

The Great Zapfino

Mac Barnett

Illustrated by Marla Frazee

BOOK TALK CARDS



Spark discussion and foster a reading community with our top picks



ABOUT THE BOOK

A performer runs away from the circus due to his fear of heights, but soon must learn to face his fears and follow his heart.



KS3

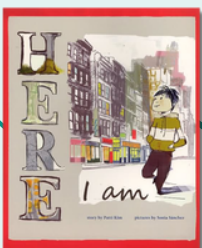
THEMES:

- Courage
- Resilience
- Ambition
- Disappointment
- Fear

TIME TO TALK

- 1 How does the 'great' Zapfino seem very insignificant on the first page? What does this suggest about misrepresentation?
- 2 *'Zapfino will defy fate'* – do you think this is possible in life? To what extent are our fortunes pre-determined? To what extent do we have any control?
- 3 How would you feel in Zapfino's position? Does it look like a role he has chosen or that has been enforced? How can you voice your concerns in a difficult situation?
- 4 Is there anything daring that you would like to try? How can we grow from these experiences sometimes?
- 5 What do you think of Zapfino's escape option?
- 6 Where would you choose as a safe place to escape to?
- 7 Look at Zapfino in the lift sequence. How does his body language indicate he is more at ease in this role? Do you find it easy or difficult to read people's body language?
- 8 Have you ever reconsidered something you have found a challenge, like Zapfino? How does it feel to conquer something that you have previously struggled to overcome? How does it feel when you are not yet able to overcome it?
- 9 How would you feel to witness Zapfino's leap? How can you support a friend with a challenge? What can you do if help is not welcome?
- 10 In what ways does Zapfino appear more confident at the end of the story? How might this help him moving forwards?

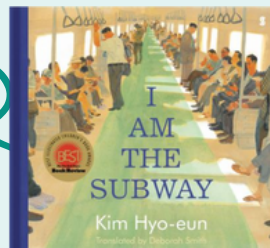
TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:



Here I am by Patti Kim and Sonia Sanchez (illustrator)



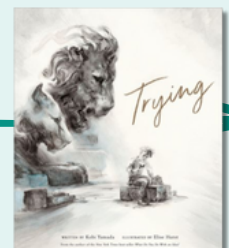
Flood by Alvaro F Villa



I Am The Subway by Kim Hyo-eun



The Arrival by Shaun Tan



Trying by Kobi Yamada and Elise Hurst (illustrator)