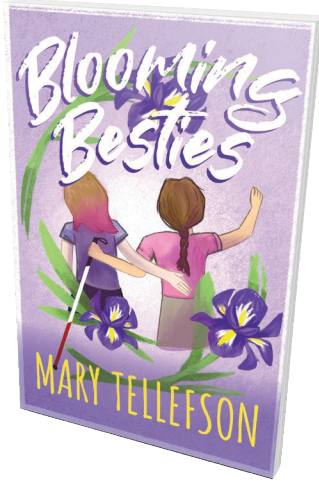


MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Blooming Besties and Two Canes on the Tundra

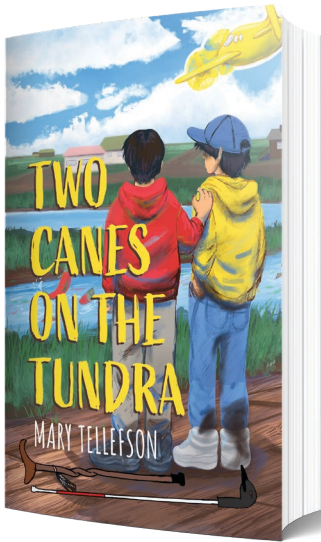
by Mary Tellefson



Should Ruby, a blind 4th grader, be suspended when she hits a boy who pulled a nasty prank on her at school? What if the boy she hit wasn't really the culprit?

Blooming Besties is the story of a blind elementary school student, Ruby, and her goofy, sighted sidekick and best friend Charleigh, who sticks up for her in the principal's office.

This is just one of several experiences the girls have together that solidify their bond, challenge their values, and cause hilarious growing pains. Themes of blindness, using a cane, responsibility, lying, bullying, no-tolerance policies, inclusion, and growing up with a best friend weave together in a sensory-rich storyline spanning the girls' fourth through seventh grade years.



In an Alaskan Yupik village, a blind 12-year-old, Apu, relies on his older cousin to guide him around the village. When a special teacher flies in to teach him how to use a cane, Apu is teased by the other kids and gets angry. He hides the cane in the janitor's closet so he won't have to use it.

Grandfather returns from a trip to the doctor in Anchorage with a support cane to help him walk with a bad knee. Hearing about Apu's struggles at school, he sets up a ceremony in which Apu's extended family tell stories of ancestors bravely navigating the Alaskan wilderness using tools for survival. Apu wonders if he could muster enough bravery to offset teasing.

Apu's resistance to using a cane fades as he recognizes Grandfather's support cane and his own mobility cane as tools for independence, similar to the role of ancestral tools for survival in a harsh wilderness.

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Two Canes | QUANTITY (hardcover) _____ x \$17.99 (softcover) _____ x \$12.99