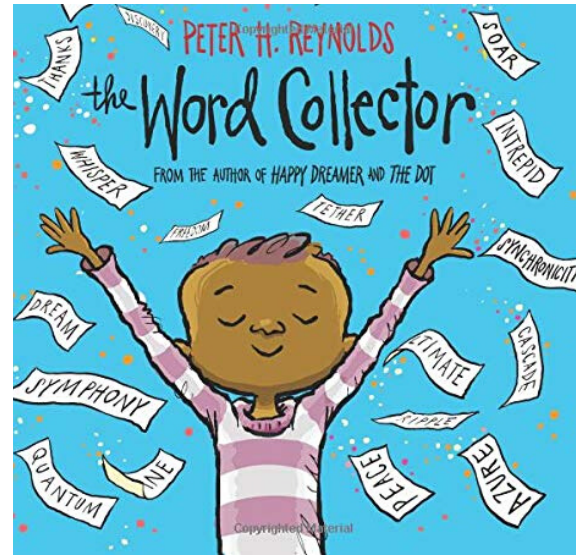




# THE WORD COLLECTOR

PETER H. REYNOLDS

Jerome is like many people- he collects something. But he doesn't collect stamps or coins like most people. He collects words. Big words, small words, nouns, adjectives, verbs. He collects all of his words until one day they all spill out and make a mess. Words that he's never imagined together before end up next to one another and soon her realizes: he can use all these words to write poetry and tell stories. How will people feel when he shares his words with the world?



## Questions:

1. Do you collect anything? What do you collect? Why do you collect them?
2. Do you have a favorite word or any words you really love? Why do you love that word?
3. How do you think learning a new word makes Jerome feel? How do you think he feels when he reads all the words he is writing down? Does everyone feel that way about words?
4. Are there some words that you like to say and others that you like to read? Do some words just look nice on the page and others just sound nice out loud?
5. How do you think Jerome felt seeing all his favorite words flying through the air and getting disorganized? Would you feel good if something you loved and worked hard on got ruined?
6. Did it end up being ruined or did it make something new? How do you think he felt when he discovered writing poems with all the words he loves so much?
7. How did his words make people feel? Can words make you feel a certain way? How do nice words make you feel? How do mean words make you feel? Do mean words hurt even if they're not being said to you, but to someone else?
8. Can even short, simple, easy words carry a lot of power and feeling? How does it make you feel when someone says "I'm sorry" or "I understand"?
9. Do words help express feelings? What are some words that help us describe how we feel? How does having those words help us to show empathy and show people that we care? When you hear someone say they are sad or hurt, how does that make you feel?
10. This time when he sees his words flying through the air does he feel the same way he did when he dropped them earlier in the book? Why does he feel different now? Is he still collecting words or is he sharing them?
11. Does it help the other kids when Jerome shares his words, his poems, and his songs? How do the kids feel when Jerome shares that with the world?