

JiNA JEONG

Project Food Drive



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1

BOOKS FOR FOOD5

Chapter 2

SIX BAGS FULL13

Chapter 3

GATHERING VOTES23

Chapter 4

A CHANGE OF PLANS35

Chapter 5

BOOK FRIENDS47

Chapter 1



BOOKS FOR FOOD

Jina Jeong looked up from the list she was making of all her favorite books. Her teacher, Ms. Hunter, had just started speaking.

“Next week our school is having a food drive,” Ms. Hunter told the class. “We are collecting food to donate to our town’s food pantry.”

“But to make it even more fun, the school is also holding a friendly competition,” continued Ms. Hunter. “The classroom that collects the most food wins a prize!”

A boy named Ethan raised his hand.
“What’s the prize?”

“The winning classroom gets to pick six new books to add to the school library,” Ms. Hunter said.

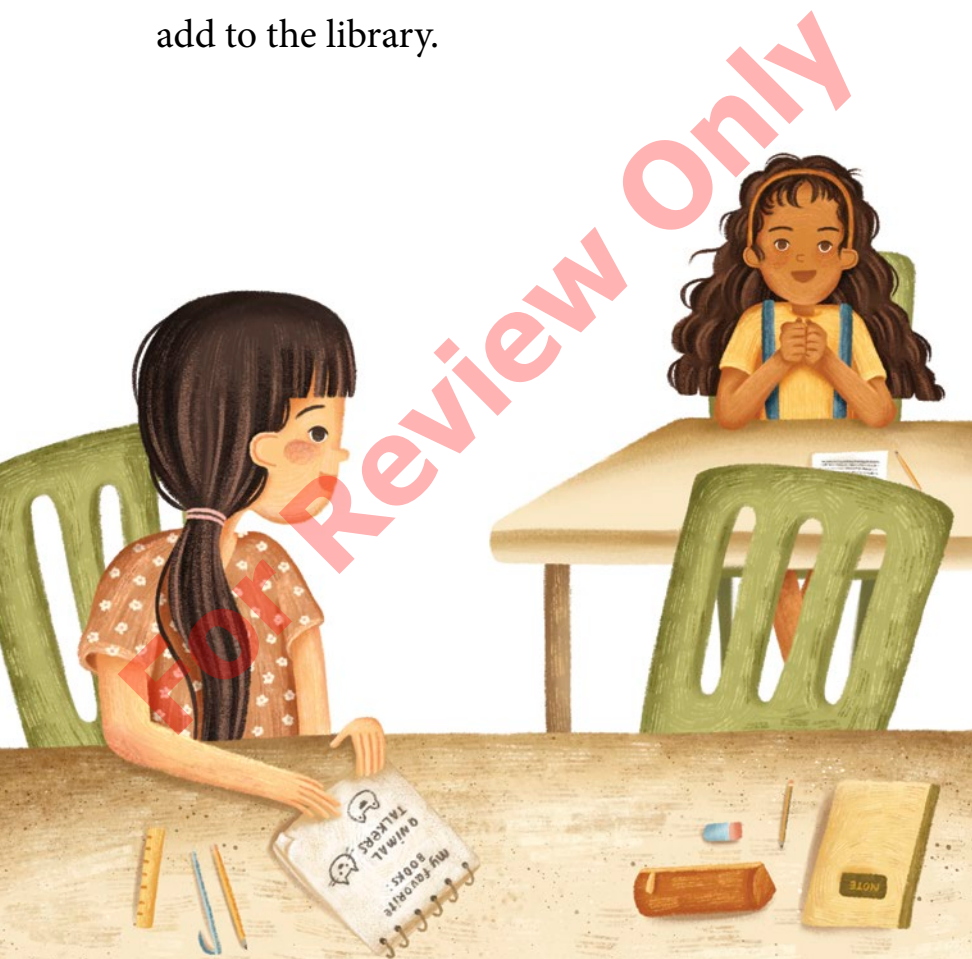
Jina raised her hand.

“Yes, Jina?” Ms. Hunter said.

“If our class wins, how will we decide which six books to add to the library?” Jina asked.

“It will be a class decision,” Ms. Hunter said. “You will all vote on which books you’d like to see added to the library.”

Jina looked over at her friend Sofia and grinned. She and Sofia loved to share books. They would probably pick the same ones to add to the library.



Later that morning, Jina stood with her friends Chloe, Bella, and Sofia in the library. “There’s only three of the Animal Talkers books,” Jina said.

Sofia pulled one off the shelf. “I haven’t read this one yet,” she said.

“I loved that one!” Chloe said. “Ana helps out some ducks. It was super funny!”

“I really want to win the food drive,” Jina said. “So we can get more Animal Talkers books.”

“Let’s all try to collect as much food as possible,” Sofia said.

“Between the four of us, I bet we can help our classroom win,” said Bella.

“We don’t need more of those animal books,” said Ethan, who was standing nearby. “What we need are more of these.” He held up a book called *Space Corps*.

Jina looked at the cover. It had a boy and a girl sitting in a spaceship that looked to be moving very fast. Both characters’ eyes and mouths were wide open with worried looks on their faces.

“That looks kind of scary,” Jina said.

“Scary?” Ethan laughed. “More like knock-your-socks-off exciting!” He pointed to the book Sofia was holding. “A lot more exciting than that.”



Jina glared at him. “What could be more exciting than being able to talk to animals?” she said.

“Five more minutes!” Ms. Hunter called.

Jina started to panic. She grabbed one of the Animal Talkers books off the shelf and got in line to check out.

“Haven’t you already read that one?” Sofia asked.

“Yes, but I didn’t have time to find something else,” Jina said.

We really need to win the contest, Jina thought. As soon as she got home, she would get started on a plan for next week’s food drive.