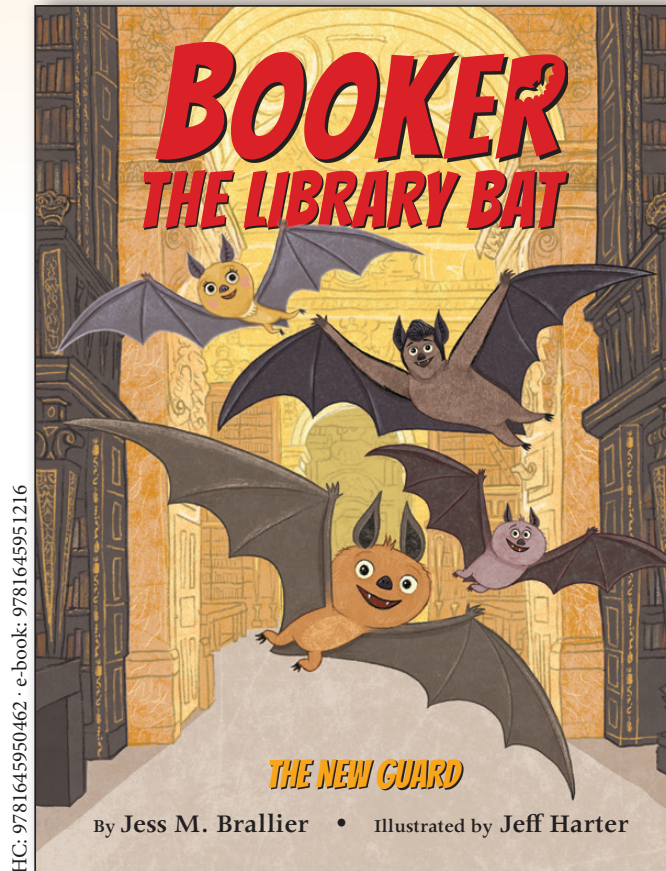


# PIXEL+INK

## EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



### *Booker the Library Bat 1: The New Guard*

by Jess M. Brallier  
illustrated by Jeff Harter

- Fact-based story based on the bats that protect the Joanina Library
- STEM-focused book grounded in facts about bats

### ABOUT THE BOOK

The launch of a picture book series about the adventures of a book-loving bat and his buddies as they patrol and protect their library home.

Booker the bat has completed his training and he's excited to report for duty as the newest guard at the Joanina Library in Coimbra, Portugal. His job is to fly through the stacks at night, gobbling down the bugs that are in turn eating the 200,000 antique leather books. There's only one problem: how will he fit in with the other guards? They're so cool and confident, and what if they don't like him? But when Booker spots a human attempting to steal pages from one of the valuable books, he summons his courage, (echo)locates the other bat guards, and swoops in with a plan to save the day!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Define guard. What is the job of a book guard?
- Read the paragraph about Joanina Library in Coimbra, Portugal. How did the bats become known as guards? How does the illustration on the first double-page spread reveal Booker's desire to work in the library? Explain the significance of his name.
- Booker is the library's newest guard. What does he learn the first night on the job? Explain what he means when he says his first night feels "like his first day of school." Why does he worry about fitting in with the other guards? Note the other guards. What does Booker see and hear when he looks up from his book?



- What does Booker learn about Rocco, Teddy, and Tess on pages 5 and 6? Point out Booker in the illustration on page 6. Why is he hunched at the bottom of the page? There is a lot of humor in the book. How is this double-page spread especially funny? Discuss how Booker worries about being funny after observing the other guards.
- What is the rare book room? How are the books in this room especially valuable? What does Booker discover in this room? Explain how the illustration on pages 9 and 10 shows that an evil act is occurring. Look closely at the illustration. Why do you think only the man's hands and the dagger are shown? How does the beam of light from the flashlight lead readers' eyes to the crime?
- What is Booker's plan to ensure the thief is caught? He gathers the other guards to help. Explain why poop is their best ammunition.
- Study the last illustration. How do Booker's wings make him look as though he is taking a bow? What does the smile on his face indicate? Does Booker ever have to worry about fitting in again?

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

## ABOUT THE CREATORS



**Jess M. Brallier** is a publisher working in various media—books, websites, apps, and virtual worlds including *Poptropica*. The author of more than thirty books for children and adults, including *Tess's Tree*, he lives in New York City with his wife.



**Jeff Harter** is a freelance illustrator, character designer, and a professor of Illustration at Cleveland Institute of Art. He worked as a staff artist for the Walt Disney Animation Studio and Disney Consumer Products, and later for American Greetings; created two animated children's comedies for Disney XD and the CBBC; and won the Chairman's Grand Award for Creativity and Innovation. Jeff's favorite childhood stories inspired him to imagine that he might just find a white rabbit late for an important date, a Scarecrow alongside a yellow brick road, or perhaps even Santa Claus building toys in his workshop somewhere nearby. He lives in Northeast Ohio with his wonderful wife and three amazing daughters. Visit him online at [JeffHarter.com](http://JeffHarter.com).

