

Blooming Besties

by Mary Tellefson



“It is always good to find stories in which people who are blind are portrayed as regular, everyday people that also teach the reader about tools and strategies that blind people use to do everyday things.”

- Ann Cummins, Parent of a blind daughter

“As a teacher of blind kids for a long time and as someone who has often thought about how cool it would be to have books for them from their point of view, I loved this book!”

- Nancy Parkin Bashizi Teacher of the visually impaired

“I liked the book. Even though a blind person might be different from somebody it doesn't mean you can tease them. I would read this everrrryyy night if I could. When we stopped halfway through I was disappointed and wanted to keep reading.”

- Addison, Minnesotan 5th grade student

Should Ruby, a blind 4th grader, be suspended when she hits a boy who pulled a nasty prank on her at school? What if the boy she hit wasn't really the culprit?

Blooming Besties is the story of a blind elementary school student, Ruby, and her goofy, sighted sidekick and best friend Charleigh, who sticks up for her in the principal's office.

This is just one of several experiences the girls have together that solidify their bond, challenge their values, and cause hilarious growing pains. Themes of blindness, using a cane, responsibility, lying, bullying, no-tolerance policies, inclusion, and growing up with a best friend weave together in a sensory-rich storyline spanning the girls' fourth through seventh grade years.



Mary Tellefson has been a teacher for visually impaired and blind students, ages birth to 98, for over 40 years. A well-respected professional in her field, she has given workshops all over the US and has published in multiple peer-review journals. Blooming Besties is her second children's book, and her first book, Two Canes on the Tundra, was also published by Orange Hat Publishing this year. A professional text entitled Culturally Responsive Orientation and Mobility Career, College and Community Readiness Standards is also in publication with Austin Macauley

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