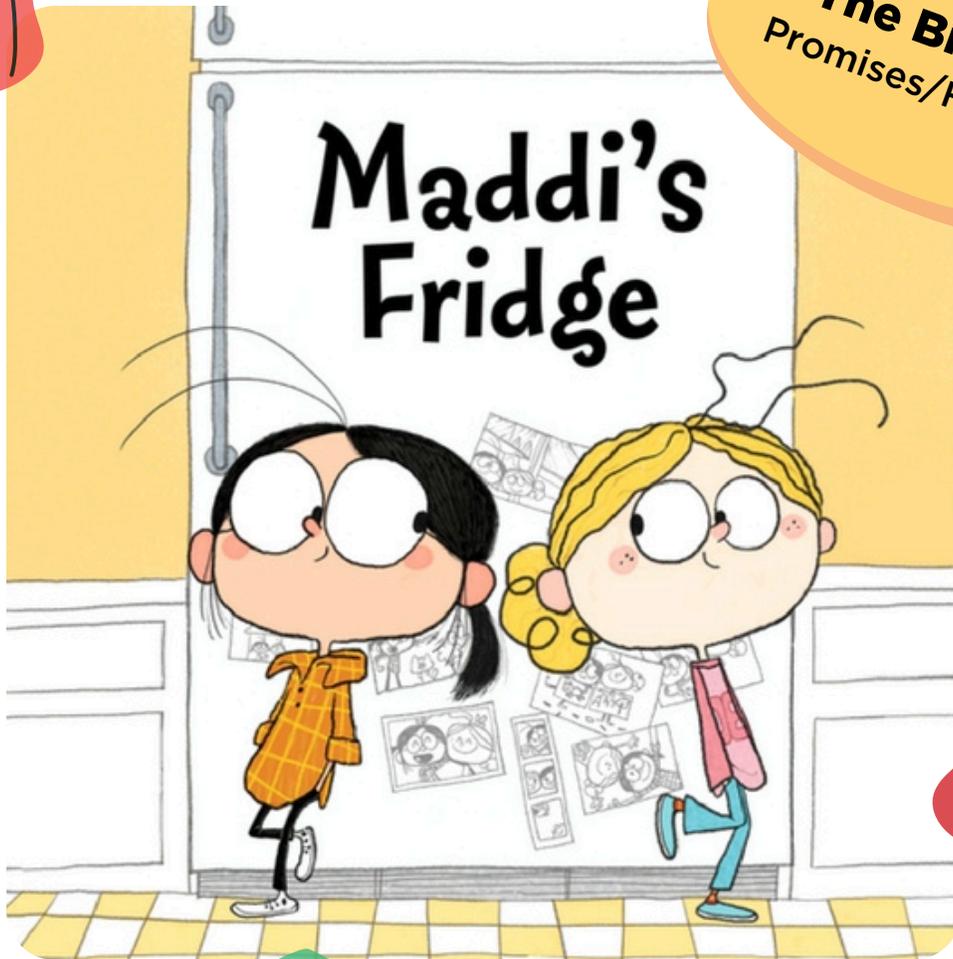


CHILDSPRAY
RESOURCES



The Big Idea:
Promises/Friendship

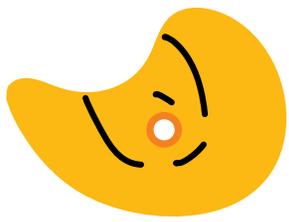


Written by Anne Negri

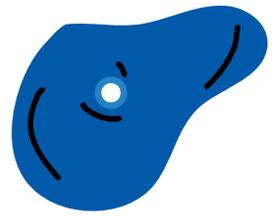
Based on the book by Lois Brandt

Directed by Jenny Millinger



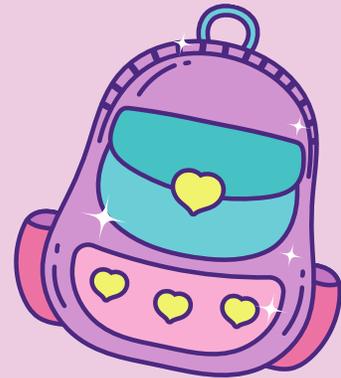


Meet the Team



Cast

Maddi Clara Bentz
Sofia Sedona Valdez
Luisa Hannah Rodriguez



Creative Team

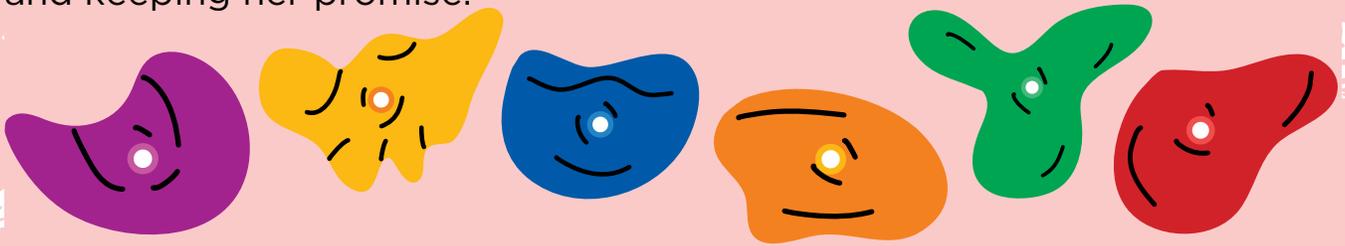
Director Jenny Millinger
Stage Manager Ambar Dominguez
Scenic Designer Holly Windingstad
Costume Designer Holly Windingstad
Sound Designer Chris Neumeyer
Puppet Designer Liz Ihlenfeld
Prop Designer Natalie Ward
Lighting Designer Nathaniel White



What the Play is About

Maddi's Fridge is about the friendship between Maddi and Sofia and a secret that is too big to keep. Maddi is amazing at climbing the rock wall in their neighborhood and helps Sofia conquer her fear of climbing to the top. Sofia's little sister, Luisa, is full of energy and creativity. She's obsessed with Cheesy Pizza Bombs, while their dog, Pepito—played by a puppet—adds humor and fun to the play.

One afternoon, after climbing the rock wall, Sofia goes to Maddi's house for a snack. She discovers something upsetting—Maddi's fridge is almost empty, with just a little milk inside. Maddi tells Sofia about her family's struggle with not having enough food but makes her promise not to tell anyone. Sofia feels stuck between wanting to help her friend and keeping her promise.



Sofia tries to help by sneaking food from home to school in her backpack. But things go wrong—one day, the eggs break in her backpack, making a huge mess. On another day, the leftover fish begins to stink and causes a terrible smell. Maddi remains reluctant to accept help, while Sofia is learning it's a bigger problem than she can solve alone.

Sofia tells her sister, Luisa, about Maddi's situation. Luisa helps Sofia gather bags of food—including her favorite Cheesy Pizza Bombs—to fill Maddi's fridge. But when Maddi's mom notices the food, it leads to unexpected problems. Maddi feels embarrassed and upset, and this causes a fight between the friends. Sofia struggles with whether she did the right thing by breaking her promise.

In the end, Sofia and Maddi make up. With Sofia's support, Maddi writes a note to her teacher, a trusted adult, asking for help. Sofia learns that some secrets shouldn't be kept. And together, the girls realize that reaching out for help is a sign of strength.

Themes of the Show

- ▶ Promises
- ▶ Friendship
- ▶ Helping Others
- ▶ Food Insecurity



Talk About It!

Start a conversation before the show:

- ★ What does it mean to be a good friend?
- ★ Has a friend ever helped you learn a new skill? What was it?
- ★ Have you ever made a promise to a friend? Was it easy or hard to keep it?
- ★ Is it ever okay to break a promise?

Start a conversation after the show:

- ★ Why does Sofia tell Maddi's secret to Luisa? Do you think she made the right choice?
- ★ Have you ever felt like Sofia, where you wanted to help a friend but didn't know what to do? What did you do?
- ★ In what ways do Maddi and Sofia help each other?
- ★ What can we do when we see something unfair, like food insecurity, happening in the world?

Discover It!



What is Food Security?

- “Food security” means everyone in a household has access, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life.
- In 2023, 47 million people in the United States faced food insecurity, which is occasional or constant lack of access to food.
- Schools, food banks, and SNAP (a government food benefit) help bridge the “meal gap” across the U.S.

Learn more at
feedingamerica.org

Impacts on Kids



- One in five children in the U.S. faced hunger in 2023.
- Families with kids are more likely to experience food insecurity.
- Child hunger can cause poor performance in school, increased health problems, and developmental differences. Getting enough food is vital for kids to reach their full potential!

Climbing Rocks!

Rock climbing builds strong bodies and brains! There are three main types of rock climbing:

- Top-roping - a rope is anchored at the top of the route and the climber is “belayed” by a partner at the bottom.
- Bouldering - no rope or harness is used but the routes are lower to the ground. A crash pad ensures the climber’s safety.
- Lead climbing - a rope directly connects the climber and the belayer; the climber clips into the route as they go. Lead climbing is not for beginners!

Did You Know?

- There are five main types of rock climbing holds: jugs, crimps, pinches, slopers, and pockets.
- Climbing routes are rated by difficulty. In lead and top rope climbing, routes go from 5.0 (very easy) to 5.15 (very difficult).
- As of 2022, there were only two climbs in the world rated 5.15d. Each has been climbed once, by one climber, and never repeated.



Create It!



Friendship Climbing Wall

Good friends encourage each other, especially when they have different areas of strength. Maddi is a strong rock climber, and she encourages her best friend Sofia to finally get to the top of the wall. Create your own climbing wall in the classroom and read encouraging messages everyday!

You will need:

- ★ a blank space on a wall or door
- ★ butcher's paper
- ★ plain paper for climbers
- ★ colored construction paper for holds
- ★ tape, scissors and markers



1

Tape a piece of butcher's paper on a wall or door. Map out where you want to attach the holds.

2

Use the templates on the next page to create a colorful rock hold out of construction paper. Write an encouraging, uplifting, or kind message on your rock hold, then attach it to the wall.

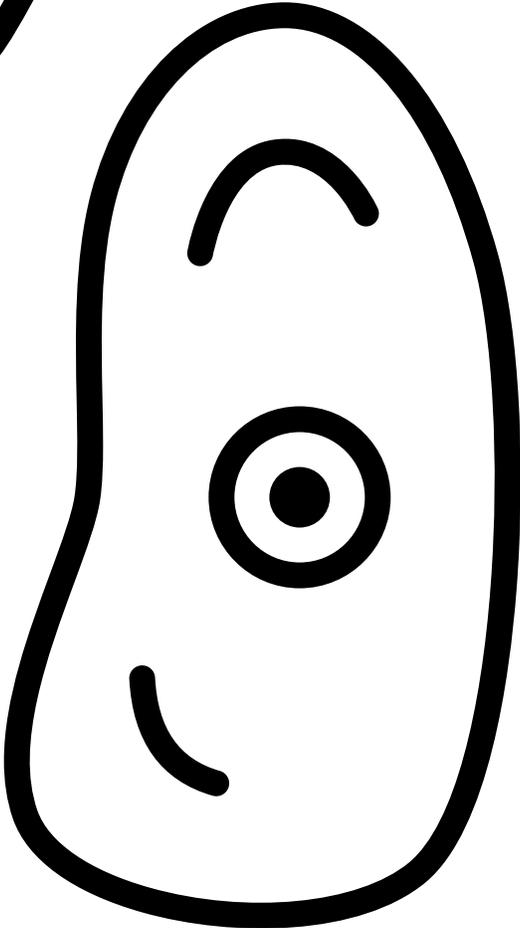
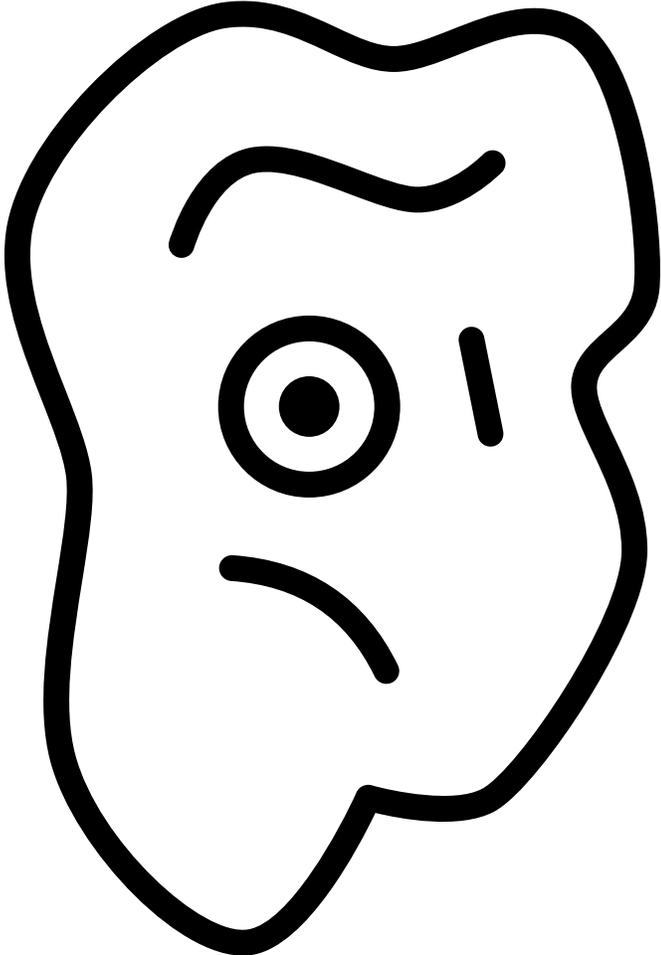
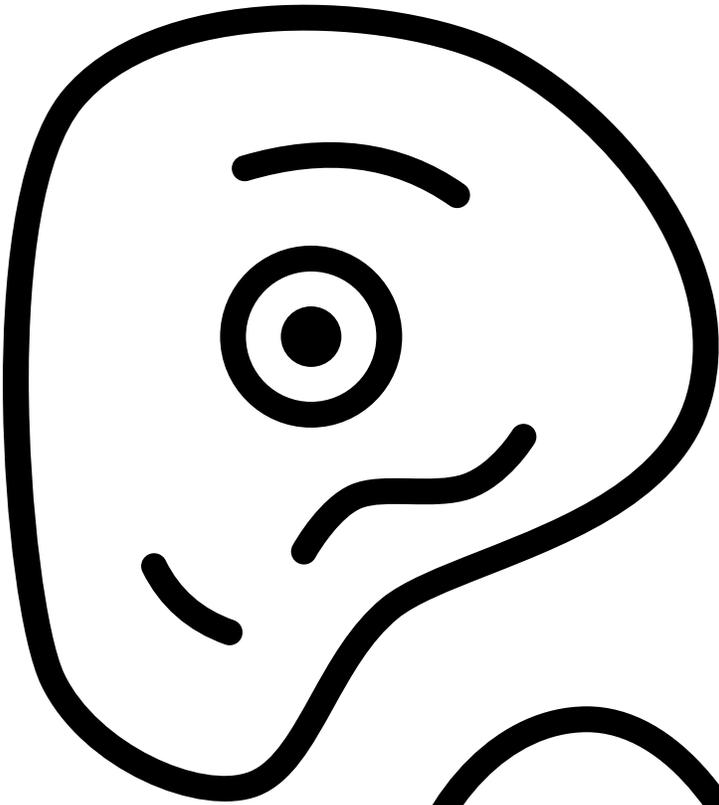
3

Draw your climber (or trace one of the figures on the next page), cut it out, and attach yourself to the rock hold that most inspires you - even if it's one someone else created.

4

You can write new messages every week and switch out the holds, then move your climber closer to the top!

Rock Hold Templates



Climber Template



Imagine It!



Magic Lunch Box

Sofia tries to help her friend Maddi by sharing her food at school. We can't always share real food with our friends - for lots of reasons - but this pantomime activity can still help us practice generosity with foods we love.

1

Introduce the Magic Lunch Box: this imaginary box is where you can place a favorite food you'd love to share - since it's imaginary, we can share whatever we'd like! Place the "box" in the center of the room.

2

Model pantomiming a food item and demonstrate exploring its shape, smell, taste, and texture. Say what the food is and place it in the Magic Lunch Box.

3

Students take turns imagining a food they want to share, using pantomime to show its characteristics. After showing and naming the food, the sharer places it into the box.

4

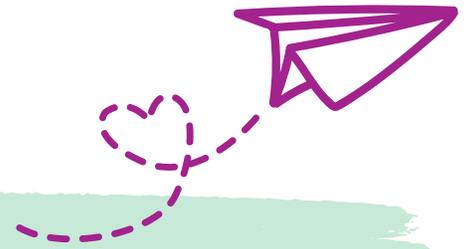
Once all foods are in the box, gather for an "imaginary picnic." Each student can pretend to take a food out of the box and eat it (they can choose something someone else shared or the food they brought). While you eat, explain that sharing is just one way to show others kindness. Ask, "What are some other ways we can help each other?"

5

Close the "Magic Lunch Box" and put it somewhere safe for the future.



Share It!



Thank You Fridge Notes

Sofia and Maddi helped each other throughout the play. Think about a time when someone helped you and you truly appreciated it, whether that was by helping you learn a new skill, by being a good listener when you needed to talk, or even by finding the right person to help you with a problem that was too big to solve alone. Your helper might be a friend, a family member, or even a teacher or coach. How did their support make you feel?



Now put your feelings down on paper! Write a thank you note to that person, sharing how much you appreciate their help. Try to write at least 4 or 5 sentences, and you can even draw a picture to go with your words.

You can create a “fridge” in the classroom where the whole class can post their thank you notes, with cute paper “magnets” to hold them up. When you’re done displaying your note, consider putting it in an envelope and mailing it to your helper.

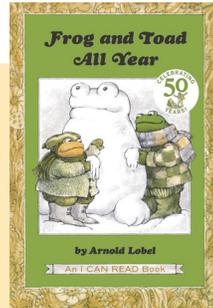


Read About It!

Keep the conversation going! Check out this list of books connected to the ideas and themes in 'Maddi's Fridge'!



Big Friends
By Linda Sara & Benji Davies
Ages 4-8



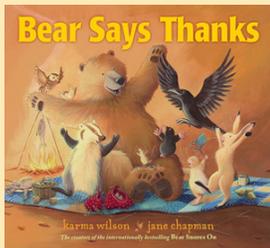
Frog and Toad All Year
By Arnold Lobel
Ages 5-7



How to Solve a Problem
By Ashima Shiraishi
Ages 4-8



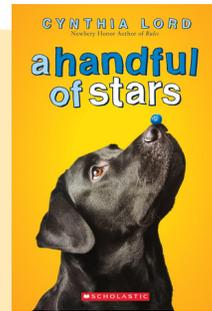
The Midnight War of Mateo Martinez
By Robin Yardi
Ages 8-12



Bear Says Thanks
By Karma Wilson
Ages 3-8



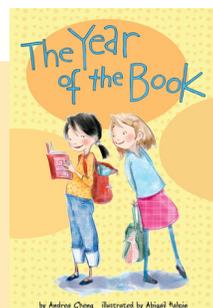
The Cookie Fiasco
By Dan Santat & Mo Willems
Ages 6-8



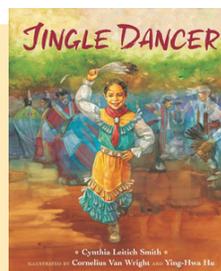
A Handful of Stars
By Cynthia Lord
Ages 8-12



Saturday at the Food Pantry
By Diane O'Neill
Ages 4-8



The Year of the Book
By Andrea Cheng
Ages 8-12



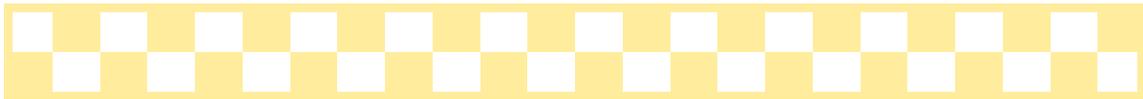
Jingle Dancer
By Cynthia Leitich Smith
Ages 4-8



Extend It!

The play is just the beginning - there's always more to learn. Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to dig deeper into what interests you!

- ★ Make your own Cheesy Pizza Bombs!
- ★ Discover more solutions to hunger!
- ★ Learn about rock climbing for kids!



Founded in 1977, Childsplay is a nonprofit professional theatre company based in Tempe, Arizona whose chosen audience is young people and families.

Our mission is to ignite imagination, wonder and joy by creating strikingly original theatre and learning experiences that inspire young minds to explore and soar.

For more information:

childsplayaz.org

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We also love getting mail!

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