

## HOLIDAY HOUSE | EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



NEAL PORTER BOOKS

HC: 978-0-8234-4344-4 • E-book: 978-0-8234-4411-3 • Ages 3–7

# just in case you want to fly

by Julie Fogliano  
illustrated by Christian Robinson

★★★ THREE STARRED REVIEWS ★★★

★ A Bank Street Best Book of the Year—Outstanding Merit

## About the Book

This tender, contemplative picture book is about growing up. It's about parents giving their children the gifts, no matter how quiet or small, to succeed and to navigate the world on their own. And it's about the connection that binds a parent and child . . . because no matter how far they fly or who they become, they will always have home.

## Pre-Reading Activity

**Cover Examination**—Study the cover of the book. How many flying things do you see? What do you notice about the girl? How do her feet and hair reveal that she is swinging? Explain how swinging makes a person feel as if they are flying. How high do you think the girl can fly on her swing?

**Theme**—*Theme* explains what the book is about. Consider the title of the book and the illustration on the cover, and predict what you think the overall theme of the book might be.



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## Classroom Discussion Questions

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- **Movement**—In what direction are the birds flying on the end papers? How does this lead the reader to the next page? Explain how this illustration further reveals the theme of the book.
- **Growth**—Look at the title page. What is the relationship between the caterpillar and the butterfly? Why is the caterpillar looking toward the butterfly? What can a butterfly do that a caterpillar can't do?
- **Dedication**—What is the object on the dedication page? Why might this image have been chosen? Why are the girl and the dog sitting on it? Explain how the airplane can help the girl fly. In what other ways might a person fly?
- **Flight**—The next page shows clothes on a line. How can you tell that the wind is blowing? Explain how the wind helps things fly. What about the sky? Note the girl looking out the window. Remember the theme of the book. What is the girl thinking about? Imagine that you could fly. What things would you take along? What would you do on your journey?
- **Imagination**—Take a look at the store where the boy and his mother are shopping. What kind of store are they in? How do books ask people to use their imagination? How do books encourage readers to soar?
- **Shape Recognition**—Take a look at the double-page spread with the fork, spoon, cup, and dish. Why does the fork make a good vehicle for flying? Consider the shape of a spoon. Why does it make a good oar? Notice the fruit on the dish. Point out another place in the book where this fruit is found.
- **Dreams**—The boy on the last page is asleep, and likely dreaming. What do you think he is dreaming about?
- **Illustration Analysis**—The artist uses paint and collage to create the illustrations. Look carefully at the pictures. Which are created with paint? Which are created with collage? *Texture* is how things feel. Which illustrations seem as though you can feel them? Study the blanket on the last double-page spread. How do the objects on the blanket relate to the story?
- **Direction and Symbolism**—Note the direction the birds are flying on the last page. How does this symbolize the end of the story?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.



## About the Creators



Photo Credit: Jodi Palinkis

**Julie Fogliano** is the author of *Just in Case You Want to Fly*. She has also written bestselling children’s books including, *A House That Once Was*, illustrated by Lane Smith; *When Green Becomes Tomatoes*, illustrated by Julie Morstad; and *And Then It’s Spring* and *If You Want to See a Whale*, both illustrated by Erin E. Stead. She lives in the Hudson Valley in New York.

**Christian Robinson**, the illustrator of *Just in Case You Want to Fly*, is an acclaimed illustrator of children’s books, including *Gaston* by Kelly di Puchhio and the *New York Times* best-seller *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña, which won the Newbery Medal as well as a Caldecott Honor. He also illustrated *School’s First Day of School* by Adam Rex, the recipient of seven starred reviews and a *New York Times* best-seller.



Photo Credit: John Kwiatkowski

Julie and Christian have previously collaborated on *When’s My Birthday?*, which received five starred reviews and was named a *Boston Globe–Horn Book* Honor Book.



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