

# A Page in a Book<sup>©</sup>

RECOMMENDING THE BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

By Gerry P. Smith

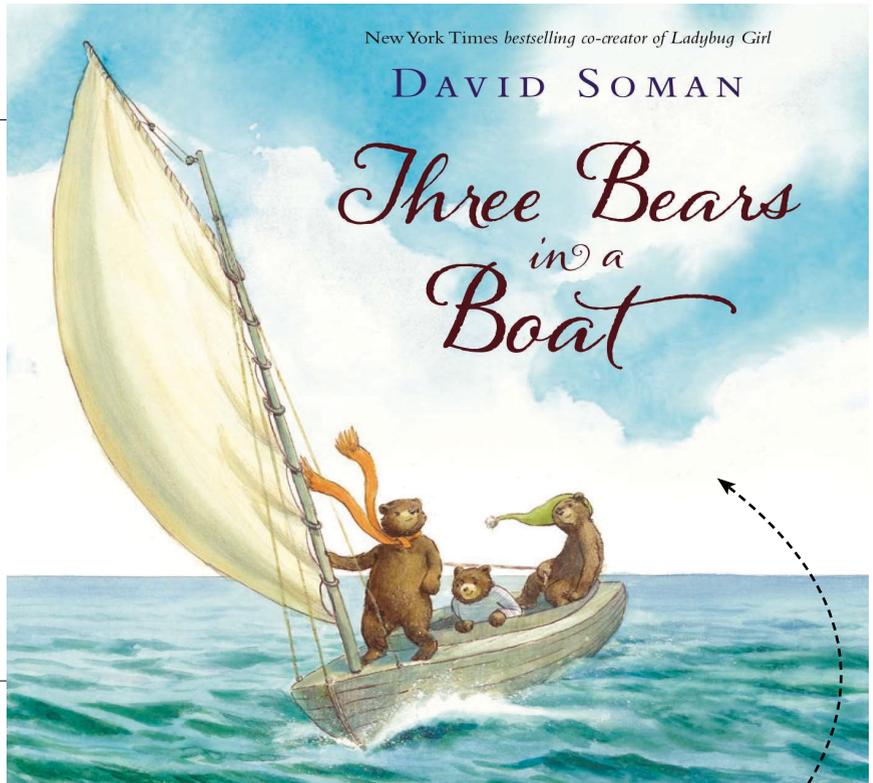
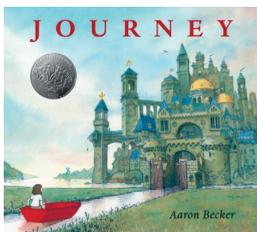
## THE JOURNEY: There and Back Again

Every day is a journey for children. The travel to and from school, questing around neighborhood, and journeys of the spirit and imagination are all opportunities for children to pursue adventure beyond the normal confines of home and hearth. And for most journeys, the final leg brings a traveler full circle; back to where they started. We return from our travels with a fuller appreciation for home, friends, family and all the things that we carry in our heart when we're away. The following titles all embody the spirit of adventurous journeys, while carrying along the fondness for home that's never

### Journey

By Aaron Becker  
(Candlewick)

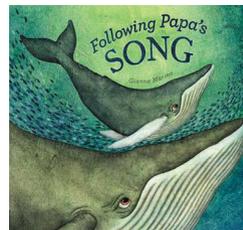
Faced with a distracted family and a yearning for adventure, a young girl plucks up a red crayon and draws a door into another world. As she travels through the neutral and pastel colors of the alternate landscape, her vibrant red crayon creates the things she needs to venture forth. She draws a red boat that takes her to a kingdom of kind people who welcome her exploration of their world. She then draws a red balloon that wafts her among a not-so-kind army of the air. When she's captured by the airmen, her red crayon is lost ...along with her means to return home. But a flash of rich purple emerges and may solve her problems both at home and abroad. A brilliantly executed work of art and storytelling, *Journey* is a steampunk-styled flight of wordless fancy that children will revisit again and again.



### Following Papa's Song

By Gianna Marino  
(Viking/Penguin)

In the seemingly endless ocean, Little Blue, a young blue whale, is preparing with his family for his first migration. But he's worried about being separated from his father on the journey. Traveling thousands of miles through the deep sea, a blue whale's home is vast and moveable. Home is where his family is. His father assures him that if he will listen, Little Blue can hear Papa's whale song and find him should he become lost. When Little Blue is distracted on the journey and becomes lost in the deep, he will need all his listening skill to hear the song of home. Lush edge-to-edge illustrations submerge the reader in all the hues of the deep oceans as they plumb the depths with father and son. *Following Papa's Song* is a moving and beautiful reminder of the call of home that resonates through every journey.



### Three Bears in a Boat

By David Soman (Dial/Penguin)

When three bears (playing where they shouldn't) break their mother's favorite blue seashell, they immediately run to the beach to hide. And as they huddle in the shadow of their boat, the brothers decide undertake a quest; to sail away to find a blue shell. They query other seafaring bears for clues as their journey carries them far afield, but their search yields no blue shell. As their odyssey lengthens, their tempers grow shorter and home seems farther away than ever. It takes the stirring of a great storm to reveal the welcome calms and turn their voyage homeward. Complete with a cheeky nod to 'Moby Dick', this title is a reassuring testament to treasures and safe welcome found at home.