Engage readers in a discussion about the term “bright star.” What does it mean if you are a “bright star” in someone’s heart? Ask readers to name someone who’s a “bright star” to them. Then have them write two sentences that describes that person.
GROUP DISCUSSION

• What type of art does Yuyi Morales use to create the end pages of the book? Take a look at the title page. What on this page is the same art form? How does this art form represent Yuyi’s Mexican heritage?

• Setting is where a book takes place. Take hints from the art on the title page and discuss the setting of the book.

• Study the next two double-page spreads. Who is telling the story? Discuss whether the fawn is a newborn. How do you know? Describe how the mother deer takes care of her baby. Point out how Morales illustrates the part of the text that reads “you are awake” and “you are alive.”

• Explain what the mother deer means, “Some things you can see. Others you must find.”

• What do you think the mother and her fawn are searching for? Note the direction they are walking. Identify other creatures that are traveling in the same direction. Where are they taking the reader?

• What is the sign of warning on the next page? Take a close look at the animals. How do you know they are alert? What else does the deer teach her fawn about staying safe?

• Identify the place in the story where the fawn is alone in the desert world. How does this illustration and the one on the next page reveal fear and hurt?

• Study the illustration with the concrete wall and the barbed wire fence. Discuss all the broken things in the illustration. Why do you think the colors get darker at the wall? Where do you think the wall and the fence are located? What is the purpose of the wall? How does that hurt the animals and the people that Yuyi is writing about?

• What new story is the fawn imagining? What about the little girl on the next page? Explain what the bright flowers represent. Where do the children in the story live? Draw a connection between the pictures on their clothing to the overall story. How are they searching for the same thing as the fawn?

ACTIVITIES

• The hummingbird stands for joy, freedom, and good luck. It appears on the title page and in illustrations throughout the story. Return to the Pre-Reading Activity where readers were asked to name a person who is a “bright star” to them. Then ask them to draw a picture of their “bright star” and place a symbolic hummingbird in the picture.

• The deer tells her fawn that it’s important to express feelings. What is the fawn feeling when it reaches the wall? Study the children at the wall. What do you think they are feeling? Draw a picture of the wall, and write words on the wall that best reflect what the children might be thinking.

• Explain how the story is about hope, love, and survival. Allow readers to work with a partner or small group, and write a spine poem using one of the thematic words as the spine word.
Yuyi Morales was born in Xalapa, Mexico, where she currently resides. She is a six-time Pura Belpré Award winner and Caldecott Honor recipient. Her book Bright Star, a Small World, is for children looking for their place, and their dreams. What do you think their dreams are?

Ask readers to think about the lyrics to Disney's “It's a Small World.”
Lyrics: genius.com/Walt-disney-records-its-asmall-world-lyrics
Song: youtube.com/watch?v=PxRW-duSCLA

Why is the song sung in many languages? How is it about world peace?

Discuss the hopes and fears of the children in Bright Star and the mother and son in Dreamers. How does Morales make the reader aware of the world on both sides of the wall?

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About the Creator
Yuyi Morales

Dreamers

Bright Star

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