

The Little Red Fort by Brenda Maier, pictures by Sonia Sanchez

"And she did" is repeated throughout the book, see if your audience will repeat the phrase as you read. Point to the words as you read them!

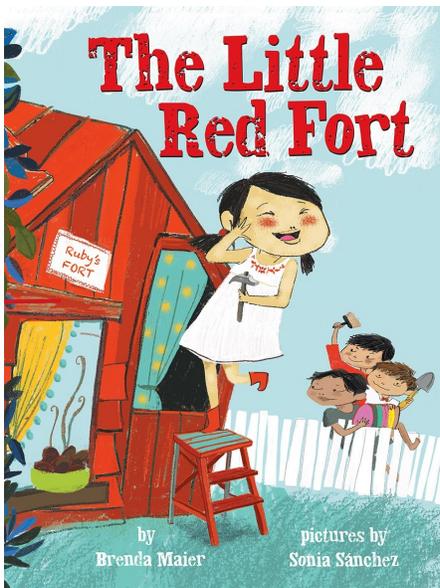
Using different voices for each character keeps listeners engaged with the story. Be as expressive as possible!

Engage with your audience and encourage critical thinking by asking what other supplies Ruby may need!

Did you notice the boys' answers rhyme with their names? While reading, emphasize the rhyming sound .

Encourage empathy by asking the audience how Ruby may be feeling throughout the story.

Ask your audience if you would let Ruby's brothers play in the fort. What would they do in their forts?



Ruby's mind was always full of ideas. One day, she found some old boards. "Who wants to help me build something?" she asked her brothers. Oscar Lee pretended not to hear her. Rodrigo gave her a look that could melt popsicles. Jose almost fell off the fence. "You don't know how to build anything," they said. Ruby shrugged. "Then I'll learn."

And she did.

"Who wants to help me draw the plans?" Ruby asked. The boys clutched their sides and howled with laughter. "Not me," said Oscar Lee. "I don't think so," said Rodrigo. "No way," said Jose. "I'm too busy."

"Fine," said Ruby. "I'll draw them myself."

And she did.

Satisfied with her plans, Ruby asked "Who wants to help me gather the supplies?" "Not me," said Oscar Lee. "I don't think so," said Rodrigo. "No way," said Jose. "I'm too busy."

"Fine," said Ruby. "I'll gather them myself."

And she did.

When all the supplies were gathered, Ruby asked, "Who wants to help me cut the boards?" "Not me," said Oscar Lee. "I don't think so," said Rodrigo. "No way," said Jose. "I'm too busy."

"Fine," said Ruby. "I'll cut them myself."

And she did.

When all the boards were neatly cut, Ruby sang "Who wants to help me hammer in the nails?" "Not me," said Oscar Lee. "I don't think so," said Rodrigo. "No way," said Jose. "I'm too busy."

"Fine," said Ruby. "I'll hammer them myself."

And she did.

Soon, Ruby's creation was complete. "Who wants to play in my fort?" she called.

"Me, me!" said Oscar Lee. "Let's go!" said Rodrigo. "I'll play!" said Jose. "I'm not busy anymore."

"Not so fast," Ruby said. "You didn't help me draw the plans or gather the supplies or cut the boards or hammer the nails. You said I didn't know how to build. And you laughed at me. I'm going to play in the fort by myself."

And she did.

"We didn't want to play anyway," the boys said.

But they did.

So they huddled, whispered, and got straight to work. Oscar Lee made a mailbox. Rodrigo planted flowers. Jose painted the fort fire-engine red.

Ruby was delighted.

That evening, the boys followed a delicious aroma to a fort-warming party. "Who wants to help me clean this plate?"

Ruby asked.

"We do!" the boys said.

And they did.

