

Violet and Victor write
the Best-Ever
BOOKWORM
BOOK

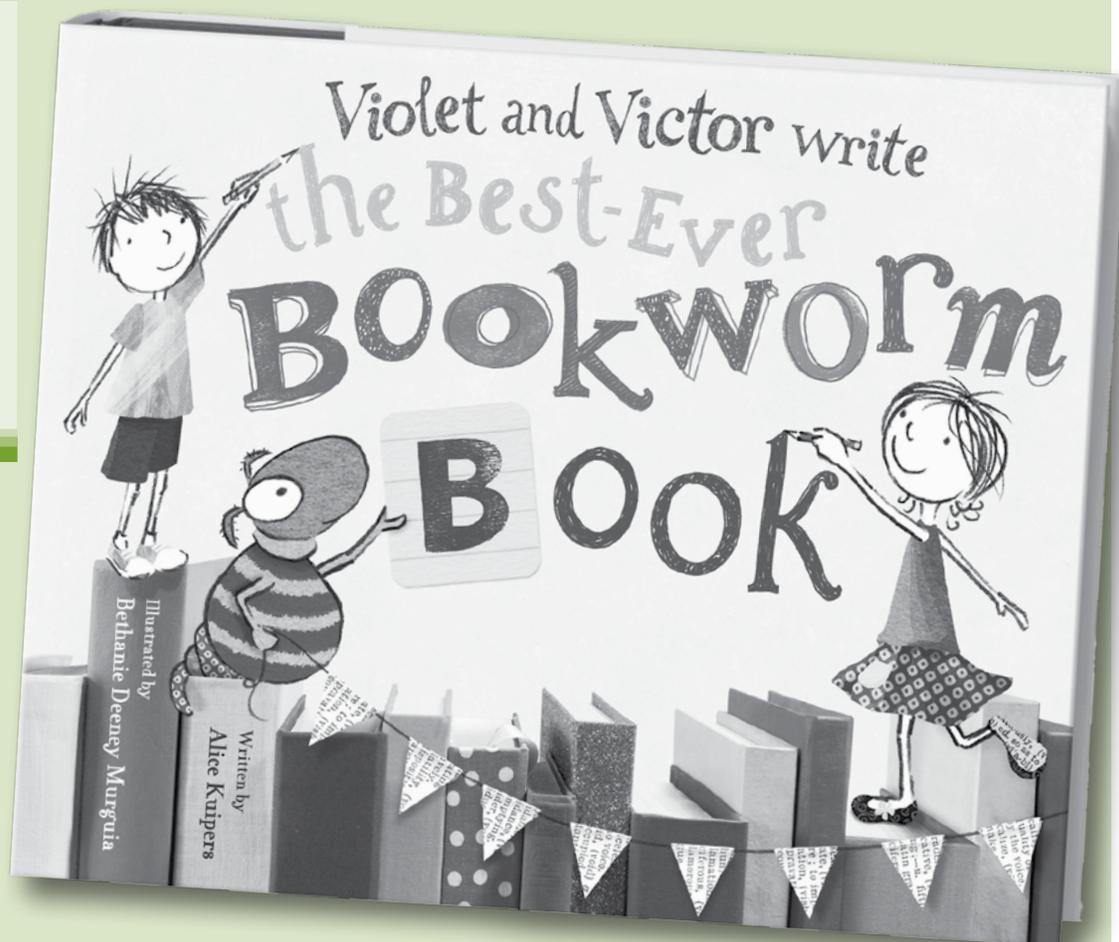
Curriculum
connections

- ❖ Creative Writing
- ❖ Multiple Perspectives
- ❖ Revision

Ages 3 – 6

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SUMMARIZING

Story Elements Game: Changing Who and Where

Victor's story begins with a worm as the main character, but Violet changes the character to a girl. The setting also changes from a worm farm to a library. Help students understand the importance of characters and setting by playing a story elements game. Write a list of characters and settings on index cards. Working in small groups, have each student pick one of the cards. Choose a well-loved and familiar story (such as a fairytale). Then, take turns retelling the story using the new characters or setting. Ask students to think about how the character and setting changed the story. Connect back to the book by having students discuss how Violet's changes transformed the story she and Victor told.

Character Sketch

Readers learn all about the main characters in *Violet and Victor Write The Best-Ever Bookworm Book*. Some of the information is told directly, but some of the character traits are revealed through the actions of Victor and Violet. For this activity, ask students to divide into two teams. One team will try to describe Victor and one will try to describe Violet. For every word used to describe their character, the team should look back in the book for evidence that supports that claim. Each team should make a poster to display their character's traits and evidence. As a class, compare and contrast Victor and Violet.

VISUALIZATION

Visualizing without Details

Violet and Victor have very different ideas about what the bookworm looks like in their mind. The reader can picture almost anything because at first there is not a clear description. Help students see the power of details with this exercise. Begin by asking students to use their imagination to draw a bookworm. Collect the drawings and divide the class into small groups. Give each group a few of the drawings to closely analyze. Ask each group to look for similarities and differences among the drawings, and record these. They might look to see if the worms are the same basic shape, color, size, or have the same features. They might categorize them as cute or scary. After students have carefully examined the drawings in their group, ask the whole class to convene and compile a class list of similarities and differences. It is likely there will be many more differences than similarities. Ask students to discuss WHY the pictures have so many

differences. Then, launch a discussion about the role of details in a text. As an extension, read the additional details Violet and Victor share about their vision of the bookworm. How would this change the students' drawings? Ask the class to look for other examples of how details in *Violet and Victor Write The Best-Ever Bookworm Book* and other stories help them picture the characters, setting, and main events.

SYNTHESIZING

Determining the Message Link-Up

Many books not only entertain, but also have a message for readers. Ask students to think about the author's message. Then, have each student write the message they think the author intended on a sheet of stiff paper or cardstock. Next, have students hold up their message papers and walk around the room. As they find someone with a similar message, have students link arms and keep looking for people who wrote the same message. Have students continue to travel in a group until they have found everyone who wrote a similar message. Then, have students sit in the groups they formed and refer to details in the book to explain WHY they believe the message they wrote is the author's message. Finally, give each group time to share their message and evidence. Is one group able to convince another group to change their minds? Which group has the strongest evidence? Discuss as a class. Can all groups be right? Why or why not?

Close Reading/Art

The artist's note in the back describes the process she went through to create the artwork for the book. It is written with very complex text and sophisticated vocabulary, so it provides a great opportunity for students to use close reading strategies to read and re-read for understanding. Begin with these guiding questions: How were the illustrations created? What materials did she use? Next, have students read through the text together to the best of their ability, using context clues to figure out unknown words. Then, have students circle any words they can't determine the meaning of from context, and either look up the meaning or use another vocabulary strategy. Process the text as a class until students are able to understand how the illustrations were created and identify the materials used. Have students look back in the book to find examples of art created by each material. Finally, ask students to think about other materials the illustrator could have used and discuss why she might have made the decisions she did in order to create these layouts.

AUTHOR'S CRAFT

Vivid Verbs

Students are often told to add details to their writing, but what does that really mean? Begin by asking students to look back at the pages in *Violet and Victor Write The Best-Ever Bookworm Book* showing how Violet hunts for the book-eating monster. Ask students to consider why the fairly short sentences are still able to give them a picture in their mind. Is it a noun, verb, or adjective that is helping them picture each scene? After students are able to identify the verbs, ask them to act out the sentences. What does it look like to peer in pages? Give students the opportunity to experiment with vivid verbs by choosing several simple sentences, and then ask students to replace the verbs with other verbs. The examples can be from the book or something simple like, "He ran through the hall." Ask students to replace the verb with other verbs and see how the sentence changes. In pairs, have them act out each new sentence.

Alliteration

Alliteration is a literary technique of repeating the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words. In the *Violet and Victor Write The Best-Ever Bookworm Book* this technique is used in several places. Begin by introducing the concept of alliteration, and then ask students to look for examples within the book. Then, challenge students to an alliteration contest. See who can come up with the longest alliterative sentence related to the book. As an extension, have students illustrate their alliteration examples.

Leads and Endings

Stories have structure. Using Violet and Victor's story as a guide, ask students to look for the beginning, middle, and end. Then, ask them to carefully consider the lead and the ending. Based on what they know about stories, ask students to determine if the lead is strong or if it could use improvement. What about the ending? What are some other ways authors get readers' attention or bring a story to a close? Ask students to look for examples in other books they enjoy, and then create a chart of exciting leads and awesome endings. Finally, ask students to choose one of those ideas and rewrite either the lead or ending of Violet and Victor's story.

FLUENCY

Partner Reading Theatrics

This book is made for partner reading. Begin by discussing what fluent reading is supposed to sound like. Work together as a class to develop a checklist or rubric by brainstorming a list of what makes a reader sound fluent, like they are speaking. Guide them to think about rate, pace, expression, and accuracy. Have students carefully examine the text and discuss how the author lets the readers know which character is speaking. Then, with a partner, have students take turns reading with expression to convey the two characters' points of view. They can use the class-created checklist to give each other feedback. Have them practice several times until they can read the book as if they are the characters.

WRITING/ART/SOCIAL STUDIES

Science and Opinion Writing

Victor did not seem interested in helping his sister write a story. Instead, he wanted to play with earthworms. When Violet says they are dirty, Victor says worms are not dirty, but they eat dirt. Students can discover whether Violet is right or Victor is right by reading informational text about earthworms. Provide students with several resources to learn about earthworms. Then, ask them to read to learn more about what earthworms eat and how they live. After they learn about earthworms, have them decide if they agree with Violet or Victor. Ask students to focus on opinion writing by telling if they agree with Victor or Violet and then supporting their thinking with details from their reading.

Partner Writing

Ask students if they think it would be easier or more difficult to write a story with another person. Then, have them write this prediction down. Next, challenge students to work with a partner to write a story. They should follow the same process Violet and Victor followed, working together to decide characters, setting, and a problem. After students write a story together, ask them to reflect upon the process. Did having a partner make some aspects easier? What parts were more difficult? Do they still agree with the prediction they made?

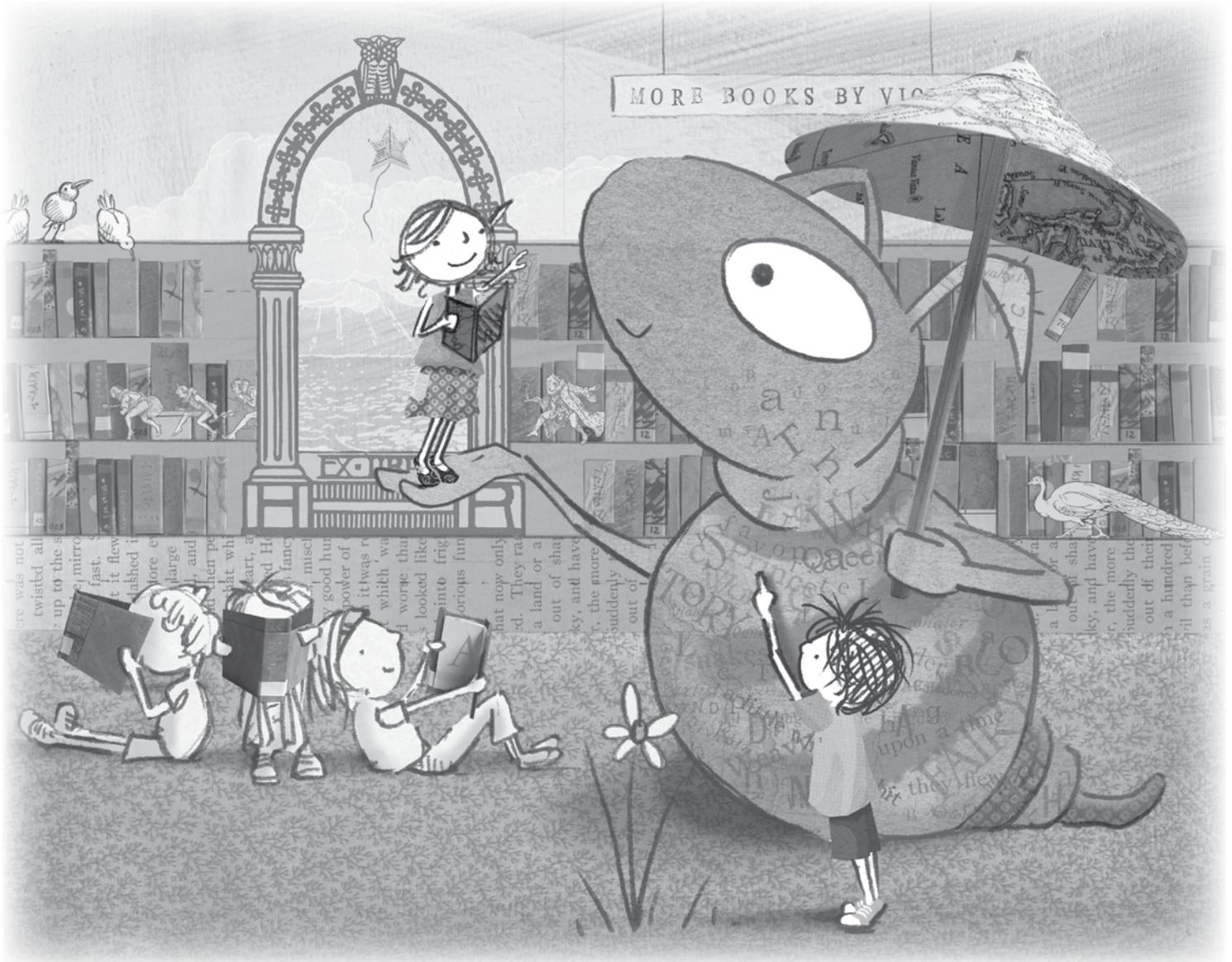
Class Book: Informational Writing

Violet and Victor tell a story about saving the library. Libraries have a long and illustrious history. Give students the opportunity to work on informational writing by creating a class book about libraries. Begin by brainstorming a list of topics as a class based on student interests or questions. The list may include oldest existing libraries, biggest libraries, ancient libraries, famous libraries, etc. Then, after narrowing the topics, ask each student or pair of students to choose one topic to research. They will be responsible for that page or chapter in the class book. Collect each of the chapters (after students have had the opportunity to revise and edit their work) and bind them in a class book. Read the book together and learn all about libraries.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

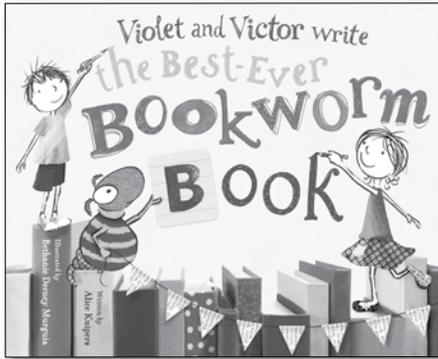
Libraries Make A Difference

Libraries make a difference in the lives of people all over the world, but not every community has a library. Just as Violet saved the library from the bookworm, students can help libraries too. The American Library Association maintains a list of organizations that collect used books and other donations for libraries around the globe: <http://www.ala.org/tools/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet12>. The class can choose an organization and then collect books or donations. Another option is to create a public service message (print, audio, or video) encouraging people to support their local libraries.



Violet and Victor Write the Best-Ever Bookworm Book

about the book



VIOLET AND VICTOR WRITE THE BEST-EVER BOOKWORM BOOK

By Alice Kuipers

Illustrated by

Bethanie Deeney Murguia

HC 978-0-316-21200-7

Also available as eBook

Violet and Victor Small are twins on a mission: to write the best book in the whole, entire world—together! Victor is reluctant, but Violet is determined, and soon the ideas can't come quickly enough.

They begin to write a story about a hungry Bookworm who is eating all the books in the library. Thanks to Victor's brilliant ideas, Violet is able to save the day (and the library).

This delightful story-within-a-story is filled with good-natured sibling rivalry, and focuses on the spirit of cooperation, the satisfaction of a job well-done, and the magic of storytelling.



about the author



Credit: Emma Love

ALICE KUIPERS is British, but lives in Canada. She is the award-winning author of three young adult novels, and she was working on the fourth when Violet and Victor came along. Alice can be found here: alicekuipers.com.

about the illustrator



BETHANIE DEENEY MURGUIA earned an MFA in illustration from the School of Visual Arts in New York City and is the creator of *Zoe Gets Ready* and *Snippet the Early Riser*. Bethanie, her family, and their dog, Disco, live in northern California. Visit her online at aquapup.com.



LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY
BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

LittleBrownLibrary.com

Guide created by Jennifer McMahon, Education Consultant