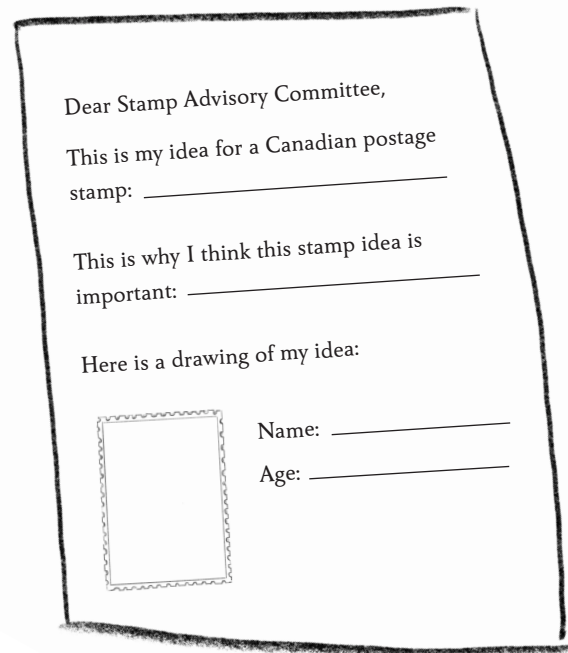
RECIPE

From the kitchen of: _____

Ingredients: _____

Instructions: _____

SUGGEST A STAMP IDEA FOR CANADA



Dear Stamp Advisory Committee,

This is my idea for a Canadian postage stamp: _____

This is why I think this stamp idea is important: _____

Here is a drawing of my idea:

Name: _____

Age: _____

For information about submitting stamp ideas in the U.S.:
<https://about.usps.com/who/csac/>

For information about submitting stamp ideas in Canada:
<https://www.canadapost.ca/web/en/kb/details>