

Raj the Bookstore Tiger

By Kathleen T. Pelley
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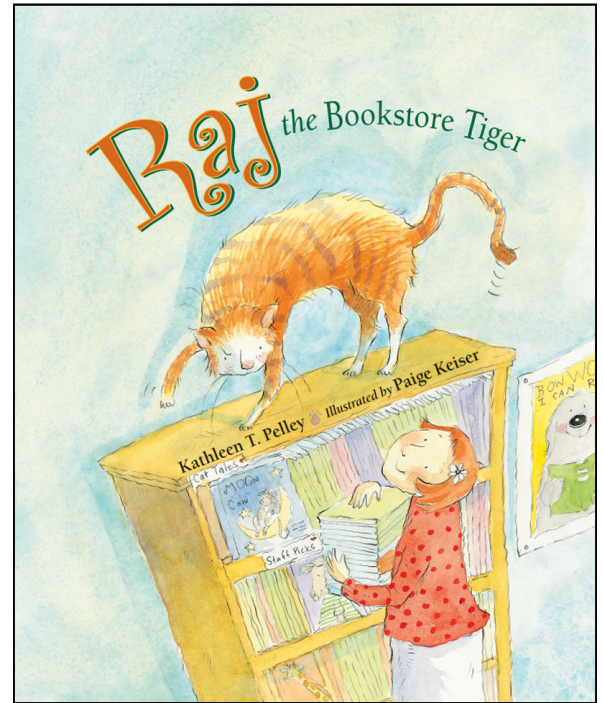
A Discussion and Activity Guide

Developed by Kathleen T. Pelley and Charlesbridge

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Being a bookstore tiger is hard work. There's much patrolling, and a lot of sitting in laps at story hour, and then there's sleeping in the window display. But Raj is up to the task. He is fierce and proud—until Snowball comes along. The new cat in the bookstore informs Raj that he's just a marmalade kitty-cat. Times get tough, then, for the bookstore tiger. With help from his owner and some wise words from a famous poet, Raj regains his confidence and helps Snowball do the same.

Visit www.charlesbridge.com to watch the book trailer!



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Ages 5–8 • 8 x 10 • 32 pages
Full-color illustrations

Discussion Questions

Before reading *Raj the Bookstore Tiger*:



Show your students the cover of the book. Ask them:

- What do you think the story is about?
- Who is the main character?
- What do you think a bookstore tiger is?
- What kind of things might a bookstore tiger do?

While reading:



Have fun guessing what happens along the way. Go through the book and study the illustrations with your students before reading out loud. Let the children make up the story, then go back and read it out loud. How was their story different from the book? How was it the same?

After reading:



Discuss with your students why Raj thought he was a tiger. Encourage them to cite specific examples and evidence from the book. How was Raj like a tiger? How was he different?




Discuss the concept of bullying with your class. Here are some questions to get a conversation started:

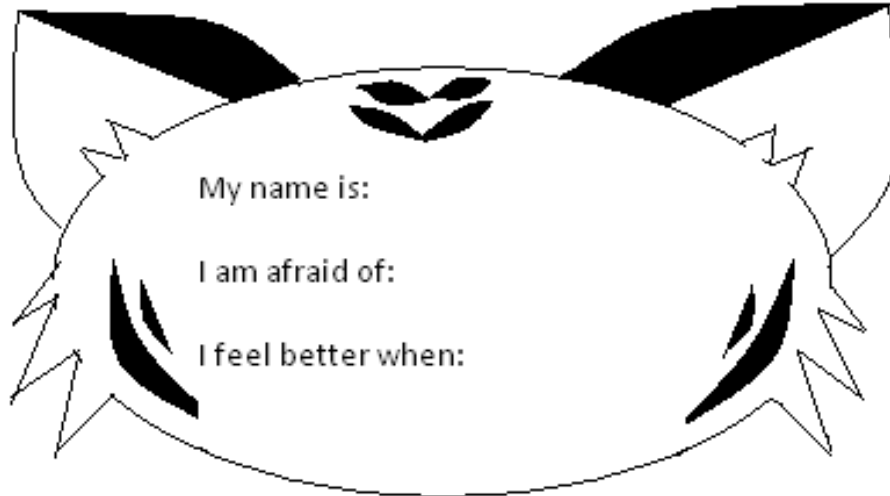
- Why was Snowball mean to Raj?
- Why do you think bullies act the way they do?
- How can you handle a situation like Raj's?
- What made Raj feel better?
- What makes you feel better when someone is unkind to you?




Activities

Personal Growth and Development

-  **I'm a Tiger!** Even tigers are timid sometimes. In *Raj the Bookstore Tiger*, Snowball bullies Raj and makes him feel bad. Complete the sentences in the tiger face below to share when you feel like Raj did and what you do to feel better. When you're done, color it in!




-  **What Word Are You?** When Raj looks at himself, he sees a **tiger**. What words do you think best describe you? Pick ten words and list them in the spaces provided below. These words can relate to your appearance, personality, things you love, people you like, etc.






Language Arts

 **Poetry Recitation:** In *Raj the Bookstore Tiger*, Raj memorizes the poem *The Tyger* by William Blake and likes to recite it to himself.



For younger children: Memorize a poem as a class, with each child being responsible for one line.

For older children: Pick one of your favorite poems and learn it by heart. Present your poem to the class and explain why it is that you like it and how it makes you feel.

 **Poetic Devices:** Poets often use poetic devices to add beauty and complexity to their works. Here are some definitions and examples of a few poetic devices:

Alliteration: the repetition of the beginning sounds of words, e.g. “**S**ally **s**ells **s**ea shells.”

Onomatopoeia: a word that sounds like its meaning, e.g. “hiss,” “buzz,” “splat.”

Hyperbole: an obvious and intentional exaggeration, e.g. “I’m so hungry I could eat a horse.”

Simile: a comparison using “like” or “as,” e.g. “Dark as night.”

For younger children: Complete the similes below :

As brave as a _____

As tall as a _____

As hungry as a _____

As pretty as a _____

For older children: The poem *The Tyger* by William Blake is comprised of six groups of quatrains in rhymed couplets. A **quatrain** is a stanza or poem of four lines. A **couplet** is two successive lines of poetry. In the space provided below, write your own quatrain with rhymed couplets about your favorite animal or pet. Try to use at least two of the poetic devices mentioned above in your poem.

Title: _____
