



A Teacher's Guide to: **Flying in a Cage**



Ages 9-12 . 978-1985732872 . E-Book: B07BCT8H25

About the Book

*A song tugs inside me,
like a string pulling on my heart.
It wants to fly free.*

Ivory Strade lives in a world of song.

As she goes to school, as she eats breakfast, as she walks down the road, she creates melodies in her mind. Every sound she hears - a distant birdsong, the wind in the trees - becomes a symphony.

No one knows about her music because Ivory is not like other ten-year-olds. When people speak to her, it's difficult for her to untangle the words in her mind and she retreats into her own private world.

Without the words to explain what she hears, the music stays trapped inside her until, one day, an amazing music teacher shows her how to set her music free.

Fans of Sharon Draper's *Out of My Mind* and Ellie Terry's *Forget Me Not* will enjoy this novel-in-verse that follows a young girl who finds her place despite being different.

About the Author

Melody J. Bremen writes books for middle grade readers. Her books include *Room 42*, *The Boy Who Painted the World*, *Flying in a Cage*, and a four fantasy novels.

She lives in New Jersey with her family.

Visit her website at www.melodyjbremen.com to find out more.



Discussion Questions

1. We're seeing the story from Ivory's point of view. How do you think Ivory appears to an outsider?
2. Ivory meets a piano teacher who changes her life. Do you have a teacher who impacted your life in some way? How?
3. Ivory's mom doesn't want her to take piano lessons because she's afraid Ivory will fail. Do you have something you hesitate from doing because you're afraid of how it will turn out? What do you think will happen if you went ahead and did it?
4. What do you think happens to Ivory after this? What do you think she will do as a grown-up?
5. If Ivory's mom had been successful in her music, how do you think Ivory's life would be different?

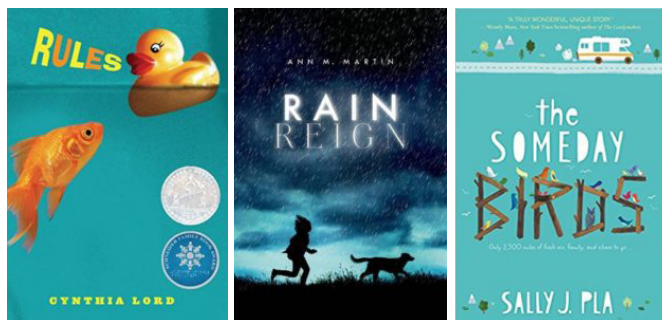
Ideas for Classroom



1. Go outside, close your eyes, and listen closely. What sounds do you hear? Take a pen and paper and compose a poem from those sounds.
2. Make a song by combining sounds of ordinary objects (clock, flipping pages, water running).
3. Rewrite a chapter of this book from another character's point of view (Mom, Aiden, Miss Reeves, etc.)

Further Reading

Other middle grade books featuring an autistic child:



Other middle grade books by Melody:

