

Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess

About the book:

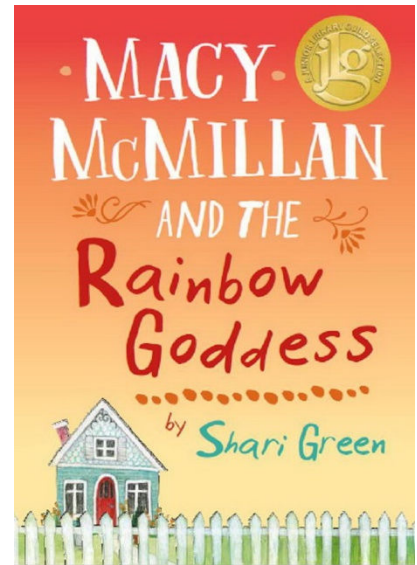
Olivia has been Macy McMillan’s best friend ever since Macy transferred to Hamilton Elementary from Braeside School for the Deaf. But then their sixth-grade teacher assigned that embarrassing family tree project, and Olivia made a joke about Macy’s father, and now neither girl is speaking—or signing—to the other.

It couldn’t have happened at a worse time. With her mother getting married and an ugly For Sale sign jammed into their yard, Macy could really use a best friend right now. But it seems the only person who has time for her these days is Iris Gillan from next door. And it’s not like a crabby, old woman who doesn’t even know sign language is going to be any comfort. Right?

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Juvenile Fiction Ages 8–12



Discussion questions and activities:

Truth in fiction. Iris has quite a list of things she learned from reading *Anne of Green Gables* (page 86). Think of a favorite book and make a list of things you learned from reading it, or things the characters learned that you think are especially helpful or true in real life. Choose one thing from your list and portray it using collage, calligraphy, or another art form of your choice.

Shape poems. There are four times in the book when Iris and Macy share longer, hand-written stories, and these are written using formal poetic structures. The one Macy writes about her family tree is a concrete poem, or “shape poem”, in the shape of a tree. Choose a subject and create a shape poem.

Connections. Why does Iris think it’s important to connect with the people who come into her life? How do our stories—the stories of our real lives—connect us to other people? What can we learn from listening to other people’s stories? Even though communication challenges made it difficult for Macy and Iris to connect, they both made the effort. Create a comic strip using ToonDoo or a similar program (or draw your own on paper) to show how you could connect with someone you don’t know well.

Saving and sharing. To save their stories, Macy made family tree leaves for “people who feel like home” and Iris kept scrapbooks, journals, and memorabilia. To share their stories, they wrote notes to each other and shared favorite books. How can we save our stories? How can we share our stories with one another? Choose a project to capture a story about you (poster, video, Prezi, poem, scrapbook, etc.). Share it with someone.

What happens next? MACY McMILLAN AND THE RAINBOW GODDESS ends with a beginning. What do you think happens next? Will things go smoothly in their new home? What might go wrong? Write the next chapter, or work with a group to decide what happens next and then act it out.