

# Island Birthday

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Geography, Celebrations, Weather

**Book Brief:** When the weather is rough, it's hard for airplanes to reach the small Maine island where this story is set. This book follows a young boy as he eagerly awaits the arrival of the plane bringing goodies for his birthday, all while weighing the pros and cons of his island life.

**Author:**

Eva Murray

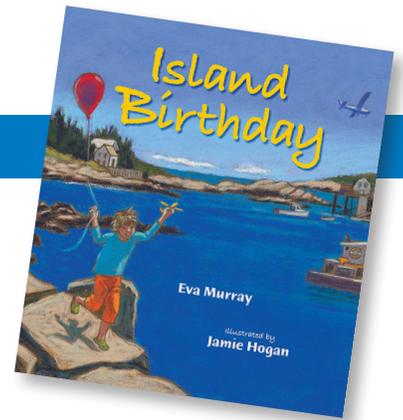
**Illustrator:**

Jamie Hogan

**Content**

**Connections:**

Social Studies, Science



## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** How would you describe the young boy on the cover? What's he holding? Where is he? What do you notice about

the landscape? What do the title and cover illustration tell you about where this story is set?

**The Pictures:** Show students the first three pages of the book. What do the illustrations tell you about the storyline? How would you describe the boy's mood in

these pictures? Is it different from the cover illustration? Explain.

**Prior Knowledge:** What makes a body of land an island? The island in this story is off the coast of Maine. Locate Maine on a map or globe. How would you describe the geographic region where you live? Are there any large bodies of water nearby? Mountains?

**Vocabulary:** island, mainland, phosphorescence

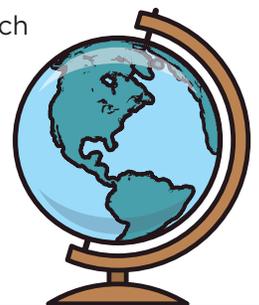
**Purpose for Reading:** As we read, think about how the story is changing how you think about living on an island.

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Do you think the boy is often frustrated by life on an island?
- ◆ How do you think people come to live in this type of environment?
- ◆ How is the author showing some of the benefits of this type of lifestyle?

- ◆ Why does the weather have such a large impact on island life?
- ◆ How does the boy's attitude change?
- ◆ What do you think the boy wants to be when he is older? Why?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** While listening to the story, how did your image of what living on an island would be like change? Did the story bring up any aspects of island life you hadn't thought of before? After reading, would you want to live on an island? Why or why not?

**Extending Our Thinking:** Brainstorm with a partner a list of pros and cons for living on an island. Do you have to deal with any of those issues where you live? What are the pros and cons for living in your city? What might be an overall theme for this book? Explain your reasoning.

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is  
Fundamental