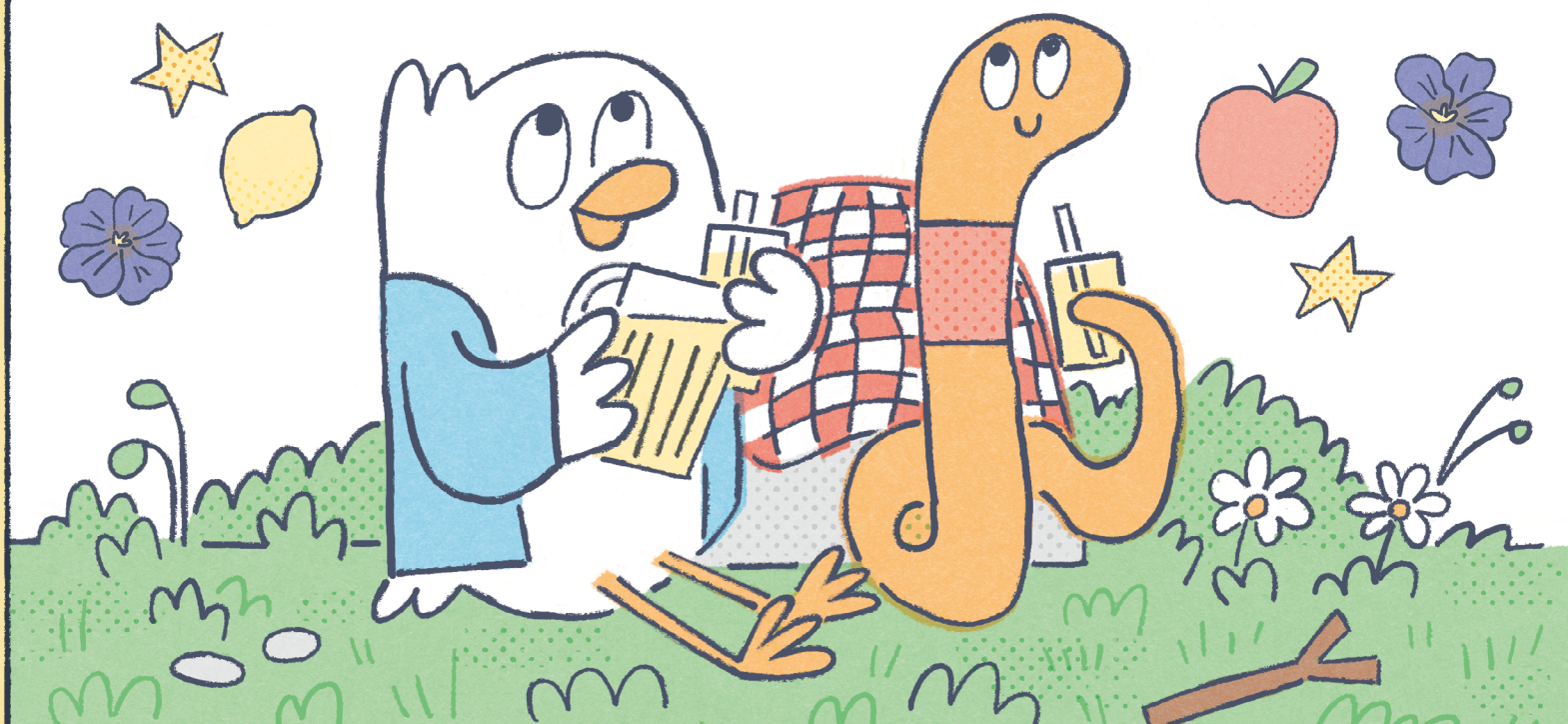
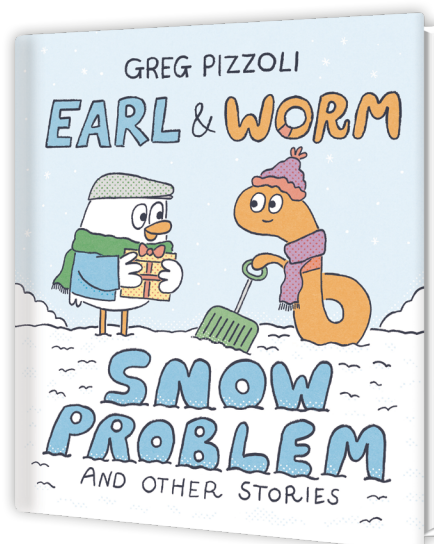
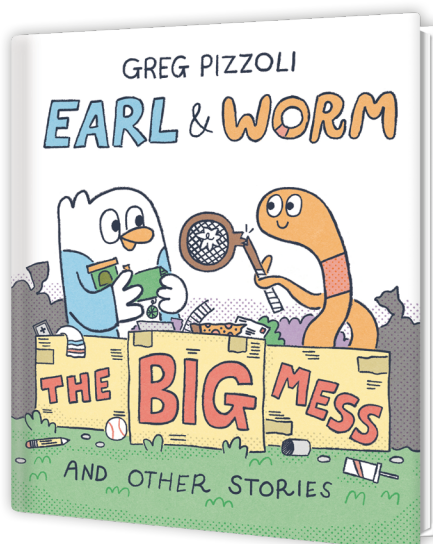
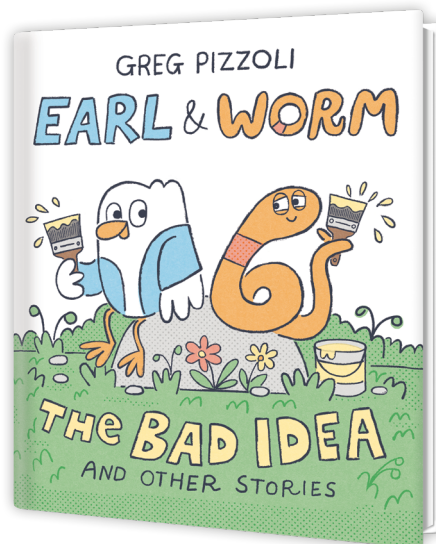


# EARL & WORM



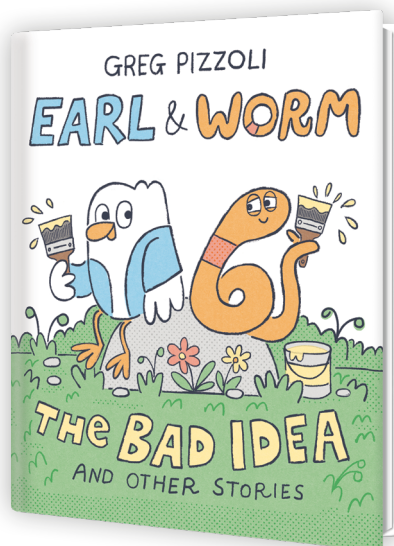
## EDUCATORS' GUIDE

[RHCBTeachersLibrarians.com](http://RHCBTeachersLibrarians.com)





# ABOUT THE SERIES

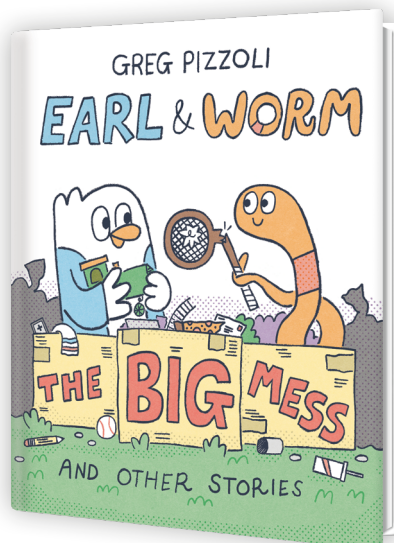


## Earl & Worm #1: The Bad Idea and Other Stories

This sweet, giggle-inducing early reader kicks off a brand-new series featuring two unlikely friends in the tradition of *Frog and Toad*, from the beloved Geisel Award-winning author of *The Watermelon Seed*.

Earl and Worm have been friends for a very, very long time, but their friendship had a rocky start. Earl is a happy-go-lucky bird who plays saxophone to his plants because they love music in the morning. His neighbor Worm, on the other hand . . . well, Worm is the exact opposite. She would rather read in silence.

How will these very different neighbors become the very best of friends? With some sweet lemonade, the right shade of paint, an unfinished poem, and, most of all, sharing a little bit about themselves.

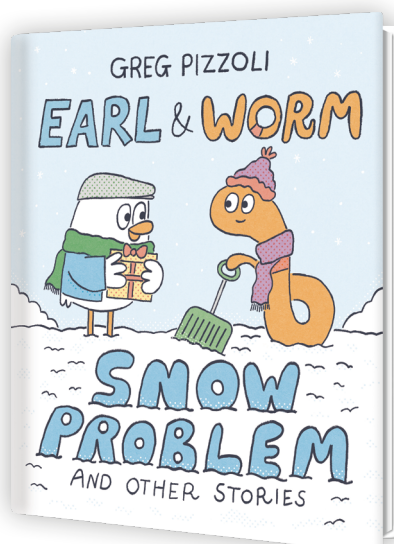


## Earl & Worm #2: The Big Mess and Other Stories

Beloved Geisel Award-winning author Greg Pizzoli is back with book two in the fan-favorite early reader series about two unlikely friends, Earl and Worm, that is sure to make kids belly laugh!

Earl and Worm couldn't be more different—but they also are also the best of friends. So when Earl's mess gets out of hand, Worm is sure she can help. And when a lucky penny turns rotten, rain-soaked Earl helps Worm see the sunny side. Through it all, the pair's funny hijinks turn tender . . . and the big mess ends up where they least expect it!

Come along for three giggle-inducing stories that will have kids hooting along after they've outgrown *Elephant & Piggie*.



## Earl & Worm #3: Snow Problem and Other Stories

Celebrate a birthday and some winter fun with unlikely friends Earl & Worm in three funny stories, part of this irresistible early reader series from Geisel Award-winning author Greg Pizzoli.

It's Earl's birthday! Worm is excited to celebrate with her lifelong friend. But even though Worm has found the perfect present and baked a delicious birthday cake for Earl, she worries that they won't be exactly what he wished for.

Join this unlikely pair as they spend a special snowy day together and discover that the best birthday gift anyone could ask for is what they already have: friendship.



# PRAISE FOR THE SERIES



★“New readers are about to start a long and wonderful friendship with this **impeccable** new series.” —*School Library Journal*, **starred review**

“This look at a warming relationship dynamic considers ways that proximate **opposites can not only coexist but learn from each other.**”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“An endearing pair with plenty to share about friendship and fun.” —*Booklist*

“A **winsome tale** that charts the ups and downs of friendship with aplomb.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“[A] **supportive early chapter book**, with a clear structure, direct sentences, breezy dialogue, and nice amount of repetition.” —*The Bulletin*

“Like Willems’s Elephant and Piggie and Lobel’s Frog and Toad series, **this provides solid reading practice in a package that kids and families will read for the love of story.**”

—*The Horn Book*



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Greg Pizzoli** is the creator of the Baloney and Friends graphic novel series, as well as the author and illustrator of the award-winning picture books *The Watermelon Seed*, *Good Night Owl*, and *The Book Hog*. He also writes nonfiction for kids, including the *New York Times* Best Illustrated title *Tricky Vic*, and he is the illustrator of the Jack series by Mac Barnett. Greg Pizzoli works in a studio he shares with his wife, Kay Healy, who is a printmaker and fiber artist. They live in South Philadelphia with their two daughters, dog, and cats.





# GOOD TIMES WITH EARL AND WORM



Think about things that make you happy. Sometimes we like the same things as our friends, and sometimes what makes us happy is a little bit different or even completely the opposite of our friends, like how Earl enjoys playing music in the mornings and Worm prefers it quiet. Brainstorm a list of things that make you happy—playing music? sunsets? chocolate cake?—and include activities you enjoy doing—picnics? reading?—either alone or with others.

Which of these things do other people you know (they could be friends, siblings, or neighbors) like, too?

## THINGS THAT MAKE ME HAPPY:

## SOMETIMES I SHARE THIS WITH:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# GOOD TIMES WITH EARL AND WORM



Draw a picture of you and someone you care about sharing  
a fun time together and write a caption for your drawing.

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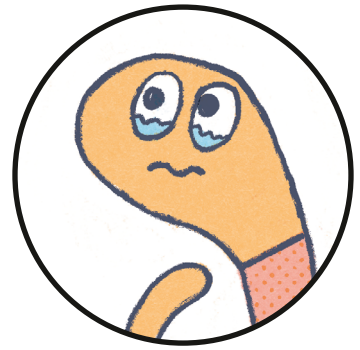
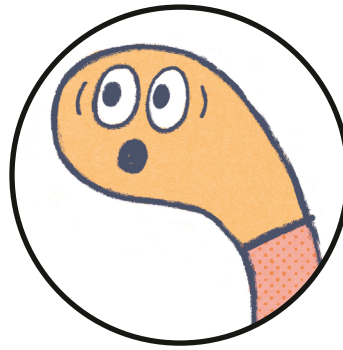
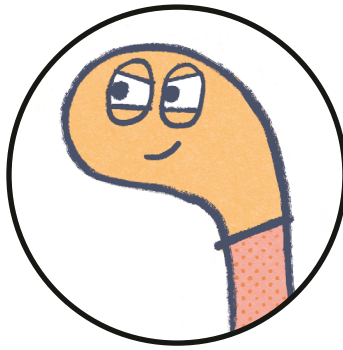
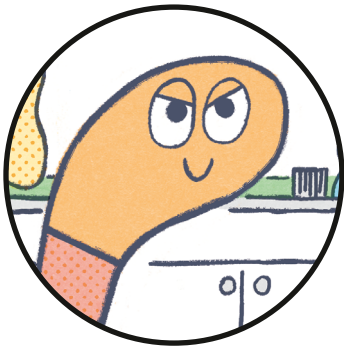
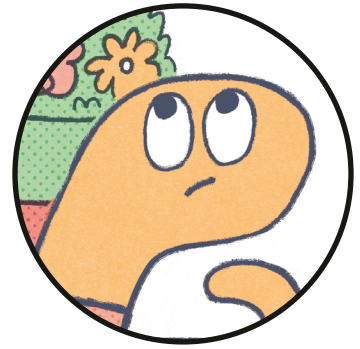
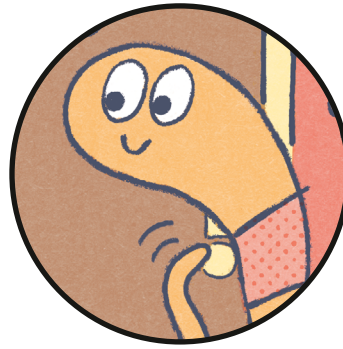
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# HOW IS WORM FEELING?



Worm has some big emotions. Her facial expressions tell us a lot about how she's feeling! Match the drawings of Worm's expressions with a descriptive word from the list of emotions below, or choose different words that you think describe how Worm is feeling.



## EMOTIONS WORD BANK

Sneaky  
Bored  
Happy  
Surprised  
Sad  
Frustrated

Confused  
Angry  
Thoughtful  
Mean  
Cranky  
Tired

Stand in front of a mirror and make the same expressions that Worm makes in each of the drawings. How do you feel when you make each expression? How would you feel if someone made that face at you, and how might you react?



# HOW IS WORM FEELING?

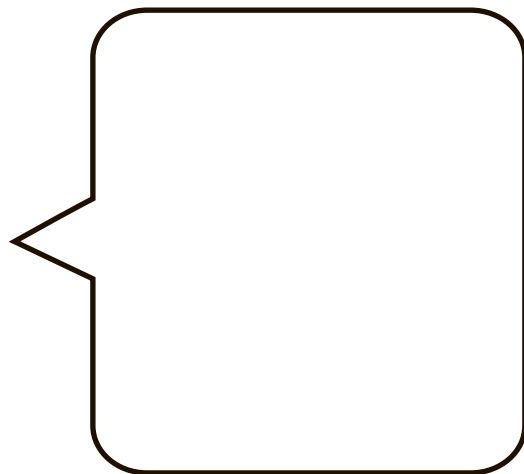
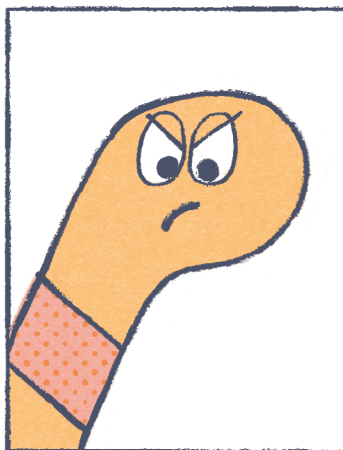


Make up a story that goes with Worm's three expressions on page 64 of *Earl & Worm: The Bad Idea and Other Stories*. First, try adding a caption below each drawing to describe the scene. Next, create dialogue for what Worm is thinking and add that to her speech bubbles.

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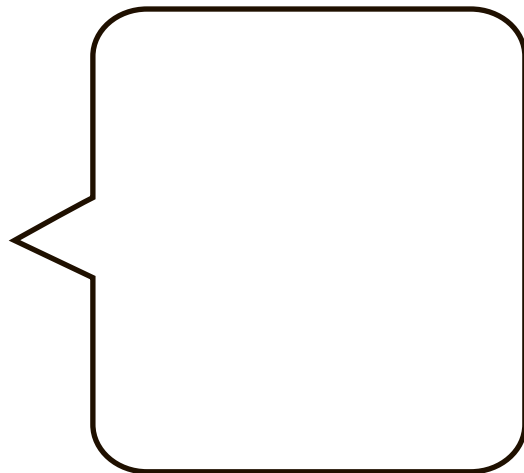
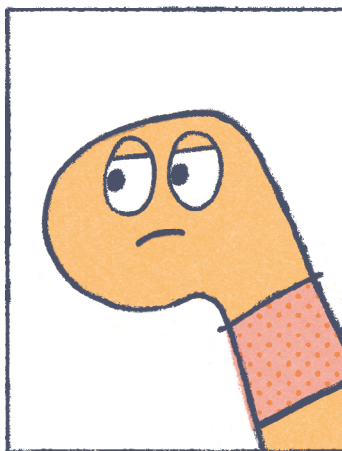
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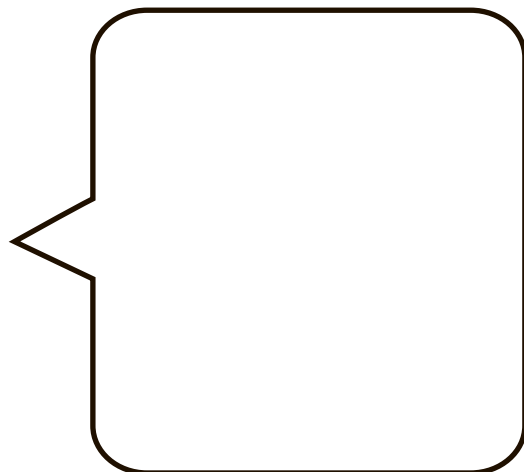
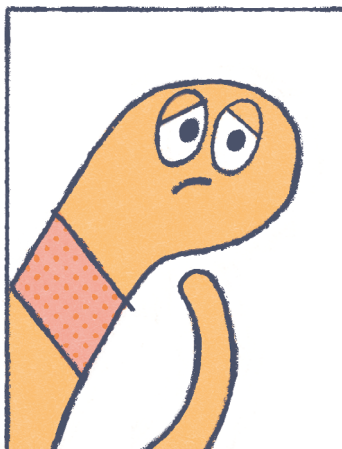
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# WORD SORT



Cut apart the words from the table below and sort them into groups based on the three categories listed: Colors, Feelings, Short Vowel Sounds. Can you find any words that might work in more than one category?

## COLORS

## FEELINGS

## SHORT VOWEL SOUNDS

GREEN

TIRED

RED

SUN

YELLOW

PURPLE

ANGRY

APPLE

PEN

BLUE

HAPPY

SAD

MAD

ORANGE

BOX

BED

CUP

SCARED

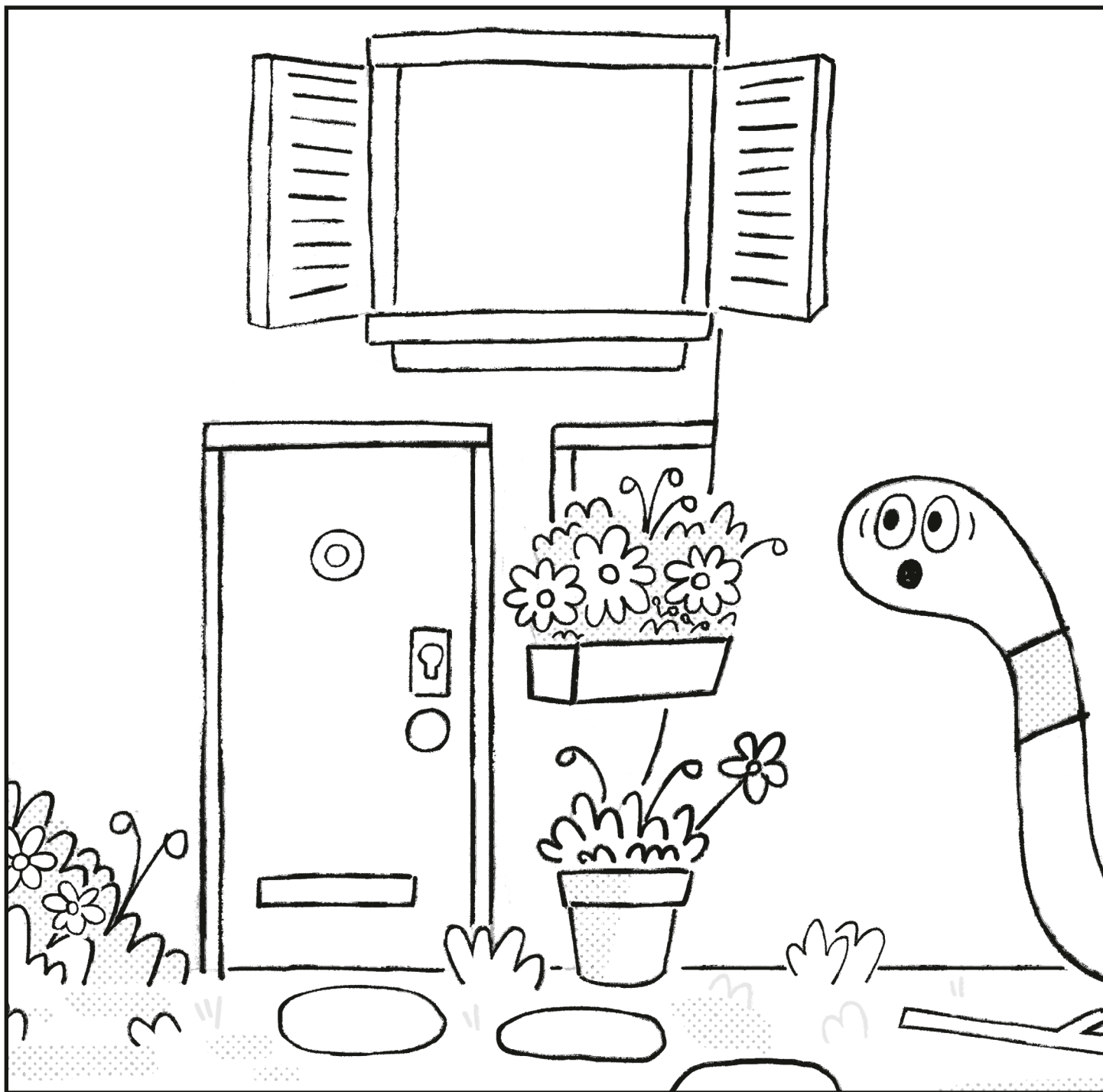


# TIME TO REDECORATE



In *Earl & Worm: The Bad Idea*, Earl and Worm paint their houses, but it doesn't go quite like Worm has in mind. If you could choose any colors or patterns you wanted, what colors would you paint your house?

Use crayons or markers to decorate the drawing below.



Why did you pick those colors? How do the colors you painted your house make you feel when you look at it?

# LEMONADE WITH EARL AND WORM

Let's spend a little time thinking more deeply about a few elements of the story. Use the following questions to guide a conversation while you're reading or as writing prompts once you've finished the book. Enjoy a glass of lemonade while you work or chat, like Earl and Worm do!

- *Earl & Worm: The Bad Idea and Other Stories* begins by saying, "Earl and Worm have been friends for a long, long time." (p. 8) What does "long" mean to you—is that a week? A month? A year? What evidence can you find in the book of their lasting friendship? (One hint: Check the illustrations in the story "Lemonade.")
- Even good friends disagree sometimes, like Earl and Worm do. Think about a favorite friend of yours and a time you disagreed. How did you compromise or resolve the situation? What did you and your friend say or do to make things better between you? Can you offer Earl or Worm any advice on how to be a good friend? How do Earl and Worm work out their problems? Find examples from the book.
- At the start of *Earl & Worm: The Bad Idea*, Earl moves in next door to Worm. Imagine your favorite character from a book moves in next door to you. How would you welcome them? What sorts of activities would you want to do together? Where would you take them on a tour of your neighborhood, or what would you want to show them in your home or at your school?
- In the *Earl & Worm: The Bad Idea* chapter "The Poem," Earl asks, "[W]hat does a poem need to do?" and Worm replies, "It needs to tell the truth." (p. 66–67) What do you think Worm means by that? Journal privately and write a poem that tells your truth. You can use the same "Roses are red, Violets are blue" structure that Worm uses, if you want, or write your own verse. It doesn't have to rhyme!
- What happens next for Earl and Worm? Write your own chapter! Be specific and include details in your story like the time of day, a specific location, an activity Earl and or Worm might be doing, how they are feeling, a problem one or both of them might face and solve, and an ending.





# READ EARL & WORM



# AGAIN AND AGAIN!



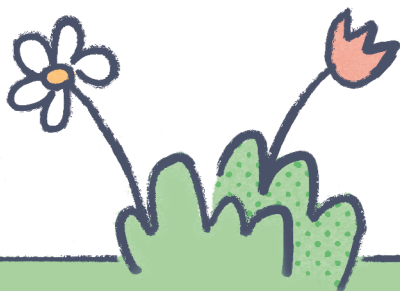
Multiple readings help us connect more deeply with a book.

Try one—or all!—of these ways to revisit Earl & Worm:

- A fluent reader (e.g., a teacher or caregiver) models reading Earl & Worm aloud with appropriate pace, rhythm, and intonations while children follow along in their own books.
- Do a “choral reading” of the book, where everyone (adult and children) reads the text aloud together.
- For more confident readers, turn one of the three Earl & Worm stories into a script and stage a reader’s theater performance. There’s no need for them to memorize their parts, but students should rehearse by rereading their “scripts” several times while practicing their accuracy and expression.
- Read with your ears! Follow along with your copy of Earl & Worm as you listen to the audiobook recording of the book, which is narrated by the author, Greg Pizzoli. Were Earl’s and Worm’s voices the way you’d imagined them when you read it to yourself? Did you notice anything new or different by listening to the audiobook that you hadn’t noticed when you read the book?

## GUIDE WRITER BIOGRAPHY

Kit Ballenger, JD/MLIS, is a Washington, D.C.–area youth services librarian and literary consultant. You can find her on Instagram at [KitonLit](#) and at [HelpYourShelf.com](#).



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