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## ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

### READ TOGETHER

Reading aloud with your child builds key language and literacy skills. This shared experience provides an opportunity to connect, ignite their imagination, build a greater understanding of the world, and cultivate a lifelong love of reading. Here are some tips for making the most of storytime:

- Hold the book so that your child can easily see the cover and the illustrations.
- Make a few comments about the illustration on the cover and note the author and illustrator.
- Show excitement and read the story expressively.
- Listen for your child's comments or questions and respond briefly to confirm or clarify.
- Provide information to extend your child's understanding of the story.
- Have fun!

### VOCABULARY

Providing a simple explanation for words that your child may not be familiar with can help build their language skills. You can describe the meaning of a word, point to an illustration, or use tone of voice to convey the word's meaning. Here are some words to talk about while you read *Maybe Something Beautiful*:

**Decorate:** to make something pretty or special

**Gloom:** when something looks dark and sad

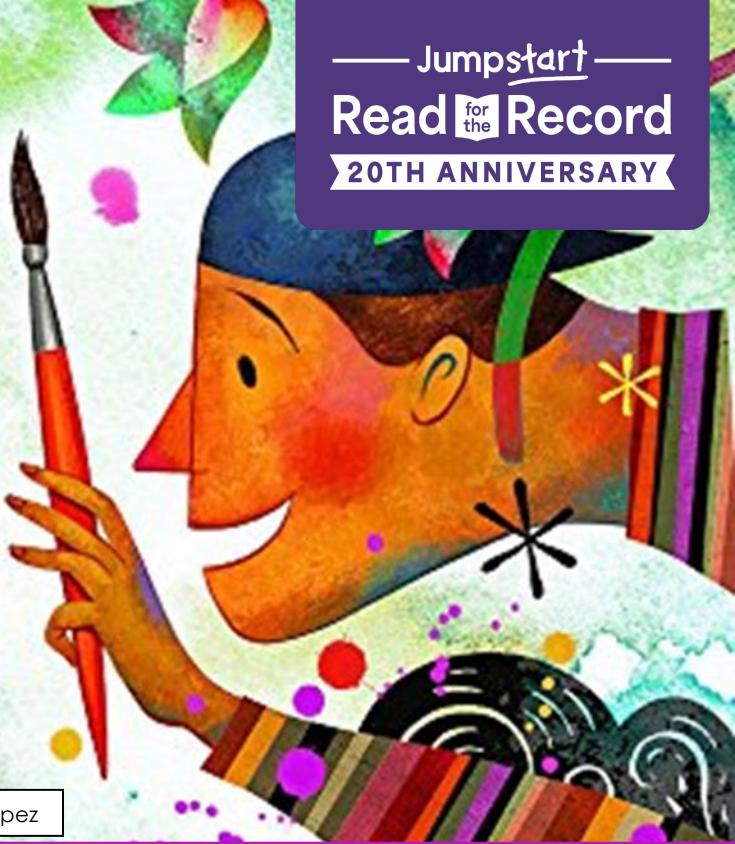
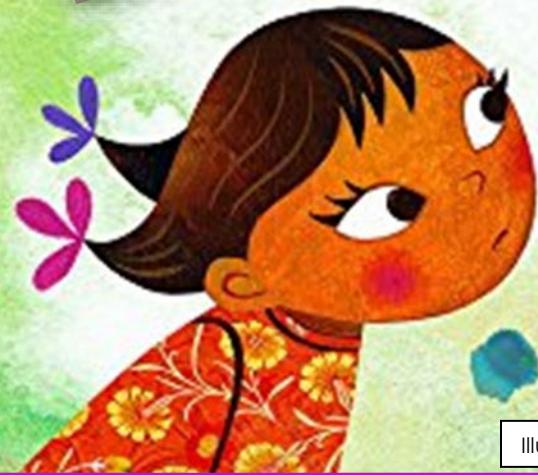
**Sparkling:** making flashes of light

**Imagine:** to think of something in your mind

**Joyful:** to feel great happiness

**Mural:** a painting done on a wall





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## MIRA'S BIRD



At the end of the story, the mural features a brightly colored bird, and Mira decides to paint one more bird way up in the sky. Let your child(ren) create and design their own colorful birds so that they can make something beautiful.

Using the template provided, cut out birds from different colored construction paper (you can also use brown grocery store bags or other sturdy paper). Older children can help you trace and cut out the birds.

Let children decorate their birds using scraps of colored paper, paint, markers, glitter, glue, and whatever other supplies you have. Once their bird is decorated, ask your child(ren) where they might keep the bird or how it will make something more beautiful.

## KEEP READING

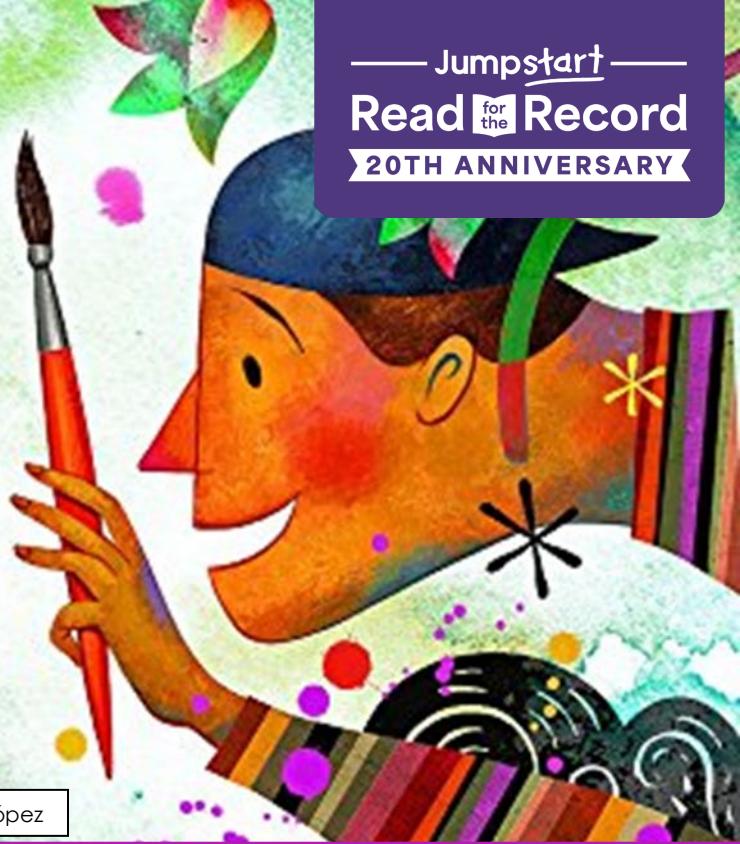
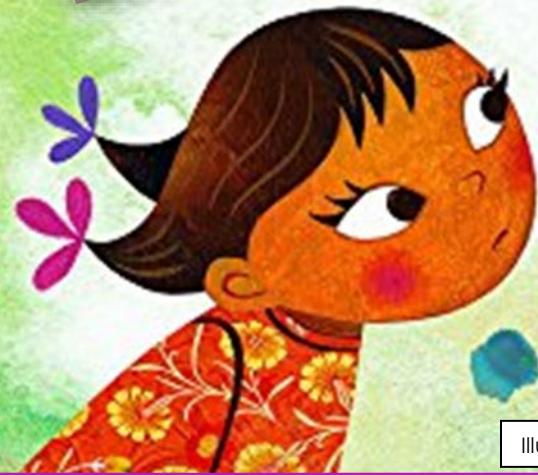
Love reading together? Visit your local library to find more books to read together:

Check out other books illustrated by Rafael López, the illustrator of *Maybe Something Beautiful*, including *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson, *My Name Is Celia* by Monica Brown, or *Drum Dream Girl* by Margarita Engle.

Other children will enjoy López's beautiful illustrations and Margarita Engle's short biographical poems in *Bravo! Poems About Amazing Hispanics*.

Want to read more books with bright colors? Check out *A Color of His Own* by Leo Lionni or *What Color Is the Wind?* by Anne Herbauts.

Explore more about creating art by reading *David's Drawing* by Cathryn Falwell or *Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds.



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## CREATING BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS – BOTTLE SHAKERS

Help your child make their own musical instrument! Here's what you will need:

- Plastic drinking bottles with screw-on caps
- Paper clips, beads, buttons, pebbles or beans
- Materials to decorate, such as markers, glitter, feathers, glue, or stickers

What you will do:

- Show your child the materials, reminding them of the music in the story.
- Use your paper clips, beads, or other noise makers to fill one-third to half of the empty plastic bottle.
- Screw the bottle cap back on tight.
- Allow your child to decorate the outside of the bottle using markers, stickers, feathers, and/or glitter.
- Shake your bottle shaker to make music!

Make connections to *Maybe Something Beautiful* by demonstrating the different rhythms mentioned in the book with one of the shakers.



## SINGING AND DANCING SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

Bam! Pow! The muralist dances through the street spreading color, punch, and pizazz. When the others join in, they paint in rhythm: salsa, merengue, bebop, cha-cha-cha!

Turn your space into a dance party. Find music with a fun beat and encourage everyone to dance along. Model for your child(ren) how to use your body to reflect the beat by stomping your feet, clapping your hands, or jumping up and down!