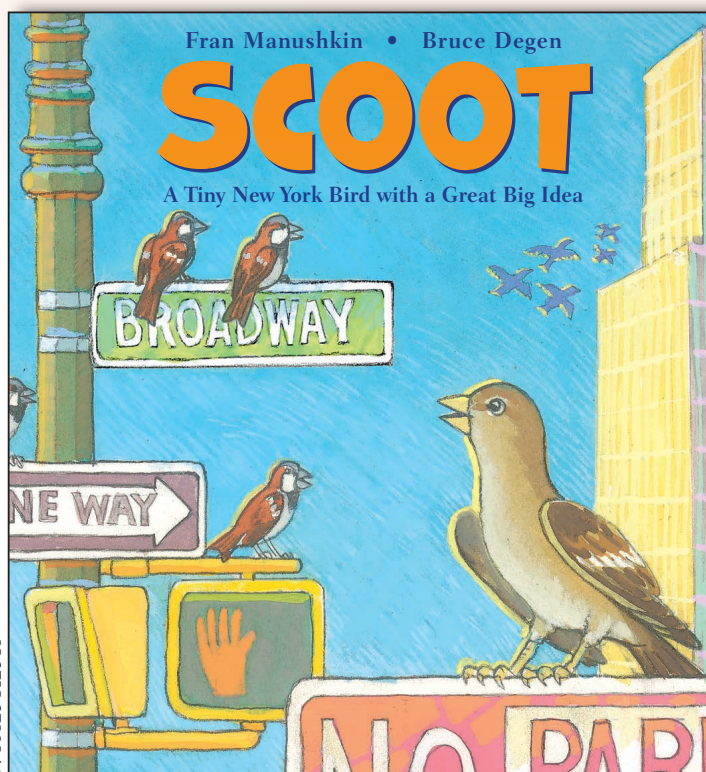


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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SCOOT

A Tiny New York Bird with a Great Big Idea

by Fran Manushkin
illustrated by Bruce Degen

ABOUT THE BOOK

A little sparrow displays big courage as she journeys across the iconic New York City skyline to save a flock of traveling birds.

Scoot! Busy people on the bustling New York City streets shout at a little sparrow, but Scoot loves exploring the tasty smells and sparkling sights of the city with her new friend Scram. Busy cabs on Fifth Avenue. Glitzy dancers at Radio City Music Hall. Shoemakers, dressmakers, and bakers working all day. Scoot wants to be a part of it all, but what can a little bird do? When flocks of migrating birds get lost among the shiny windows and nighttime lights, Scoot and her new friends guide the birds to safety, discovering that they can do more than get out of the way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Study the cover art. Which bird do you think has the “Great Big Idea”?
- Look closely at the title page. Where does Scoot live? The first page says that the Scoot’s nest is “cozy” and “narrow.” Define “cozy.” Explain how “narrow” makes the nest “cozy.”
- What is a skyline? Point out the tallest building in the New York City skyline. The sparrow smells different foods. Explain why Scoot calls the area around the food trucks a “sidewalk buffet.”



- Many of the illustrations in the book are in panels. Explain how the panels reveal different views of the city. Note the paneled illustrations on page 4. How does the illustration in the first panel relate to the other panels? What is the greatest danger to Scoot in this illustration?
- An older bird tells Scoot that she needs “street smarts.” Discuss the meaning of “street smarts.” How is being “street smart” necessary for survival in a city?
- Discuss the meaning of “bird’s-eye view.” Point out the illustrations in the book with a “bird’s-eye view.” What does the city look like to the birds? Metaphor is a type of figurative language that compares two things that are not alike. Explain the following metaphor: “The bridges wore jewels.” What are the jewels? Find other metaphors in the story.
- Explain how the migrating birds are confused by the night lights of New York City. What is the reaction from the other city birds when Scoot wants to help the migrating birds? Discuss Scoot’s big idea.
- Read the Author’s Note and discuss how New York City Audubon has helped the birds in migration.
- Study the key to the New York City landmarks in the back of the book. Find the landmarks in the story. Match the birds in the story to the illustrations of actual birds provided at the end of the book.

ABOUT THE CREATORS



Fran Manushkin is the author of many popular picture books, including *How Mama Brought the Spring*; *Baby, Come Out!*; *Latkes and Applesauce: A Hanukkah Story*; and *The Tushy Book*. She is also the author of the long-running Katie Woo series, with 36 books, and Pedro series. Fran lives in New York City.



Bruce Degen is the illustrator of the Magic School Bus series and both author and illustrator of the classic picture book *Jamberry*. He lives in Newtown, Connecticut.

