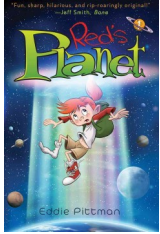


Oh, the Thinks You Can Think

Red's Planet by Eddie Pittman



[view in catalog](#)

Fans of *Zita the Space Girl* will feel right at home in this charming graphic novel. While the bulk of the story takes place in space, featuring aliens, strange planets, and the loss of shoes, it is fundamentally a story about belonging and identity. While there are some scenes of peril that might be too much for more sensitive readers, this graphic novel tells an accessible and interesting story that will appeal to children ages 8 ? 12 who enjoy action, adventure, and science fiction.

The story begins with our unnamed heroine, known only as Red, running away from her foster family only to be picked up by the police. However, before the police can take her home they are involved in a high-speed chase with a spaceship. Red ends up being mistakenly kidnapped and taken across the universe. There, she ends up in an auction hosted by an ancient creature known as the Aquilari, who collects rare and valuable artifacts from across the universe, but before the reader can learn more the ship is attacked by space pirates and crashes onto a planet nobody, not even the aliens, is familiar with. On this seemingly desolate desert planet, Red must learn to bond with her traveling companions, avoid the tiny, disproportionately hungry wildlife, and find a way to survive.

Funny and disarming, this story is a lighthearted romp through space. The colors and illustrations are vivid and dynamic, drawing the reader through the story. Pittman has an eye for color and knows how to use the art to enhance and provide comic relief for his text. While the plotting does need to be evened out for the sequel and there are several moments where the story seems to lag, overall Pittman has crafted a story that engages readers and leaves them eager to know what happens next for our stranded heroine.

Posted by Sam O. on May 12, 2016

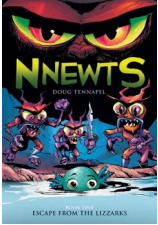
[Red's Planet](#)

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Nnewts: Escape from the Lizzarks by Doug TenNapel



[view in catalog](#)

A war between amphibians and lizards, with humor, magic, and villains with mustaches. All of these elements can be found in *NNewts*, which introduces readers to a new series featuring a clash between amphibians, the Nnewts, and their scaly counterparts, the Lizzarks. Told in rich and vibrant colors, this graphic novel tells a beautiful, humorous, heart wrenching, and charming story that will appeal to children 9 and up who enjoy tales of adventure and fantasy.

The series opens on a young NNewt, Herk, whose legs are underdeveloped, which forces him to spend his days in the family pond fighting imaginary monsters, until the day the Lizzarks, commanded by the Snake Lord, attack. Herk's family is killed in the assault and he is forced to flee through underground waterways to escape. These events start Herk's epic journey as he tries to find those responsible for the death of his family. On this quest, he meets the first Nnewt, Anthigar, in his ruined, watery kingdom and learns what really happened to his legs. Herk also learns that his village was not the only Nnewt settlement and that there are darker, more sinister forces at work and somehow he is at the center of these events. Herk must look within and master new abilities if he is to save himself, the remaining NNewts, and defeat the evil Snake Lord.

Tennapel is grappling with many issues in this story, unabashedly dealing with death, purpose, and identity, but doing so in an accessible way. The artwork heavily relies on varying shades of green, red, purple, and orange to create a vivid and dynamic story that almost leaps off the page. While this tale does feature violence, it never veers too heavily into visual details and intersperses humor throughout to lighten the mood. This series' quick pace, vibrant colors, and engaging story could also draw in reluctant readers as they follow Herk's quest. While there are some elements of the plot that need fleshing out, overall this story is excellent and leaves the reader eager to read book two, *NNewts: The Rise of Herk*, available now.

Posted by Sam O. on March 11, 2016

[Nnewts: Escape from the Lizzarks](#)

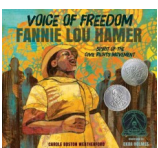
[Graphic Novels](#)

[Children's](#)

[Oh, the Things You Can Think](#)

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Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement



[view in catalog](#)

For a powerful and poetic glimpse into the life of a real-life American civil rights hero, look no further than *Voice of Freedom*, a 2016 Caldecott Honor book written by Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated in beautiful collages by Ekua Holmes. Each haunting poem includes

Fannie Lou Hamer's own words, and each tells of a formative experience in her eventful life. She was at the forefront of many important events in civil rights history, and sadly, like many black citizens of the U.S. both past and present, experienced brutality at the hands of cruel white people so severe that she was left with permanent injuries. Her ability to rise above incredible injustices and to be a leader for her people was second to none. Highly recommended for grades 4 and up.

Posted by Ellen A. on February 25, 2016

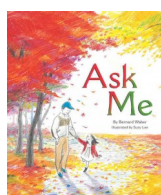
[Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer](#)

[African American](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Ellen A.'s blog](#)[Log in](#) to post comments

Ask Me: Bonding with Books and Stories



[view in catalog](#)

"Truly listening to someone reminds them that their lives matter; and reminds us all of what matters most."

The statement above is included in a [short video](#) produced by StoryCorps and Google encouraging people to take part in StoryCorps' "Great Thanksgiving Listen." The [StoryCorps organization](#) aims "to provide people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share and preserve the stories of our lives." This Thanksgiving, Storycorps encourages high school students, especially, to interview grandparents, or another older friend or relative, and use the StoryCorps app to record and share the interview. But you don't have to be in high school to take part. And taking time to talk with and truly listen to the stories our friends and relatives have to tell is a gift we can give each other at any time.

The picturebook *Ask Me* by Bernard Waber, echoes the message promoted by the StoryCorps initiative. Illustrated by Suzy Lee in rich red, yellow and orange colors, it shows a father and daughter enjoying the outdoors together on a lovely Autumn day. "Ask me what I like," the girl says to her father. And he does. And after she answers, he asks: "What else do you like?" encouraging continued conversation as they examine bugs and flowers, kick through fallen leaves and enjoy made up words like splashing and splooshing.

Throughout the peaceful story, the father gives his daughter his full and undivided attention. He's not trying to shop for groceries, clean his home, or check his phone for messages. He's listening and responding and encouraging his daughter's curiosity and letting her know that her words and stories matter to him; that what she thinks and says is important; that *she* is important to him. Reading to children also provides an opportunity to pause our busy lives and spend time together. Picturebooks, notable for their informative and appealing illustrations, often include a greater variety of words than we normally use as part of our everyday conversation. Reading and listening to picturebooks and other stories can help children increase their word knowledge - and world knowledge - as the subjects represented in picturebook format range from friends and family to rabbits and robotics.

And after you've finished the story, you can ask your listener: What do *you* think? What did *you* like best? What would *you* like to read about next?

Posted by Lisa C. on November 25, 2015

[Ask Me](#)

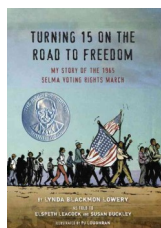
[Storytelling](#)

[Picture Book](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Lisa C.'s blog](#)[Log in to post comments](#)

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom



[view in catalog](#)

"I would like for young people to know that each day of your life is a journey into history and that you are making that history. And you have the ability to change something each day of your life. Believe it or not, people, it can't happen without you."

- Lynda Blackmon Lowery, [interview on National Public Radio](#) [Read more](#)

Posted by Lisa C. on September 5, 2015

[Turning 15 on the road to freedom : my story of the Selma Voting Rights March](#)

[African American](#)

[Civil Rights](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Lisa C.'s blog](#)[Log in to post comments](#)

Little Makers Make - Seed Bombs!



Summer is a great time to get outside and get your hands dirty. We did just that at our Generations Gardening Together program in May and again, earlier this month, at Little Makers. Ginny and friends got green with a fun spring/summer activity, creating seed bombs!



Seed Bombs are small balls made from clay, seed, and dirt that will explode with beautiful flowers when planted or thrown into dirt areas. They're great for exploring nature and present an

opportunity for learning. Even more important, they're fun and can incorporate some of Every Child Ready to Read's five daily practices, such as playing and talking. Why stop there? Add in a song or a reading and writing activity to get the full five practices! Try the fingerplay "My Garden" performed by our own librarian, Mary and one of the recommendations on our Gardening Books for Kids list.



What You'll Need :

- Potting soil
- Red clay
- Flower seeds (we used wildflower seeds)

What To Do :

1. Knead the clay to soften it.
2. Once the clay is moldable, flatten and shape the clay into a disc shape.
3. On top of the clay disc, add $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of potting soil and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of flower seeds.
4. Fold the clay inward, keeping the soil and seeds from spilling out. Mold the clay into a ball around the soil and seeds.
5. In a bowl, mix some soil and seeds together.
6. Roll your seed bomb through the soil and seeds. Try to get an even covering of soil and seeds on the clay.
7. Gently pat the soil and seeds into the clay to incorporate them into the clay ball.
8. Toss the seed bomb wherever you'd like plants to grow!





Posted by Aubrey D. on July 21, 2015

Oh, the Thinks You Can Think

Aubrey D.'s blog[Log in to post comments](#)

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