

# CATCH a spark!

## Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

### Bolivar

Written by Sean Rubin  
224 pages / Grades 2-6

Sybil's neighbor is a dinosaur, but no one realizes it except for her. Set in the busy, bustling New York City, is it possible for Bolivar to continue living unnoticed in a city with so many people? A new lovable character makes a big statement on how we listen to children as well as the fact that we all get so wrapped up in our daily lives, we often fail to notice the big things happening right in front of us. Stunning illustrations make the story leap off the page.



### C Context

New York City  
Slowing down and being observant.  
Natural History Museum

### A Arts

Intricacy of details in art. Readers will spend time with each page, finding clues, finding Bolivar. The illustrations are all individual works of art.  
Movement in art.  
Layouts of graphic novels, including variety of panel size. Is this a graphic novel or a novel...or both?

### T Themes

Truth and consequences  
Being seen and heard  
Friendship  
Noticing things around you  
Listening

### C Create

Create a fantastical tale, that feels like it could happen. In other words, write a realistic story, but change just one element (such as a dinosaur being your neighbor).

Choose one illustration and analyze the details of it. What makes it come to life? Challenge yourself to create just one scene, including as many details as possible. Keep coming back to it, asking peers for thoughts. Consider the scale and time this takes, and then consider the time for an entire book, like *Bolivar!*

### H Heart Words

*"People never notice ANYthing."*  
*"You noticed me?"*

