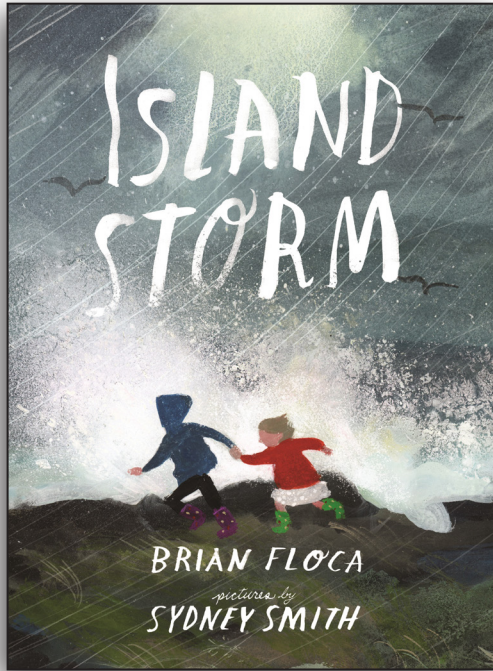


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Neal Porter Books

HC: 9780823456475 · Ebook: 9780823463152

Island Storm

by **Brian Floca**

illustrated by **Sydney Smith**

- ★ “A thrilling story.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)
- ★ “The power of nature captivates and compels in this phenomenal tale of pushing limits.”
—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection

ABOUT THE BOOK

In Caldecott Medalist Brian Floca and acclaimed illustrator Sydney Smith’s thrilling picture book, young readers will experience the sheer power of a violent thunderstorm and the calm of its aftermath.

Can you tell when a storm is coming? Can you feel the wind coming and growing? Do you hear the branches bouncing together, hear the whispers of the wind through the leaves?

Join in the journey as two siblings bear witness to the steady start, thrilling apex, and gentle end of this island storm. They’ll shelter soon, but first they want to feel it all.

Sydney Smith is the winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the highest international distinction given to authors and illustrators of children’s books, and his illustrations are fantastically textured and visually spectacular. Paired with Brian Floca’s eloquent, rhythmic text, *Island Storm* is a multi-sensory experience that will amaze and delight readers. Children who fear thunder can take comfort in seeing it captured in the pages, while those who relish watching the sky crack open can enjoy battling this storm from the comfort of their homes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Consider the title of the book. What is the book about? Take a look at the title page. Why are the children looking out the window? What do you think they see? Turn the page. How does the artist reveal the approaching storm?
- Take the walk to the sea with the children (p. 8–9). Why do you think the walk is illustrated in three panels? How does the size of the children change in each panel? What is significant or important in the bottom panel? Explain the close-up view of the children’s faces. Why are the girl’s eyes closed? What is the boy seeing?



- Poetry stirs a reader's imagination or emotions. Debate whether this book is a poem. What feelings do you experience while reading the book? Point to the illustrations that help you feel. There is often a rhythm to poetry. Discuss the rhythm of the text. In what ways do the illustrations contribute to the rhythm of the book?
- The author uses figurative language to create certain images in the reader's mind. Review the meaning of the following types of figurative language:
 - Personification – gives human qualities to nonhumans
 - Onomatopoeia – words that sound like the noises they describe
 - Simile – compares two unlike objects using like or as
 - Metaphor – describes something by saying it's something else
 Find examples in the book of each type of figurative language.
- Describe the children's journey from the sea to their home. How do the people prepare for the storm? How does the illustrator create fear? Symbolism is when something stands for something else. The children see a light in the window as they near their home. What does the light symbolize? What do the children find when they arrive home? Discuss the day after the storm on the island.

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

ABOUT THE CREATORS



Photo credit: Brian Floca

Brian Floca is the author and illustrator of the Caldecott Medal-winning and *New York Times* bestselling book *Locomotive*, as well as *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11* and *Lightship*, both of which garnered Sibert Honors. He is also the illustrator of the popular Poppy series, by Avi, and Richard Jackson's *With Dad*. Born and raised in Temple, Texas, he now lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.



Photo credit: Steve Farmer

Sydney Smith is the author and illustrator of *Do You Remember?* and *Small in the City*, which received eight starred reviews and a silver medal from the Society of Illustrators. He is the illustrator of *My Baba's Garden* and the Schneider Family Book Award winner *I Talk Like a River*, both written by Jordan Scott. He is a recipient of the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award, two Governor General's Awards for Illustrated Children's Books, and four *New York Times* Best Illustrated Children's Book of the Year citations, among other accolades. He lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with his wife and two sons.

