

Courage for Beginners

By Karen Harrington

Annotation

If only Mysti could be a character in a book, then she would know how to deal with her mother, who is agoraphobic and unable to leave the house; with her best friend, who decides he's too cool for her; and with all the changes and challenges in her life, that shift into focus when her father is hurt, and the pantry is slowly emptying. With the help of new friends, including the unflappable Rama Khan, Mysti finds the courage to change her own story.

Book Talk

What would you do if your best friend started to make fun of you; and you had to sit at the nerd table? What kind of story would you write about courage and bravery, especially if both your parents were unable to take care of things at home?

Book Trailers

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-KFLwSI0iA;>

Author on the Internet

- Website: kharringtonbook.com
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/KA_Harrington
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/KarenHarringtonAuthor/

Items to use in a library display

- Little hot air balloon (photograph)
- grocery bag
- orange coat
- Texas flag or star

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- media.hdp.hbgusa.com/titles/assets/reading_group.../EG_9780316210485.pdf

First Line of the Book:

- "I don't know much, but I do know people stop to look at unusual things."

Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)

- *Chicken soup for the soul: teens talk middle school : 33 stories about bullies and the ups and downs of friendship for younger teens* by Jack Canfield
- *How to write your best story ever!* by Christopher Edge

What to Read Next

- *Everything is Fine* by Anne D. Ellis
- *Crazy* by Linda Vigen Phillips

Other Books by this Author:

- *Sure Signs of Crazy*
- *May Day*

Additional Resources

- Music: “Let it Go” (Frozen); “If I only had the Nerve” (Wizard of Oz), the latest “hipster” music
- Poetry: <https://www.poemhunter.com/poems/courage/>
- Art/craft activity:
schools.cms.k12.nc.us/beverlywoodsES/Documents/Marchcourage.pdf
- Interview with the author: <http://littlebrownlibrary.com/courage-for-beginners/>
- Book Study/Lesson ideas:
media.hdp.hbgusa.com/titles/assets/reading_group.../EG_9780316210485.pdf
- <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/225180050090965748/>; create your own “universal laws in the book of education” (p.48).