

# Raj the Bookstore Tiger

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Illustrated by Paige Keiser

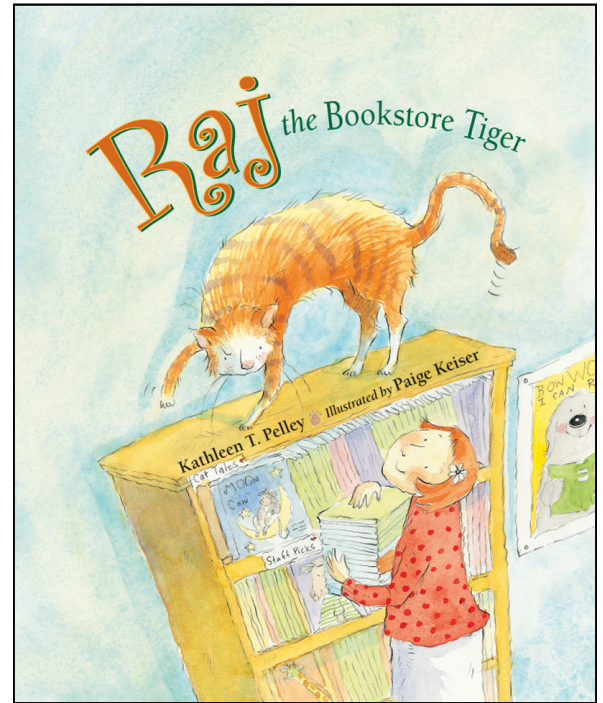
## A Discussion and Activity Guide

Developed by Kathleen T. Pelley and Charlesbridge

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Being a bookstore tiger is hard work. There's much patrolling, and a lot of sitting in laps at story hour, and then there's sleeping in the window display. But Raj is up to the task. He is fierce and proud—until Snowball comes along. The new cat in the bookstore informs Raj that he's just a marmalade kitty-cat. Times get tough, then, for the bookstore tiger. With help from his owner and some wise words from a famous poet, Raj regains his confidence and helps Snowball do the same.

Visit [www.charlesbridge.com](http://www.charlesbridge.com) to watch the book trailer!



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Ages 5–8 • 8 x 10 • 32 pages  
Full-color illustrations

## Discussion Questions

### Before reading *Raj the Bookstore Tiger*:



Show your students the cover of the book. Ask them:

- What do you think the story is about?
- Who is the main character?
- What do you think a bookstore tiger is?
- What kind of things might a bookstore tiger do?

### While reading:



Have fun guessing what happens along the way. Go through the book and study the illustrations with your students before reading out loud. Let the children make up the story, then go back and read it out loud. How was their story different from the book? How was it the same?

### After reading:



Discuss with your students why Raj thought he was a tiger. Encourage them to cite specific examples and evidence from the book. How was Raj like a tiger? How was he different?




Discuss the concept of bullying with your class. Here are some questions to get a conversation started:

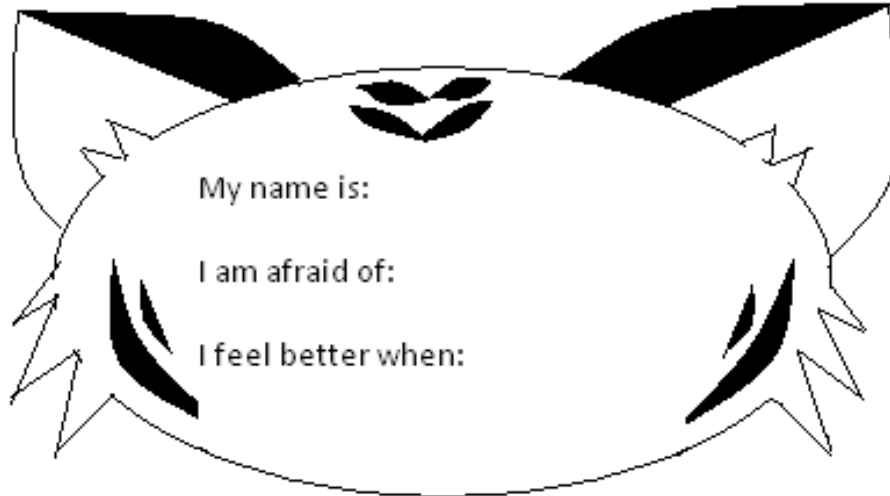
- Why was Snowball mean to Raj?
- Why do you think bullies act the way they do?
- How can you handle a situation like Raj's?
- What made Raj feel better?
- What makes you feel better when someone is unkind to you?




## Activities

### Personal Growth and Development

-  **I'm a Tiger!** Even tigers are timid sometimes. In *Raj the Bookstore Tiger*, Snowball bullies Raj and makes him feel bad. Share when you feel like Raj did and what you do to feel better by completing the sentences in the tiger face below. When you're done, color it in!



-  **What Word Are You?** When Raj looks at himself, he sees a **tiger**. What words do you think best describe you? Pick ten words and list them in the spaces provided below. These words can relate to your personality, appearance, things you love, people you like, etc.

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## Language Arts

 **Poetry Recitation:** In *Raj the Bookstore Tiger*, Raj memorizes the poem “The Tyger” by William Blake and likes to recite it to himself.



For younger children: Memorize a poem as a class, with each child being responsible for one line.

For older children: Pick one of your favorite poems and learn it by heart. Present your poem to the class and explain why you like it and how it makes you feel.

 **Poetic Devices:** Poets often use poetic devices to add beauty and complexity to their works. Here are some definitions and examples of a few poetic devices:

**Alliteration:** the repetition of the beginning sounds of words, e.g., “Sally sells sea shells.”

**Onomatopoeia:** a word that sounds like its meaning, e.g., “hiss,” “buzz,” “splat.”

**Hyperbole:** an obvious and intentional exaggeration, e.g., “I’m so hungry I could eat a horse.”

**Simile:** a comparison using “like” or “as,” e.g., “dark as night.”

For younger children: Complete the similes below:

As brave as a \_\_\_\_\_

As tall as a \_\_\_\_\_

As hungry as a \_\_\_\_\_

As pretty as a \_\_\_\_\_

For older children: The poem “The Tyger” by William Blake is comprised of six groups of quatrains in rhymed couplets. A **quatrain** is a stanza or poem of four lines. A **couplet** is two successive lines of poetry. In the space provided below, write your own quatrain with rhymed couplets about your favorite animal or pet. Try to use at least two of the poetic devices mentioned above in your poem.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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**What's in a Name?** In Hindi, a language spoken in India, the word *Raj* means “king” or “prince.” Writers often choose certain names to give readers a clue about that character’s personality or background. Research the history of your own name.

- What does your name mean?
- What country does your name originally come from?
- Are you named for a family member or friend?
- Do you share the same name as someone famous? If so, who?

When you are done, write out your name, its meaning, and other interesting facts about it on a piece of construction paper and decorate it!

**Storytelling:** Raj’s favorite time of day is story hour. In the space provided below, write down a story from your own life. It can be about anything you want. Try to be as descriptive as possible—use the five senses (touch, sight, sound, smell, and taste) to bring the story to life. Practice reciting your story aloud, in pairs and at home, using facial expressions, pacing, and gestures to heighten the excitement. When you’re ready, present your story to the class!

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