

A Page in a Book[©]

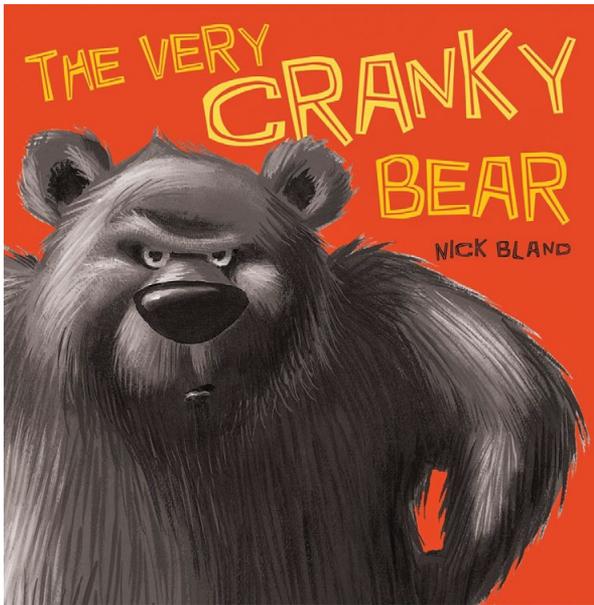
RECOMMENDING THE BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

By Gerry P. Smith



In the Jingle Jangle Jungle on a cold and rainy day,
four little friends found a perfect place to play.

Moose had marvelous antlers, and Lion, a golden mane.
Zebra had fantastic stripes, and Sheep . . . well, Sheep was plain.



The Very Cranky Bear

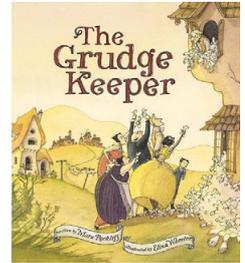
By Nick Bland (Orchard/Scholastic)

It's a rainy day in the jungle when the lion, moose, zebra and sheep settle into a dry cave for a friendly game of cards. But they quickly learn they are not alone as a very cranky bear, roused from his sleep, chases them back into the rain. As they discuss ways to make the bear happy, each friend offers his best attributes as possible olive branches. The lion is convinced the bear just needs a glorious mane. Splendid antlers and lovely stripes are recommended as offerings from the moose and zebra respectively. Only the plain sheep seems to have nothing fancy to contribute. But when the elegant gifts are angrily rejected by the bear, only the sheep takes time to inquire about what the bear wants most, paving the way for everyone to share the shelter during the rain. Gently suggesting that communication is a good first step toward solving a case of the grumpy, this title shares a soft solution for a very cranky bear!

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The Grudge Keeper

By Mara Rockliff, Illustrated by Eliza Wheeler (Peachtree)



At first glance, everything in the town of Bonnyripple seems bright and idyllic. But beneath the sunny exterior, an understorey of old harms, grudges and noses out of joint is building to capacity. The source of the build-up is in the house of the Grudge Keeper who collects the notes and letters in which townsfolk outline their grudges against friends and neighbors. But when a windy storm blows through the Grudge Keeper's house and airs all the townsfolk's grievances, the people of Bonnyripple get a chance to mend fences and put their grudges behind them. Lively illustrations and clever wordplay support the positive effects of communication and forgiveness in a thought-provoking exposition of the harm caused by holding a grudge.

Pardon Me!

By Daniel Miyares (Simon & Schuster)



Enjoying the solitude of a lonely island in the middle of the swamp, one yellow bird's peaceful repose quickly evaporates as other residents discover his patch of dry land. The bird's expression becomes more soured as his personal space is invaded by an egret, a frog and then a turtle, who all offer a "Pardon Me!" as they jostle for room. The bird's protests escalate until a final interloper triggers a rude outburst from the bird, who starts shouting at them all to leave. But he's so busy scolding the others away that he fails to hear an important warning about his treasured perch. Despite the "final" outcome for the crabby bird, there's a toothsome bit of schadenfreude in the last "Pardon Me!"