

Summer Reading with  
**KATE DICAMILLO**



“When we read together — when a grandfather reads to a granddaughter, when a teacher reads to a classroom, when a parent reads to a child, when a sister reads to a brother, when everyone in a town reads the same book silently, together — we are taken out of our aloneness.

Together, we see the world. Together, we see one another.

We connect.

And when we connect, we are changed.”

**CANDLEWICK PRESS**

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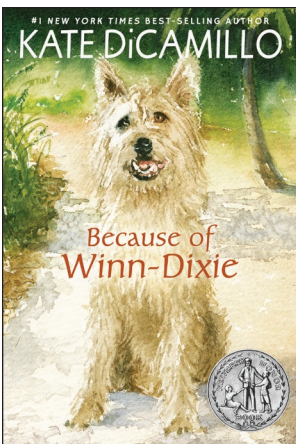


Photo copyright © 2013 by Catherine Smith Photography.

**Kate DiCamillo** is one of America’s most beloved storytellers, and the universal themes of hope and belief amid impossible circumstances are a common thread in much of her writing. She was the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature for 2014–2015 and the Collaborative Summer Library Program National Summer Reading Champion for 2016, and she is also a two-time Newbery Medalist and a National Book Award finalist. Many of her best-known titles are used by educators as classroom read-alouds and mentor texts, are common selections for summer reading lists, and are adopted by One Book, One School programs across the country.

To learn more about Kate DiCamillo, visit [www.katedicamillostoriesconnectus.com](http://www.katedicamillostoriesconnectus.com).

**Use the works of Kate DiCamillo and the accompanying resources to help your students avoid the summer slide and stay connected.**



### ***Because of Winn-Dixie*** (ages 9–12)

#### **A Newbery Honor Book**

This title has appeared on state award reading lists in: AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NE, NH, NM, NY, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA, VT, WI, WV

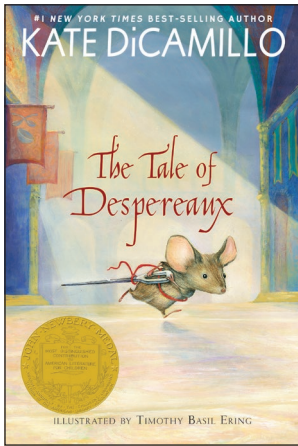
#### **About the Book**

One summer’s day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries—and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It’s because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it’s because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about everything that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie.

#### **Questions to Consider**

- Some literary characters make a very strong first impression, just the way some people do. Take a closer look at the novel’s opening paragraph. How does Opal introduce herself to the reader? What do you discover about her life and her personality right from the start?
- Winn-Dixie is ugly, limping, and smelly, but Opal knows within moments that she loves him with all her heart. What makes the stray so irresistible? Why is Opal so ready for something to love?
- “Just about everything that happened to me that summer happened because of Winn-Dixie,” Opal says. Do you agree with her?

HC: 978-0-7636-5007-0 • PB: 978-0-7636-8086-2 • Also available as an e-book • GRL R / Lexile 610L



## *The Tale of Despereaux* (ages 7–10)

with illustrations by Timothy Basil Ering

### Winner of the Newbery Medal

This title has appeared on state award reading lists in: AK, AR, CO, DE, FL, IL, KY, MA, ME, MI, MN, NC, NJ, NM, NY, OK, OR, PA, RI, TN, VT, WI

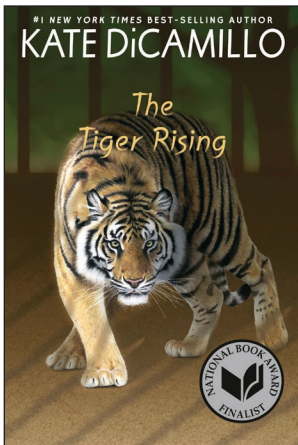
### About the Book

Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into one another's lives.

### Questions to Consider

- How is Despereaux different from the other mice? Why does his father report him to the Mouse Council?
- Why did the king outlaw soup, spoons, bowls, and kettles?
- Why is Miggery Sow not afraid when she has to bring food to the dungeon?
- How does Despereaux give himself courage?

HC: 978-0-7636-1722-6 • PB: 978-0-7636-8089-3 • Also available as an e-book • GRL U / Lexile 670L



## *The Tiger Rising* (age 10 and up)

### A National Book Award Finalist

This title has appeared on state award reading lists in: AR, IN, MN

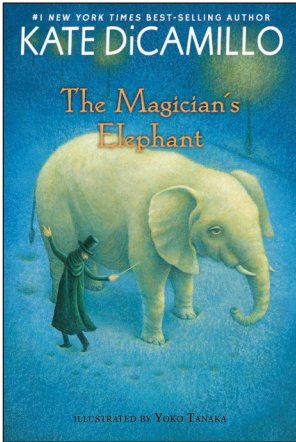
### About the Book

Walking through the misty Florida woods one morning, twelve-year-old Rob Horton is stunned to encounter a tiger—a real-life, very large tiger—pacing back and forth in a cage. What's more, on the same extraordinary day, he meets Sistine Bailey, a girl who shows her feelings as readily as Rob hides his. As they learn to trust each other, and ultimately to be friends, Rob and Sistine prove that some things—like memories, and heartache, and tigers—can't be locked up forever.

### Questions to Consider

- Throughout most of the story, how does Rob cope with things he can't change?
- Sistine and Rob handle problems and situations in different ways. Which way do you think is better?
- How does whittling help Rob cope with life in Lister? Name some of the objects he whittles. What is their significance?

HC: 978-0-7636-5270-8 • PB: 978-0-7636-8087-9 • Also available as an e-book • GRL T / Lexile 520L



## *The Magician's Elephant* (ages 8–12)

with illustrations by Yoko Tanaka

This title has appeared on state award reading lists in: AL, CO, DE, KY, MA, ME, MN, ND, NJ, OR

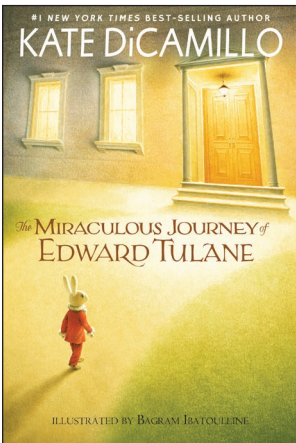
### **About the Book**

When a fortuneteller's tent appears in the market square of the city of Baltese, orphan Peter Augustus Duchene knows the questions that he needs to ask: Does his sister still live? And if so, how can he find her? The fortuneteller's mysterious answer sets off a chain of events so remarkable, so impossible, that you will hardly dare to believe it's true. This timeless fable evokes the largest of themes—hope and belonging, desire and compassion—with the lightness of a magician's touch.

### **Questions to Consider**

- What is the great lie that Vilna Lutz tells Peter? Why does he tell it?
- How does the arrival of the elephant stir up the people of Baltese?
- When does Peter realize that he doesn't want to be a soldier anymore? What makes him turn against his military training?
- What promise does Peter make to the elephant? How does he succeed in keeping it?

HC: 978-0-7636-4410-9 • PB: 978-0-7636-8088-6 • Also available as an e-book and in audio • GRL U / Lexile 730L



## *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (ages 7–10)

with illustrations by Bagram Ibatoulline

This title has appeared on state award reading lists in: AK, AL, AR, AZ, CO, FL, IL, IN, KY, MI, MS, NJ, NV, NY, OR, PA, SC, SD, UT, WI

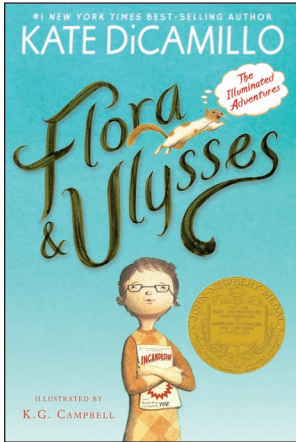
### **About the Book**

Set off on an extraordinary journey, from the depths of the ocean to the net of a fisherman, from the top of a garbage heap to the fireside of a hoboes' camp, from the bedside of an ailing child to the bustling streets of Memphis. And along the way, witness a true miracle—that even a heart of the most breakable kind can learn to love, to lose, and to love again.

### **Questions to Consider**

- Why does Pellegrina tell the story to Abilene and Edward about a princess who loves no one and is turned into a warthog by a witch?
- Why does it matter to Edward that he has been loved?
- What are some of the life lessons Edward learns on his journey, through good times and bad? What life lessons have you learned that you would like to pass on to someone else?

HC: 978-0-7636-2589-4 • PB: 978-0-7636-8090-9 • Also available as an e-book • GRL U / Lexile 700L



### *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* (ages 8–12)

with illustrations by K. G. Campbell

#### Winner of the Newbery Medal

This title has appeared on state award reading lists in: AL, DE, HI, KY, MA, ME, MI, MN, NC, NM, OH, PA, TN, TX, VT, WI

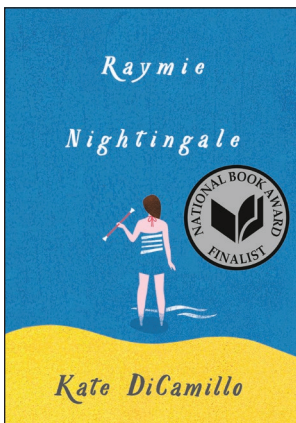
#### About the Book

It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw the vacuum cleaner coming, but self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, who has read every issue of the comic book *Terrible Things Can Happen to You!*, is just the right person to step in and save him. What neither can predict is that Ulysses (the squirrel) has been born anew, with powers of strength, flight, and misspelled poetry—and that Flora will be changed, too, as she discovers the possibility of hope and the promise of a capacious heart. This laugh-out-loud story is filled with eccentric, endearing characters and comic-style graphic sequences.

#### Questions to Consider

- Much of this story is told through the illustrations. How are comic books different from regular books?
- What do you think is the funniest scene in the book? Describe it.
- Flora and Ulysses are both lost and trying to find home. Where do they end up? How does each one figure out how to get home?

HC: 978-0-7636-6040-6 • PB: 978-0-7636-8764-9 • Also available as an e-book • GRL U / Lexile 520L



### *Raymie Nightingale* (age 10 and up)

#### A National Book Award Finalist

#### About the Book

Raymie Clarke has come to realize that everything, absolutely everything, depends on her. And she has a plan. If Raymie can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father, who left town two days ago, will (maybe) come home. To win, not only does Raymie have to do good deeds and learn how to twirl a baton, she also has to contend with the wispy, frequently fainting Louisiana Elefante, who has a show-business background, and the fiery, stubborn Beverly Tapinski, who's determined to sabotage the contest. But as the competition approaches, the three girls form an unlikely friendship—and each of them comes to the rescue in unexpected ways.

#### Questions to Consider

- What do Raymie, Louisiana, and Beverly have in common? How are they different?
- What three words would you use to describe Raymie? Louisiana? Beverly? Describe how the traits of these characters come to life in the book.
- Raymie often describes having the feeling that her soul is shrinking. What do you think she means by this? What do you think she feels in those moments when she says her soul is inflating or growing bigger?

HC: 978-0-7636-8117-3 • Also available as an e-book • GRL V / Lexile 550L



# Mercy Watson



illustrated by Chris Van Dusen (ages 5–8)

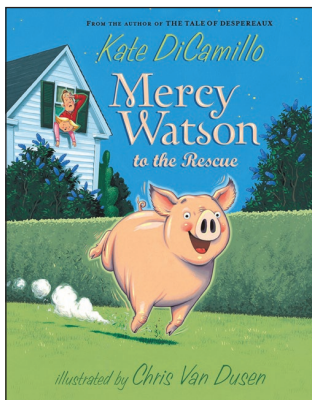
Mercy Watson titles have appeared on state award reading lists in: AK, AL, IL, MD, MN, NY, OH, PA, UT

### About the Series

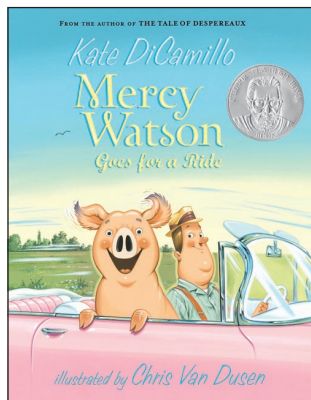
The Mercy Watson series is perfect for newly independent readers ready for a challenge and a great deal of fun! Foiling a robber, driving a car, squeezing into a tutu—is there anything Mercy Watson, the porcine wonder, won't do in her single-minded pursuit of treats, buttered toast, or just a rollicking fun time? Mercy Watson and her universe of likably outlandish neighbors are sure to appeal to even the most reluctant of readers.

Check out the Mercy Watson activities at the back of this guide and at [www.mercywatson.com](http://www.mercywatson.com) to continue the fun!

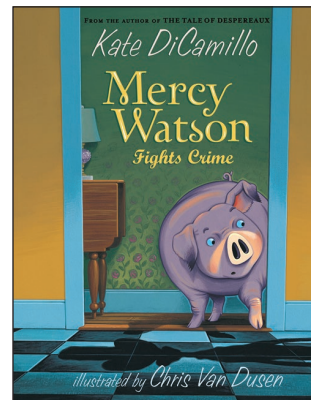
Challenge students to read all six titles in the series before school begins!



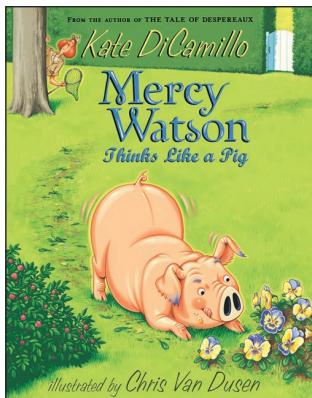
**Mercy Watson to the Rescue**  
 HC: 978-0-7636-2270-1  
 PB: 978-0-7636-4504-5  
 GRL K / Lexile 450L



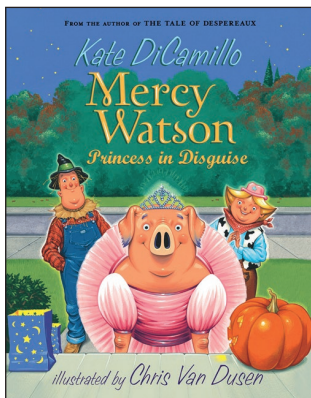
**Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride**  
 HC: 978-0-7636-2332-6  
 PB: 978-0-7636-4505-2  
 GRL K / Lexile 390L



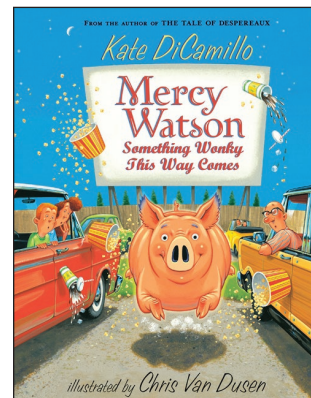
**Mercy Watson Fights Crime**  
 HC: 978-0-7636-2590-0  
 PB: 978-0-7636-4952-4  
 GRL K / Lexile 390L



**Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig**  
 HC: 978-0-7636-3265-6  
 PB: 978-0-7636-5231-9  
 GRL K / Lexile 380L



**Mercy Watson: Princess in Disguise**  
 HC: 978-0-7636-3014-0  
 PB: 978-0-7636-4951-7  
 GRL K / Lexile 390L



**Mercy Watson: Something Wonky This Way Comes**  
 HC: 978-0-7636-3644-9  
 PB: 978-0-7636-5232-6  
 GRL K / Lexile 440L

Also available as e-books

Illustration copyright © 2005 by Chris Van Dusen



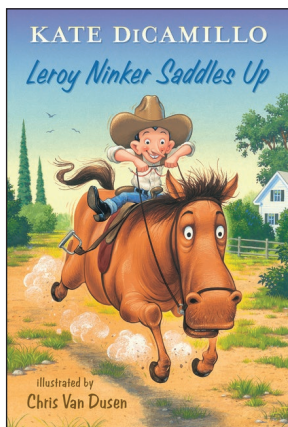
## TALES FROM DECKAWOO DRIVE

illustrated by Chris Van Dusen (ages 6–9)

Tales from Deckawoo Drive titles have appeared on state award reading lists in: DE, KS, MN, PA

### About the Series

Mercy Watson fans ready for more fun can move on to this first chapter book series starring Mercy Watson's endearingly eccentric Deckawoo Drive neighbors.



### *Leroy Ninker Saddles Up*

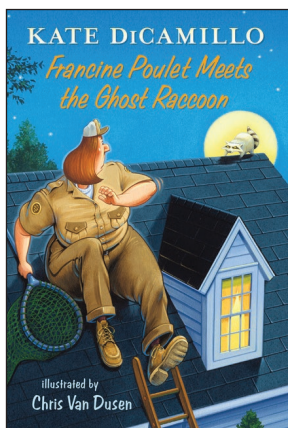
#### About the Book

Leroy Ninker has a hat, a lasso, and boots. What he doesn't have is a horse—until he meets Maybelline, that is, and then it's love at first sight. Maybelline loves spaghetti and sweet nothings, and she loves Leroy, too. But when Leroy forgets the third and final rule of caring for Maybelline, disaster ensues.

#### Questions to Consider

- When Leroy meets Maybelline, he follows Beatrice's earlier advice to inspect her teeth and hooves. Do you think Beatrice would consider four teeth an indication of a good, healthy horse? Why or why not?
- What are the three rules Leroy needs to remember about Maybelline? How well does he remember them?
- Is an apartment a good place for a horse? Why or why not?

HC: 978-0-7636-6339-1 • PB: 978-0-7636-8012-1 • Also available as an e-book • GRL M / Lexile 500L



### *Francine Poulet Meets the Ghost Raccoon*

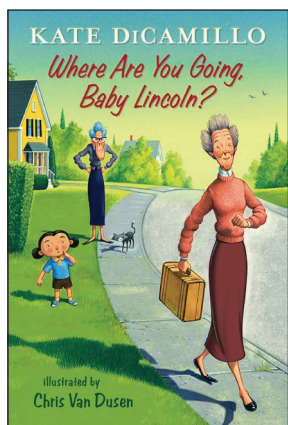
#### About the Book

Francine Poulet is the greatest animal control officer in Gizzford County, hailing from a long line of animal control officers. "The genuine article," Francine's dad always called her. She is never scared—until, that is, she's faced with a screaming raccoon that may or may not be a ghost. Maybe Francine isn't cut out to be an animal control officer after all!

#### Questions to Consider

- How does the raccoon spook Francine? How does it make her feel?
- After falling off the roof and quitting her job as animal control officer, what finally makes Francine decide to try to catch the raccoon again?
- How does Francine finally catch the raccoon?

HC: 978-0-7636-6886-0 • PB: 978-0-7636-9088-5 • Also available as an e-book • GRL N / Lexile 430L



### *Where Are You Going, Baby Lincoln?*

#### About the Book

Baby Lincoln's older sister, Eugenia, is very fond of telling Baby what to do, and Baby usually responds by saying "Yes, Sister." But one day Baby has had enough. She decides to depart on a Necessary Journey. Who might Baby meet as she strikes out on her own, and what could she discover about herself? Will her impulsive adventure take her away from Eugenia for good?

#### Questions to Consider

- Why do you think Baby Lincoln goes on this journey?
- Who are the three people Baby meets on the train? How does each of them help Baby learn something about herself?
- Do you think that Baby and Eugenia's relationship will change now that Baby has taken her necessary journey? How?

HC: 978-0-7636-7311-6 • Also available as an e-book • GRL M / Lexile 490L



# Bink & Gollie



illustrated by Tony Fucile (ages 6–9)

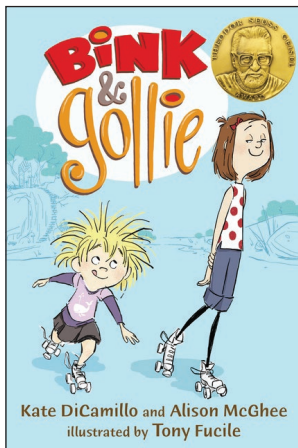
Bink and Gollie titles have appeared on state award reading lists in: IA, IL, KY, MD, MI, MN, NJ, RI, SD, UT, VT, WY

### About the Series

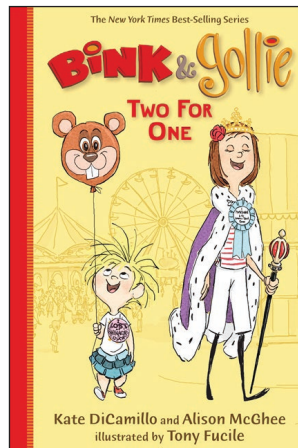
Meet Bink and Gollie, two precocious little girls—one tiny, one tall, and both utterly irrepressible. Setting out from their super-deluxe tree house and powered by plenty of peanut butter (for Bink) and pancakes (for Gollie), they share three hilarious, exuberant, and imaginative adventures.

Check out the Bink and Gollie activities at the back of this guide and at [www.binkandgollie.com](http://www.binkandgollie.com) to continue the fun!

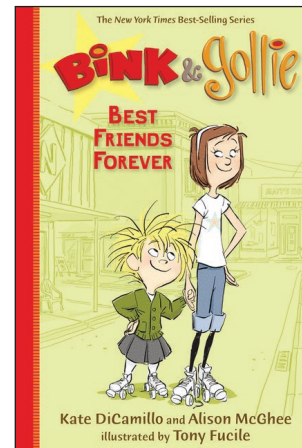
Introduce this outrageously funny pair of friends to young readers  
for a trio of adventurous summer reads!



**Bink and Gollie**  
HC: 978-0-7636-3266-3  
PB: 978-0-7636-5954-7  
GRL M / Lexile 310L



**Bink and Gollie: Two for One**  
HC: 978-0-7636-3361-5  
PB: 978-0-7636-6445-9  
GRL M / Lexile 270L



**Bink and Gollie: Best Friends Forever**  
HC: 978-0-7636-3497-1  
PB: 978-0-7636-7092-4  
GRL M / Lexile 420L

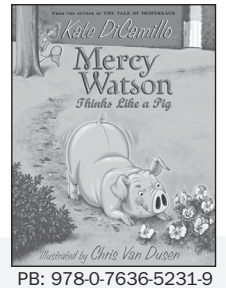
Also available as e-books

If you're looking for more great books to read, visit [www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com).

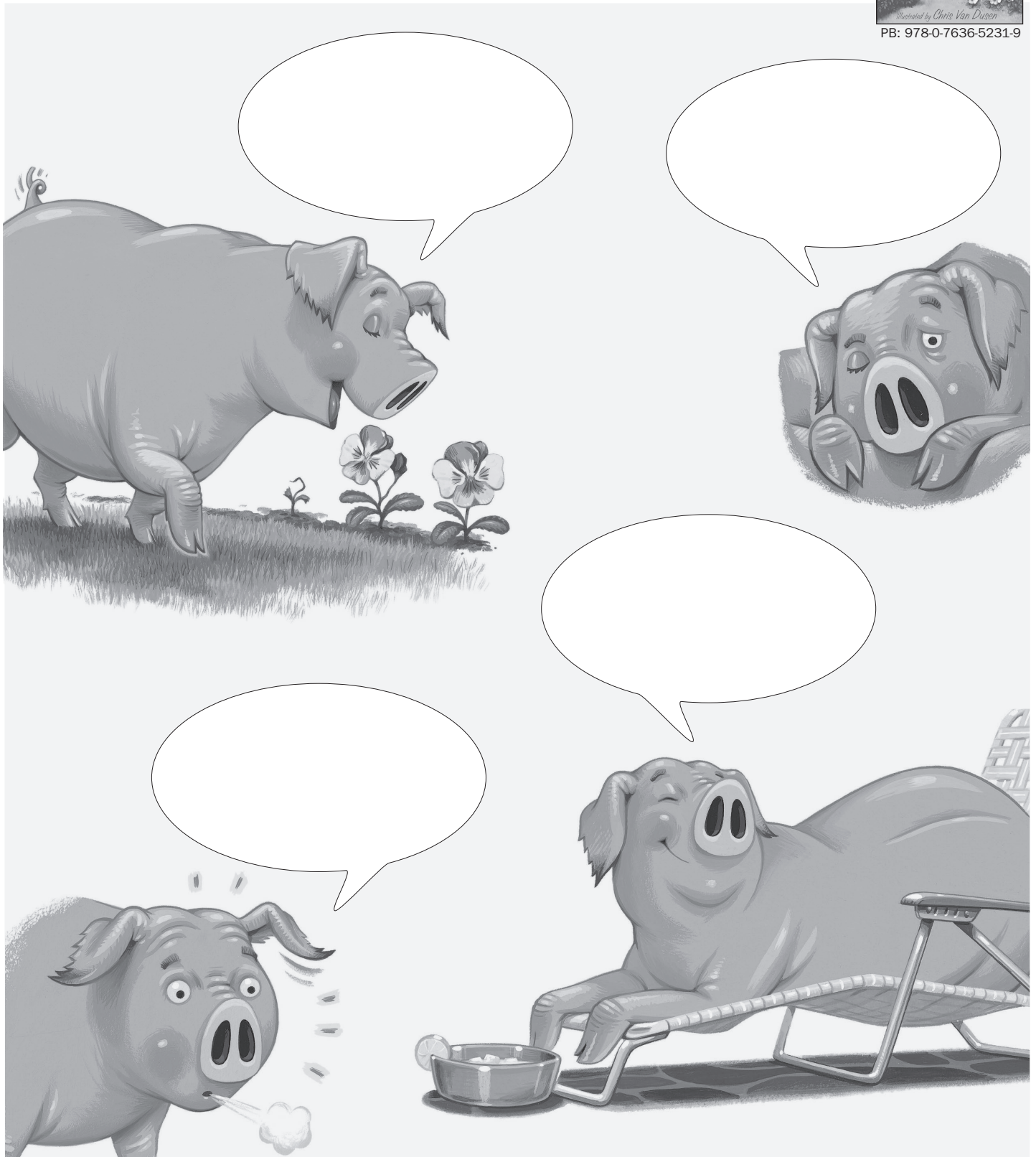


# Think Like a Pig

Think like a pig!  
What do you think Mercy is thinking about?  
Write her thoughts inside the bubbles.



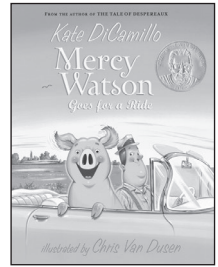
PB: 978-0-7636-5231-9



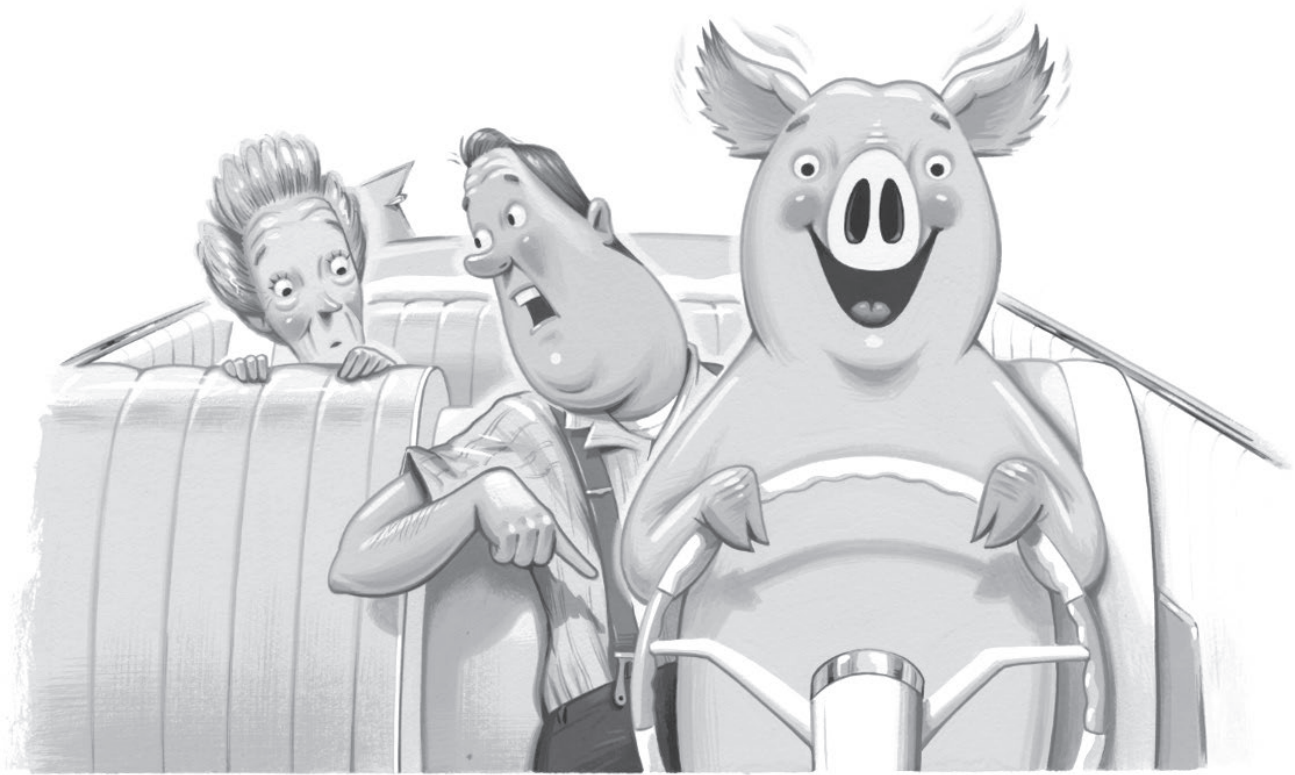
## *What Happened Next?*

Can you remember everything that happened in  
*Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride?*

Summarize the story by putting the following five sentences  
into proper order.



PB: 978-0-7636-4505-2



- \_\_\_ Baby Lincoln thinks a little folly wouldn't be a bad thing.
- \_\_\_ Mercy leaps on to Mr. Watson's lap.
- \_\_\_ A pink convertible speeds past Officer Tomilello.
- \_\_\_ Everyone has toast.
- \_\_\_ Baby Lincoln applies the brake pedal.



## My Marvelous Companion

Bink and Gollie are very different, but they are still best friends. Read the paragraph below. Then fill in the blanks with words and phrases describing your relationship with your own best friend.



PB: 978-0-7636-5954-7

My most marvelous companion is \_\_\_\_\_.

Our favorite thing to do together is \_\_\_\_\_.

Some ways we are alike are \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Some ways we are different are \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

I can't wait to see my best friend next because we are going to  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Sometimes we argue about \_\_\_\_\_.

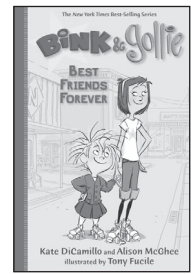
But we always make up because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Use your answers in the paragraph above to help you write a story about what would happen if you and your most marvelous companion were both stranded on a desert island and had to live together in a tree house.



## *Best Friends Compare and Contrast*

Bink and Gollie are a lot alike, but they are also very different.  
In the boxes below, draw pictures of Bink and Gollie.  
Then answer the questions that follow.



PB: 978-0-7636-7092-4

**Bink**

**Gollie**

What are two ways Bink and Gollie are alike?

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What are two ways Bink and Gollie are different?

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How do Bink and Gollie's differences make them better friends?

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Are you more like Bink or Gollie? How?

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Think of one of your friends. Is he or she more like Bink or Gollie? How?

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