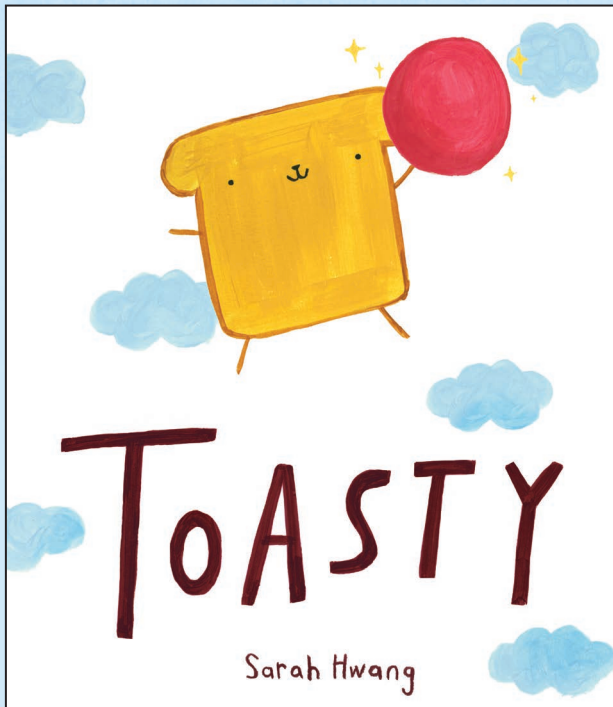


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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Margaret Ferguson Books

Toasty by Sarah Hwang

ABOUT THE BOOK

A deliciously funny story about Toasty, a piece of bread who wants to be a dog, inspired by the author's childhood experience as an immigrant and her discovery that you find your best friends when you're willing to just be yourself.

Toasty loves dogs—so much so that he'd like to be one. He knows there are some differences—most dogs have four legs, but Toasty has two arms and two legs. Some dogs sleep in dog houses, but Toasty sleeps in a toaster. All dogs have hair and fur, but Toasty has neither because he's made of bread. In spite of these differences, he decides to go to the park to play with the dogs but runs into trouble when they want to eat him. Lucky for Toasty, he is rescued by a little girl who has always wanted a dog but can't have one because she is allergic. Toasty is the perfect dog for her.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Study the illustration on the first double-page spread. Count the dogs that Toasty sees out his window. How many different kinds or breeds of dogs does Toasty see? The dogs in the story don't have names. Give them appropriate names.
- Toasty really wants to be a dog. How does his wish explain the illustration on the title page? What is Toasty holding in his hand in the cover art? How does this item relate to his desire to be a dog?



- Toasty is made of bread. Take a hint from the illustration and name the ingredients it takes to make Toasty.
- Toasty knows that he and dogs have many differences. Describe the differences.
- What does Toasty discover when he tries to do all the things dogs do? Take a look at the illustration where Toasty encounters a cat. Describe the cat. How does the illustrator make the cat look fierce and scary? Why does the illustration only show part of Toasty on this page? What does this reveal about the action between the cat and Toasty.
- What happens when Toasty tries to play with the dogs? Relate this illustration to the cover art. How does Toasty save himself?
- Take a close look at the illustration of the girl sitting on the park bench. How is she surprised when she hears “Woof, Woof” coming from her sandwich? The girl is looking all around to identify the sound. Explain how the illustrator shows the movement of the girl’s head.
- What happens when Toasty leaps in the air just before the girl takes a bite of her sandwich? Count the number of items on the girl’s sandwich.
- Explain why Toasty is the perfect dog for the girl. How does Toasty become the girl’s best friend? Discuss how Toasty’s life changes. How does the story end happily ever after for Toasty and the girl?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

photo credit Sarah Hwang



In addition to **Sarah Hwang’s** inspiration for *Toasty* coming from her childhood experience as an immigrant, her playful art came to mind when she saw a piece of toast that reminded her of the way she used to draw dogs as a child.

Sarah is a recent graduate of Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and lives in New Jersey. *Toasty* is her first picture book.

