

The Book Rescuer



Author:
Sue Macy

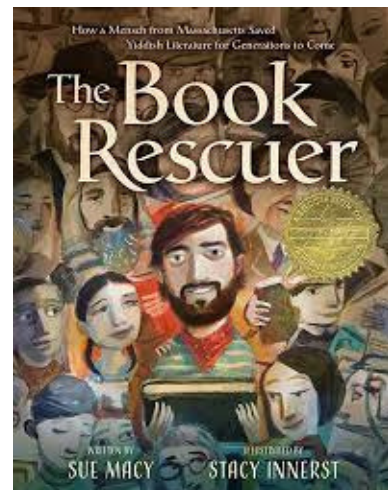
Illustrator:
Stacy Innerst

Awards

ALA Notable Children's Books, Commended, 2020
Sydney Taylor Book Award, Winner, 2020
Bank Street College of Education, Best Children's Book of the Year, 2020
Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, Biography, 2020
Notable Books for a Global Society, Selection, 2020
Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts Awards, 2020
El día de los niños / El día de los libros, Selection, 2020
Junior Library Guild Selections, Nonfiction Selection, 2019

Vocabulary

language, homeland, generations



Reviews

[Kirkus Reviews](#) - starred review

[Publishers Weekly](#) - starred review

Summary

Aaron Lansky, inspired by his grandmother's stories, set out on a quest to save the world's Yiddish books. This moving work of nonfiction shows how one determined person can help preserve a language and a culture.

FAIR Standard

HM.3-5.5 I can tell stories from multiple cultures that represent the character strengths they value.

Discussion

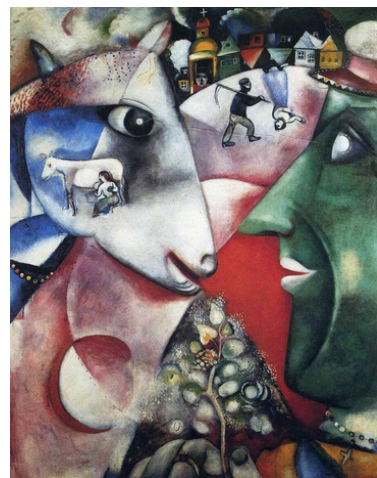
1. When Aaron's grandmother arrived in America, her big brother tossed her suitcase into the river, saying it was time for her to "break up with the past and focus on the future." Do you think that was good advice? Why or why not?
2. Aaron went through snow and ice at midnight to reach a dumpster full of books before they could be thrown away. Why was it so important to Aaron to save these books? Is there anything that others throw away that you think of as a treasure?

Discussion

3. Aaron has saved more than a million and a half Yiddish books. On page 36, he says, "Between their covers, the voices of my grandmother's world can still be heard." What do you think this means?
 4. In Aaron's grandmother's time, many Yiddish speakers had to learn new languages in order to stay safe. How do you think this made some of them feel? How do you think we can help keep a language alive?
 5. When Aaron visited older Jews, he "felt their sadness at having no family members who could read their prized possessions. And he saw their relief once they realized they could trust him to keep their books safe." Has an older person ever shared something with you that you could offer to protect and pass on to others, even a story?
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Activities

1. On page 44, there is a glossary of Yiddish words and expressions. Can you put together a sentence using only (or mostly) Yiddish words? Read your sentence to a friend and see if they can translate what you are saying.
2. The illustrator, Stacy Innerst, says that the pictures in this book were inspired by Marc Chagall's paintings. Do you see similarities between the book's illustrations and these examples of Chagall's work?



Visit a museum, gallery, or website to view collections of art. Is there an artist whose style inspires you? There are many images of books in *The Book Rescuer*. Create a picture of a book in the style of one of your favorite artists. If you are doing this activity as a class, display your pictures in a "Wall of Books".