



## My Life in Pictures

Written and Illustrated by: Deborah Zemke

Bea Garcia draws everything all the time - she's an artist! But then her first and only best friend, Yvonne, moves to Australia. Bea has to draw what she wishes didn't happen - her best friend waving good-bye. What could be worse? What's worse is the boy who moves in next door. He is not like Yvonne at all - he's a monster! Bert burps, buzzes, and calls Bea names. He ruins everything and he even tries to steal her book of drawings! Luckily Bea knows that her pencil has power and figures out just what to draw to put that monster in his place.

Lexile: 670 AR Level: 3.3

**Author Website:** <http://www.deborahzemke.com/>

### Book Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCQRRg1wW18>

### Author/Illustrator Interviews:

<http://www.blueapplebooks.com/videos/deborah-zemke-discusses-her-process>

### Food: Homemade Chocolate Chip Cookies



**Eraser:** <http://www.orientaltrading.com/pencil-shaped-erasers-a2-13653717.fltr>



### Nonfiction Titles:

Sincerely Yours: Writing Your Own Letter (Writer's Toolbox) by Nancy Loewen

D is for Down Under: An Australia Alphabet (Discover the World) by Devin Scillian

## **Introduction:**

- Teacher shares 'diary' of a day in his/her life including pictures. Would be great to show a field trip or something the class has done together. (Be sure to show the good and bad parts of the day).

## **Story time Activities:**

- Pre-reading:
  - Display cover – is this fiction or non-fiction? Why do you think that?
  - Predict based on the cover what they think the story will be about.
- Post reading:
  - Your Life in Pictures!  
Get a sketchbook, journal, or notebook and turn it into a picture of your life!
  - Draw a picture of something that could only happen in a picture.  
(shark diving in the Mariana Trench, shaking hands with an

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. Bea uses drawing to think through her emotions. What do you use to help think through your emotions?
2. How did Bea deal with Bert? How could she have dealt with him differently?
3. Bea and Yvonne were best friends. Have you ever had a best friend? What makes someone a good friend?
4. Have you ever had a good friend move away or go to a different school (or class)? How did you deal with it?