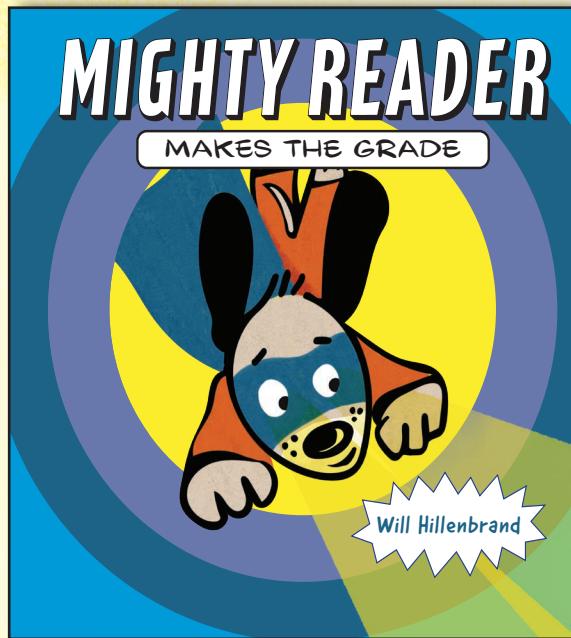
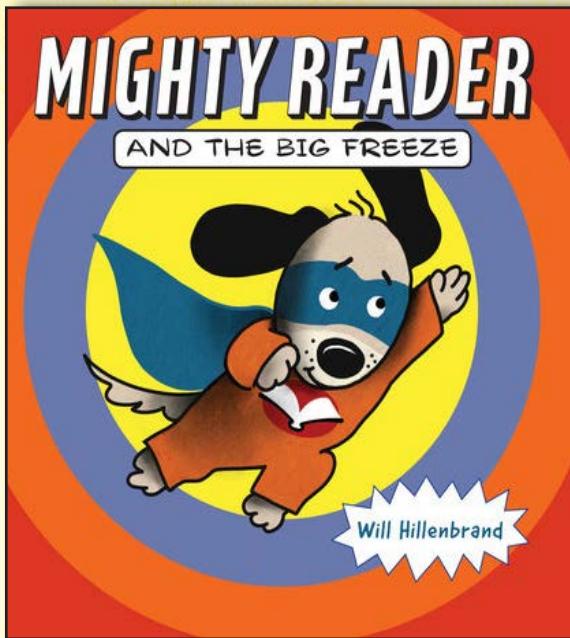


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE **MIGHTY READER**



by **WILL HILLENBRAND**

PRAISE FOR THE SERIES

- “Learning to read isn’t so scary when Mighty Reader’s around. . . . An em-paw-ering read for young pups.”
—Kirkus Reviews on *Mighty Reader and the Big Freeze*
- “This new title by the prolific author/illustrator combines overcoming the fear of reading aloud and how authors get their ideas and develop their books.”
—School Library Journal on *Mighty Reader and the Big Freeze*

ABOUT THE SERIES

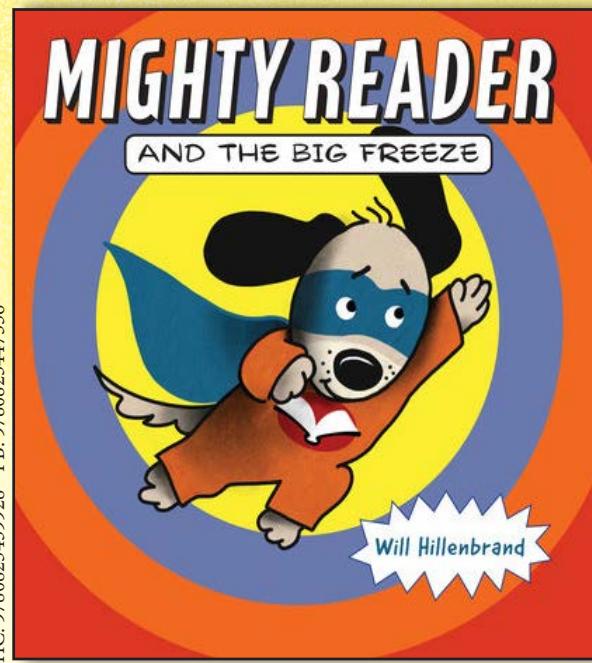
Mighty Reader is an adorable beagle with a mission: to help young readers gain confidence and enjoy the magic of stories. Will Hillenbrand, with consultation from his wife and partner, Jane, a longtime school-teacher, has created a world of heroes, villains, and the everyday fears children face when they’re finding their footing in school. “When I was a child, I had a learning disability that I didn’t know about, and deep inside I wished there was someone who could have rescued me,” says Will. “As an adult I made that person the hero of my book . . . and he’s also my hero because Mighty Reader rescues me, too.”



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#MightyReader



MIGHTY READER and the Big Freeze

ABOUT THE BOOK

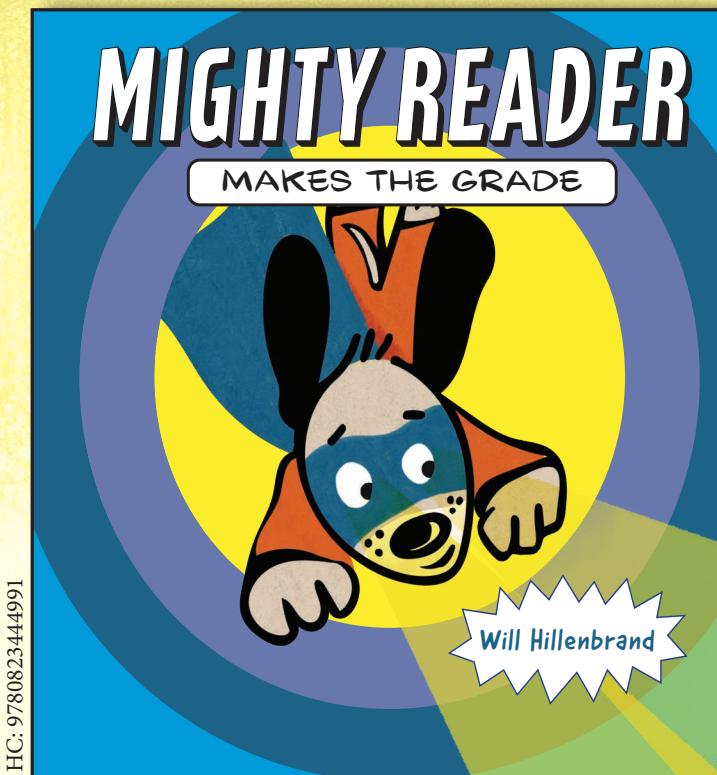
A new superhero is on the scene to inspire reluctant readers in this humorous comic book-style picture book series.

Hugo, a beagle puppy, transforms himself into Mighty Reader when his canine classmates run into reading disasters. In his first adventure, Hugo's new friend Barkley freezes up when he must read aloud in class.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does the cover art reveal about the main character? Describe the powers of a superhero. Define the word “mighty.” How can a superhero be considered mighty?
- Setting is where a story takes place. Study the illustration on the title page. What is interesting about the school bus? What does it resemble? How does it suggest the setting of the book?
- Hugo is a new student. Describe how he is feeling on the school bus on his first day. Is he lonely, scared, afraid? Discuss how the word “Slam!” adds to his worries. How do the other students react to Hugo? He sits next to Barkley on the bus. Make note of the book Barkley is reading. What does the cover of *The Adventures of Mighty Reader* reveal about Hugo?
- Explain how Ms. Wulff, the teacher, introduces Hugo to the class. Hugo reads aloud a book titled *All About Me*. What do you think is on the first page of Hugo’s book? What might Hugo add to his story after he meets Ms. Wulff and his new classmates?
- Ms. Wulff asks Barkley to read aloud *Spring Is Here*. Why is Barkley afraid to read the book aloud? Define “confidence.” How does Barkley need to boost his confidence? Explain how Hugo transforms himself in an effort to rescue Barkley. Which superhero does Hugo most resemble?
- Mighty Reader encourages Barkley to play “I spy” when reading the new book. Play “I spy” with *Mighty Reader and the Big Freeze*. What do you spy about Hugo’s classmates? What is the first hint that Hugo and Barkley are becoming friends? What do you spy about the “reading emergency”? Spy the background on the page when Barkley is “freezing up.” What does it reveal about what is happening to Barkley? How does Barkley become a hero to Ms. Wulff, the author, and the other students?
- Hugo and Barkley’s class meets an author. Barkley asks, “How do you make your stories?” Discuss the purpose of the illustration of the author in the shower. What is he thinking about? Why does the next illustration show him at his drawing table? The author says that he begins writing and illustrating with a dot. Then he takes it for a walk. Explain why Barkley takes *Spring Is Here* for a walk at the end of book.
- Will Hillenbrand uses panels, or frames, to tell the story. How is this style similar to a comic book? Point out places in the story where speech or word balloons are used. How does Hillenbrand show action? Why is it appropriate to tell the story of a superhero in the style of a comic book?





HC: 9780823444991

MIGHTY READER

Makes The Grade

ABOUT THE BOOK

Giant pencils, angry textbooks, and a no-good, awful test are threatening students. It's time for super dog Mighty Reader to save the day!

It's the night before a big test at school and pup Lulu's worries have come to life in a horrifying nightmare. Mighty Reader reminds Lulu how to knock out her fears with reading and partner power—they'll read together! Later he makes an appearance in the classroom to help calm the bundles of nerves. A reassuring and fun book for any reader with test anxiety.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read the title of the book. What do you think "Makes the Grade" means? How does the title give a hint that Mighty Reader is about to have another adventure? Explain how "Makes the Grade" suggests that his new mission is a success.
- The title page shows Hugo and his classmate Lulu. Suggest reasons why Lulu has her eyes closed. Conflict in a book is the problem to be solved. Discuss how the title page reveals who is at the center of the conflict.
- Theme is the message or big idea in the book. How is Lulu's fear of the state test a theme in the book? At the end of the book, discuss how she conquers her fear.
- Look closely at the first page. Lulu is worried because she overslept. Why is this particular day so important? Cite evidence from the illustration that Lulu is worried about the state test. At what point is it obvious that Lulu didn't oversleep, but is the main character in a nightmare? Discuss each part of the nightmare. Point out all of the things in the nightmare that refer to the state test.
- Who are the evil characters in Lulu's nightmare? Point out the main villain. What does Evil Eye want from Lulu? Explain Mighty Reader's plan to get rid of the nightmare. Which characters in the nightmare are the first to fall to his plan?
- Evil Eye might be considered a bully. Discuss ways to deal with bullies. Hugo throws his voice and gets Evil Eye's attention. Discuss the phrases that Hugo uses, for example, "your bark is worse than your bite." How does Evil Eye react? Explain what Hugo means when he calls "the fears" cowardly.
- What does armor mean? Why are Hugo and Lulu looking for a crack in Evil Eye's armor? Where is the crack? What happens when they blow out Evil Eye's light?
- Dialogue in a book is when the characters are talking. How does Will Hillenbrand use text and illustration to reveal the dialogue? How does the reader know which character is speaking? Take note of when Evil Eye is speaking. How do the white bold letters in a red dialogue bubble make Evil Eye seem fiercer and scarier?
- Explain Partner Power. How does Hugo save the day with his Pre-Test Flyover Chart? Discuss each suggestion on the chart. How do Hugo's suggestions help the entire class feel more relaxed about the test?



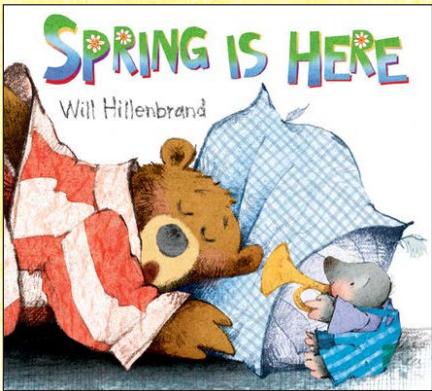
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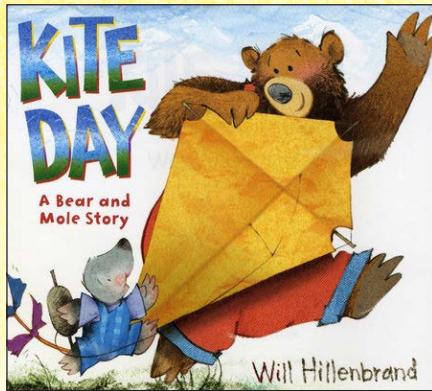
#MightyReader

MORE BOOKS BY WILL HILLENBRAND

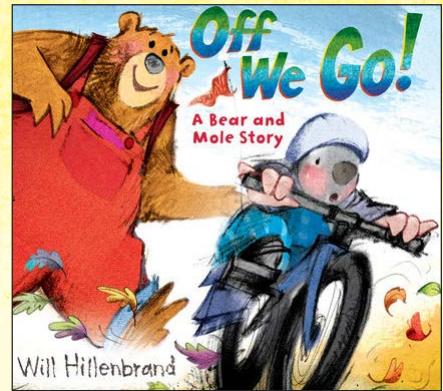
A BEAR AND MOLE STORY



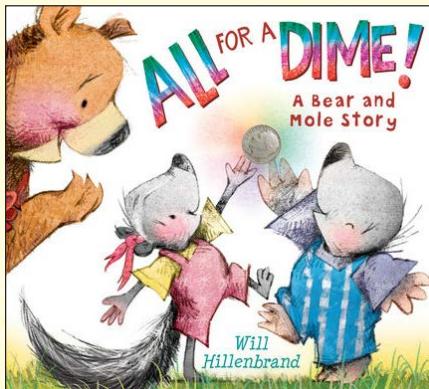
Spring is Here
PB: 9780823424313
E-Book: 9780823424467



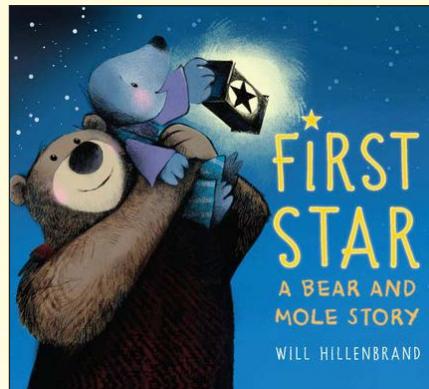
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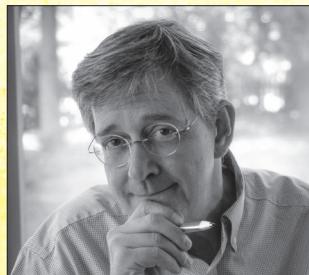


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First Star
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Will Hillenbrand has written and illustrated a wide range of picture books for children, including the popular Bear and Mole series. *Spring Is Here* won the Please Touch Museum Book Award. *What a Treasure!*, a Pennsylvania One Book, was written with his spouse, Jane Hillenbrand. A seasoned elementary school teacher, Jane serves as an advisor on the Mighty Reader Series. Will lives with his family in Terrace Park, Ohio. For activity sheets, videos, and to learn more about Will, visit WillHillenbrand.com.

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



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