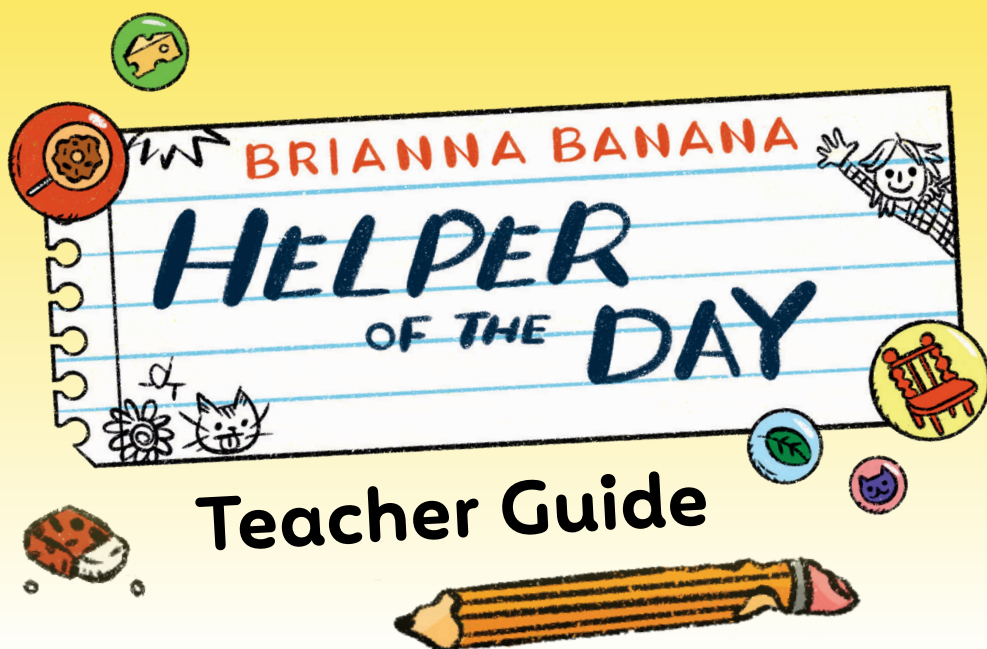
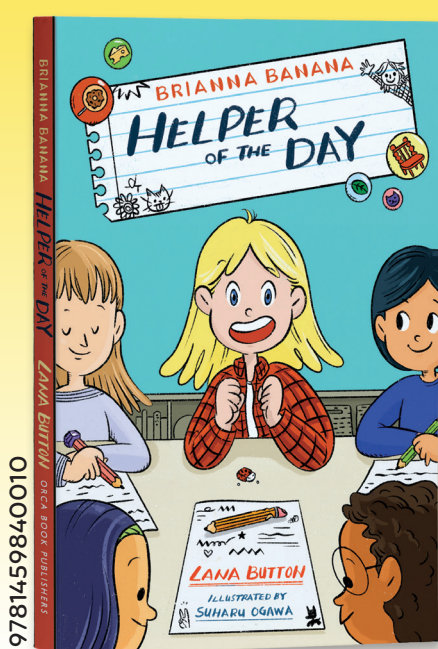
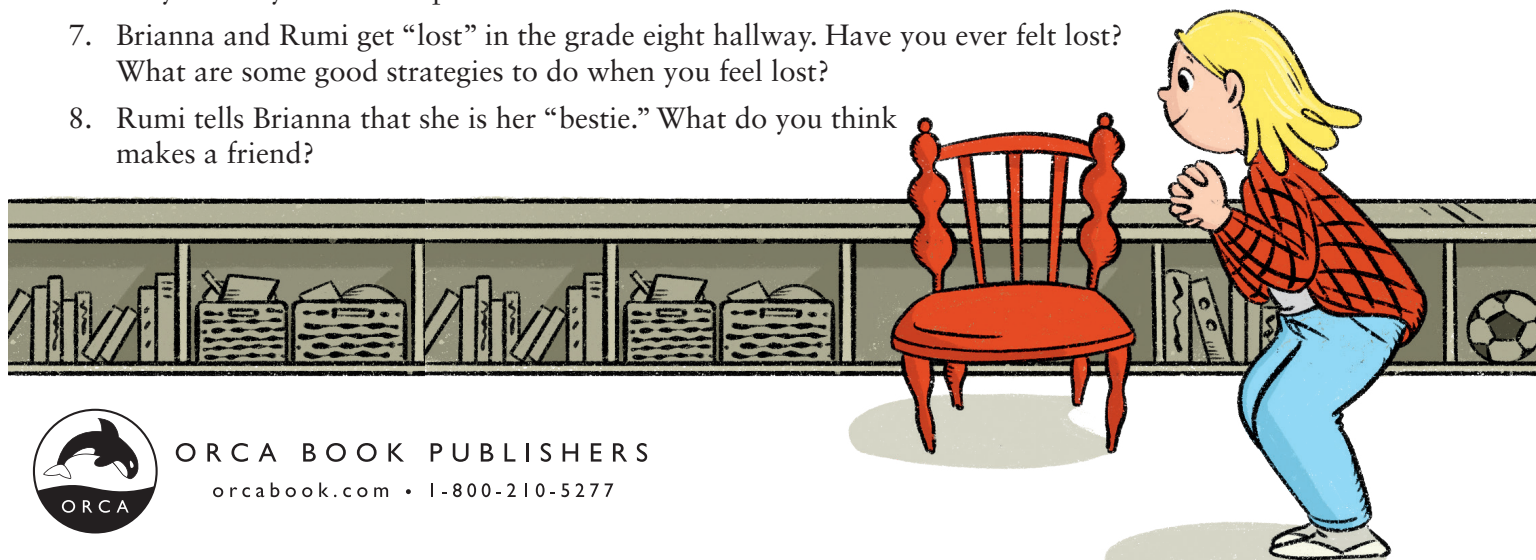


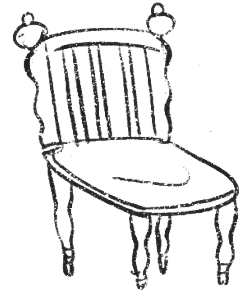


**Brianna Banana can't seem to make friends.** Yes, she can be impulsive and distracted, and sometimes she loses her temper, but Brianna is sure these troubles will disappear once she's chosen to be classroom helper. When the new girl is picked instead, Brianna prepares for another disappointing day. But maybe friendship is just around the corner.

## Discussion Questions:

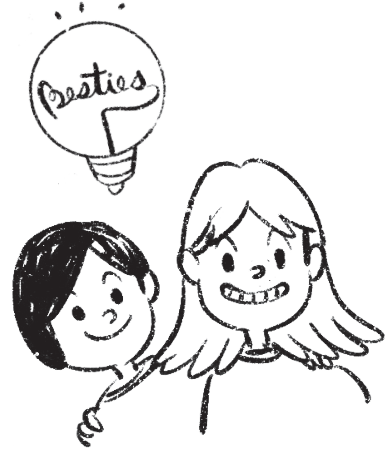
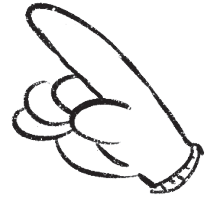
1. Brianna has a nickname that she doesn't like. How do you feel about nicknames? Do you think that some friends enjoy having nicknames? When is it not okay to use a nickname?
2. What are some good ways to find out how to say someone's name respectfully? What are some good ways to express to someone that they are misusing or mispronouncing your name?
3. Brianna feels confused about the assignment Mrs. Newberry gave her. How does it make you feel when you are confused about an assignment given to you? What strategies could you use to help get support? What positive mindset phrases could you say to yourself, to help yourself feel more confident?
4. Brianna says that she has been in trouble a "bazillion times." Why do you think this keeps happening to her? How do you think this makes her feel? If you had a friend who was upset or embarrassed at school, what might you say or do to make them feel better?
5. Kinsley has a special pencil. Do you have a special school supply that helps you with schoolwork? If you could design a super special school supply, what might it be?
6. Why do belly breaths help Brianna? What can we do to feel better when we feel frustrated or overwhelmed?
7. Brianna and Rumi get "lost" in the grade eight hallway. Have you ever felt lost? What are some good strategies to do when you feel lost?
8. Rumi tells Brianna that she is her "bestie." What do you think makes a friend?





## Activities:

1. Pretend that you are the Helper of the Day in your classroom. Make a list of all of the jobs and activities you get to do today.
2. Brianna makes silent wishes in her head about things she wants to come true. Draw a picture of a wish that you would like to come true for yourself.
3. Make a nametag that says, "Hello My Name Is..." and write the name you would like friends to call you. (You could write your name a second time using phonetic spelling, to assist friends with pronunciation.)
4. Mrs. Newberry tries to help Brianna with her trip to the library by giving her directions. Draw a map of your school labelling your classroom and areas that might include the library, the office, the playground and the gymnasium.
5. Write written directions to travel from your classroom to one of these spots. Try to use landmarks (ie: when you see the stairs...) direction (ie: "turn right," "go straight.") and distance (ie: "take about 20 steps" or "it's a one-minute walk to get there.")
6. Have a partner follow these directions. Do they make it to the spot? Now follow their directions.



## About the author:

Lana Button is an early childhood educator and the author of more than a dozen books for children, including *Stay My Baby*, *Tough Like Mum* and the *Kitty and Friends* series. Her books have been shortlisted for the Blue Spruce Award, Shining Willow Award, IODE Jean Throop Book Award and Rainforest of Reading, and they have been recognized as Canadian Children's Book Centre's Best Books and an IBBY Outstanding Book for Young Children. Lana is a former actress who considers every read-aloud a mini performance. When not writing new stories, Lana spends her time traveling to schools and festivals to share her passion for social-emotional literacy. She lives in Burlington, Ontario.

