



New Shoes, Red Shoes

precious– something very special or important

racing– moving fast

One Nighttime Sea

Note: Be sure to check out the animal descriptions in the back of the book.

calf– a young whale

ocean, sea– both refer to a large body of salt water

Polar Bear Night

beckons– attracts or invites; calls (aloud or silently) to someone or something

creeps– moves very slowly

den– the shelter or home of an animal

The Recess Queen

Note: Children may enjoy guessing definitions for the nonsense words found in the book.

disaster– a terrible thing that happens

fulcrum– the support on which a lever turns (the base of a see-saw is a fulcrum)

hammer– to keep on hitting

lever– a stiff bar over a turning point that lifts a weight at one end when the other end is pushed down (the seat part of a see-saw is a lever)

Teammates

Note: This book is written for a slightly older age group; it is important for teachers and parents to preview it for vocabulary and content that will be unfamiliar to K–2 students. Here's a starter list:

team– a group of people who work together or play a sport together

teammate– someone on the team

prejudice– not liking a person because he or she is different in some way; racial prejudice means not liking someone because of their race (color or nationality)

Major Leagues– groups of professional baseball teams in the United States

Negro Leagues– groups of professional baseball teams in the United States in which all players were African American (these leagues disbanded in the early 1950s, when baseball leagues were integrated, or brought together)

segregation– separating people because of their color or another characteristic

This is the Way We Eat Our Lunch

soufflé– a dessert or side dish baked in a round dish until it puffs up at the top

plantains– large tropical fruits in the banana family

tamales– meat steamed in cornhusks or banana leaves

couscous– a pasta that looks a lot like rice (or a grain) at first glance

hummus– a dip made from chickpeas

tempura– vegetables or seafood dipped in a batter and fried

veggieburgers– meatless “hamburgers” made of cooked and mashed soybeans, tofu or vegetables mixed with grains or seeds, diced onions, peppers and seasonings

When a Line Bends ... A Shape Begins

hammock– a net, often hung on a frame or between trees and used as a seat or bed

swerve– to turn aside from a straight path

When Sophie Gets Angry – Really, Really Angry ...

explode– to burst; to act without control

smithereens– tiny fragments or bits

volcano– an opening in rocks or a mountain that spews hot lava