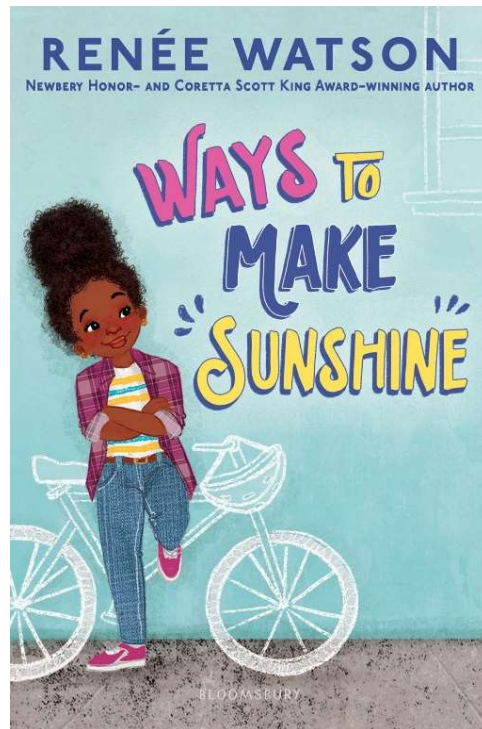


Family Fun Pack

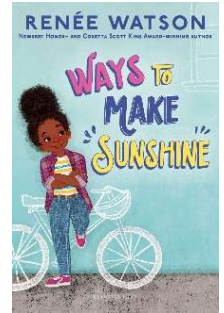


Ways to Make Sunshine by Renée Watson

Visit our Digital Resource Hub

Kahoot! quizzes, Flipgrid interactions, and the *Ways to Make Sunshine* blog.

Link: www.readtothemresourcehub.org/
Password: RyanKing1



Read Aloud Tips For Families

Ways to Make Sunshine by Renée Watson

- ✓ **Make reading time a priority** – Sit down as a family and decide on a daily reading time, and then consider it an appointment that needs to be kept. Some families might find that right before bed is the best time, but early risers might enjoy reading at breakfast. For younger listeners, bath time can be great! Build it into your daily routine and soon you will find that everyone is ready and waiting to hear what comes next in the story.
- ✓ **Show emotion that matches the story** – All of the books from **Read to Them** capture a range of emotions over the course of the story. When reading aloud, mirroring the emotions felt by the characters will make the story more meaningful to your listener.
- ✓ **Vary your rhythm** – Have fun with the language in your book. During suspenseful sections, *slow down* and let the suspense build. During a particularly meaningful moment, *pause* and let the impact settle. During emotion-packed scenes, drop your voice to a *whisper*. When you are reading aloud, you are performing the story. Authors don't want their stories performed in monotone!
- ✓ **Don't be afraid to be silly** – Accents, funny voices, and sound effects are all great tools to use to make reading aloud more engaging. Character-specific voices or mannerisms also help listeners follow the dialogue. It might be a challenge, but it's worth the effort to make your story come alive.
- ✓ **Stay engaged with your listener throughout your reading time** – Stop from time to time to explain an unfamiliar vocabulary word, discuss an important point, or ask your child to make a prediction. You don't want to derail the story too much, but you do want to make reading together interactive.
- ✓ **Expect some fidgeting** – Listening during reading time does not have to be a stationary activity. Some listeners will sit still as stones with eyes and ears fixed on you, and that's great. But other listeners stay more engaged with something in their hands like a small toy, some crayons, or a stuffed animal. Some children might listen better if allowed to walk around the room, or even bounce on the bed a bit. Work together to find the way that works best for your child.

Creating a culture of literacy in every home.

www.readtothem.org

@readtothem



B

Use the [Connection Guide](#) to tell the author that you're reading *Ways to Make Sunshine*!

Check out the Digital Resource Hub readtothemresourcehub.org/
Password:
RyanKing1

Create a scrapbook page profile of one of the characters from the book.

Hot Seat!
Pretend to be a character from the book and let someone interview you.

Build a reading fort together!
bit.ly/readfort

I

Draw your dream car.

Play your favorite songs and have a family dance party.

Get your whole family to read together in your pajamas!

Learn 3 new facts about Oregon, the setting of *Ways to Make Sunshine*.

Find a cookbook at your local public library.

N

Write a poem about your family. Try a haiku, acrostic, or limerick!

Read a chapter outside with your family.



Try a new recipe together.

Design a new cover for the book.

G

Have some ice cream together.

Find a quote in the book that's worth sharing. Put it on a banner, poster, or t-shirt!

Play charades!
Reenact a scene from the book without using words.

Try out one of the activities in the [Family Fun Packet](#).

Write a book review of *Ways to Make Sunshine* for your teacher or school librarian.

O

Make bookmarks together!
bit.ly/diybmarx

Play Rock Paper Scissors.

Write a letter to one of the characters in the book.

Make a list of new words you discover while reading together and learn their definitions.

Share a picture of your family reading with [@readtothem](#).





Family Fun Cards

Pages 1-52

Ways to Make Sunshine by Renée Watson

What do you know?

What does Brandon say to the substitute teacher about Ryan?

What is the name of the neighbor Ryan's family checks on and helps with errands?

What is inside the canister Ryan finds in the new house?

What do you think?

"It's okay to be sad. Change is scary." (p. 14) That is what Ryan's mom tells her about moving. Do you agree? Do you think change is scary? Describe a time when you had to go through a change in your life. How did you feel about it before it happened? What about after?

What can you do?

Living Your Name

"Be who we named you to be." (pp. 4-5)

Ryan and Raymond have special names, chosen by their parents as names to grow into. Ryan means "King" and Raymond means "Protector." Do you know what your name means? There are lots of baby name books at the library and online websites that give the meanings of familiar names. Maybe your name has a different meaning within your family. Find out the story behind the selection of your name. Then make a sign for your bedroom with your name and some illustrations showing its meaning to your family.



Family Fun Cards

Pages 53-120

Ways to Make Sunshine by Renée Watson

What do you know?

What does Grandma tell Ryan will happen to her hair if it gets wet?

Who is the best singer at Vernon School?

What treat did Ryan and Amanda buy at the Saturday Market?

What do you think?

“How you wear your hair is your choice and no matter what you choose, it’s not going to determine if you’re beautiful or not. The only thing that will determine that is how you treat others.” (pp. 59-60) Do you agree with Ryan’s grandmother? If she is right, why do so many people focus on external beauty?

What can you do?

#MakeSunshine Challenge

“Your kindness makes you beautiful...” (p. 59)

In the back of the book, author Renée Watson issues a #MakeSunshine Challenge. She lists ten ideas for making sunshine in your life. Ideas range from sharing a toy to making a meal for someone. Take a look at Ms. Watson’s list and brainstorm with your family to come up with your own ideas. Then pick a few and get busy spreading sunshine. Share a photo of your kindness adventure on social media using hashtags #MakeSunshine and #ReadtoThem so we can see all the sunshine you make!



Family Fun Cards

Pages 121-175

Ways to Make Sunshine

by Renée Watson

What do you know?

Who said, “Whatever she did is making my lips burn”?

What did the girls tape all over Ryan’s room on the rainy day?

Where do Ryan and her mom always go on the last day of school?

What do you think?

“You’re good at what you do, too. We all are.” (p. 155)

Ryan encourages Hannah to sing, even though Hannah is nervous. Ryan appreciates the talents of others. What talents do you appreciate in the members of your family? What talents do other people appreciate in you?

What can you do?

Family Talent Showcase

“The show must go on.” (p. 163)

Ryan saves the day by stepping up to be the MC for the Fourth-Grade Talent Showcase. In her spirit, dust off your dancing shoes and warm up your voices. It’s time for a Family Talent Showcase! Choose someone to be the MC. Encourage each member of the family to pick a talent to display. Since you are having the show at home, you can broaden the scope of talents to show. Maybe someone is a Lego master and wants to display some amazing creations. Or someone else wants to make the perfect smoothie. Just make sure everyone gets a chance to shine.



Family Fun Cards Answer Key

Ways to Make Sunshine by Renée Watson



Pages 1-52

What does Brandon say to the substitute teacher about Ryan?
“She has a boy’s name.”

Who is the neighbor they check on and help with errands?
Ms. Walters

What is inside the canister Ryan finds in the new house?
2 seashells, a postcard, a handkerchief, dried rose petals, and 3 gold hairpins

Pages 53-120

What does Grandma tell Ryan will happen to her hair if it gets wet?
It will puff right back out.

Who is the best singer at Vernon School?
Hannah Wilkerson

What treat did Ryan and Amanda buy at the Saturday Market?
Elephant ears

Pages 121-175

Who said, “Whatever she did is making my lips burn”?
Ray

What did the girls tape all over Ryan’s room on the rainy day?
Suns made of yellow construction paper

Where do Ryan and her mom always go on the last day of school?
North Portland Library



Connection Guide

Ways to Make Sunshine by Renée Watson



Connect with Read to Them

Hashtags: [#ReadtoThem](#), [#1School1Book](#), [#1District1Book](#)

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, & Pinterest: [@readtothem](#)

Email: programs@readtothem.org

Website: www.readtothem.org/

Connect with author Renée Watson

Twitter: [@reneewauthor](#)

Facebook: [@renee.Watson.5832](#)

Instagram: [@harlemportland](#)

Website: www.reneewatson.net

Connect with illustrator Nina Mata

Twitter: [@msbeautiful](#)

Facebook: [@beautiful](#)

Instagram: [@ninabonina](#)

Website: www.beautiful.org

Connect with the publisher, Bloomsbury Children's Books

Twitter: [@BloomsburyPub](#)

Facebook: [@BloomsburyUSA](#)

Instagram: [@bloomsburypublishing](#)

Website: www.bloomsbury.com/us/childrens

Creating a culture of literacy in every home.

www.readtothem.org

[@readtothem](#)





Ways to Make Sunshine by Renée Watson



Next Book Connections

If you loved *Ways to Make Sunshine*, here are some other books your family might enjoy reading together...

Other books written by Renée Watson:

- *Harlem's Little Blackbird*
- *Piecing Me Together*
- *A Place Where Hurricanes Happen*
- *Some Places More Than Others*
- *Ways to Grow Love* (sequel)
- *What Momma Left Me*

Picture books with similar themes:

- *Yard Sale* – Eve Bunting
- *When Times Are Tough* – Yanitzia Canetti
- *Not Quite Snow White* – Ashley Franklin
- *Tía Isa Wants a Car* – Meg Medina
- *How to Feed Your Parents* – Ryan Miller
- *Thunder Cake* – Patricia Polacco
- *Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao* – Kat Zhang

Novels with similar themes:

- *Krista Kim-Bap* – Angela Ahn
- *Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great* – Judy Blume
- *Ramona and Her Mother* – Beverly Cleary
- *Vilonia Beebe Takes Charge* – Kristin L. Gray
- *Lights, Camera, Cook!* – Charise Mericle Harper
- *Eggs Over Evie* – Alison Jackson
- *Stand Up, Yumi Chung!* – Jessica Kim
- *Midsummer's Mayhem* – Rajani LaRocca
- *The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher* – Dana Alison Levy
- *Something to Say* – Lisa Moore Ramée
- *Roll with It* – Jamie Sumner
- *Keena Ford and the Secret Journal Mix-Up* – Melissa Thomson
- *Stef Soto, Taco Queen* – Jennifer Torres
- *Pie* – Sara Weeks
- *A Long Line of Cakes* – Deborah Wiles
- *P.S. Be Eleven* – Rita Williams-Garcia