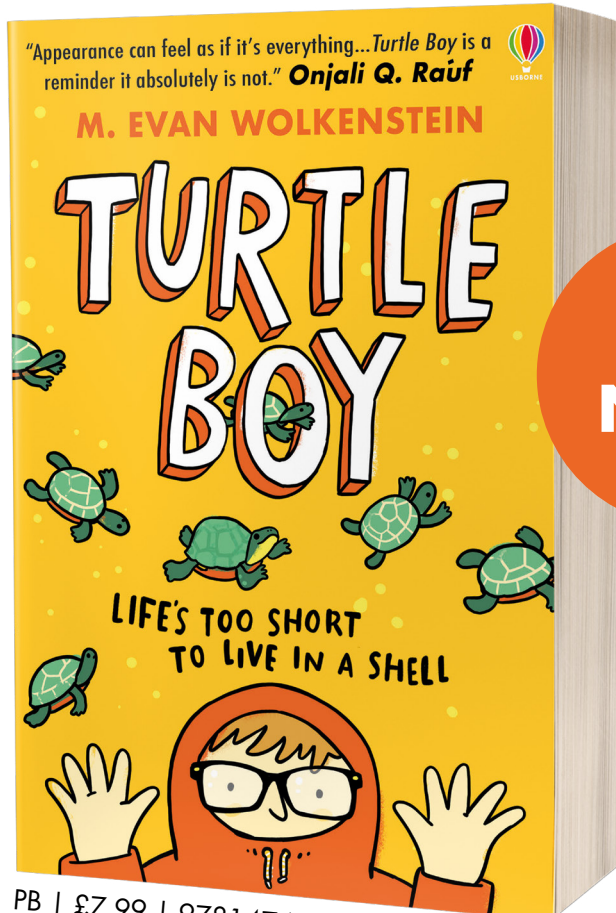
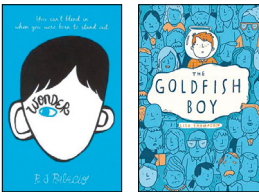


"In a world where appearance can feel as if it's everything, Turtle Boy is a gentle reminder that it absolutely is not."

Onjali Q. Rauf, author of *The Boy at the Back of the Class*



PERFECT
FOR FANS OF
WONDER
AND THE
GOLDFISH BOY



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PB | £7.99 | 9781474981385 | 9+

12-year-old Will likes two things: turtles and the local nature reserve. Everything else is a nightmare, because Will has a facial difference that has earned him an unfortunate nickname. But then Will meets RJ, who is confined to a hospital room and shares his bucket list: ride a roller coaster, go to a concert and a school dance, swim in the ocean. Soon, each boy discovers they have strength to lend the other and that life is too short to live in a shell.

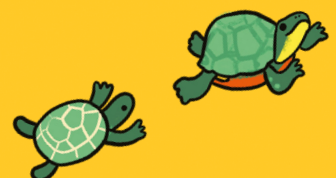
AN UPLIFTING STORY INSPIRED BY THE AUTHOR'S REAL LIFE STORY



Turtle Boy is inspired by author M. Evan Wolkenstein's real life experiences, and began as an autobiographical comic strip about growing up with a facial deformity. Years after corrective surgery, he discovered that he'd spent so much time focusing on his differences, he'd forgotten to enjoy life and to have compassion - for the people around him, and for himself. That comic evolved into *Turtle Boy*. Evan is now an educator, author and illustrator in the San Francisco Bay Area. *Turtle Boy* is his debut novel.

"For anyone who's ever felt different or ugly or afraid to try something new, may this story give you hope."

USBORNE.COM



TURTLE BOY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



The author, M. Evan Wolkenstein, based *Turtle Boy* on his own experiences as a child with a facial difference.

How does this affect the way you think about Will's character?



RJ writes a bucket list of adventures he wants to have, like owning a pet, going on a roller coaster, and swimming in the ocean. What would be on your list?



When RJ is too sick to complete his bucket list, Will takes over instead. Why do you think it helps RJ to hear about the adventures Will is having?



Will knows that it's illegal to keep wild turtles at home, but he still goes behind his mom and Ms. Kuper's backs to catch his specimens. Why do you think he finds it so hard to let them go?



Why do you think Rabbi Harris thought that Will and RJ would benefit from spending time together? Do you think he was right?



Rabbi Harris keeps his car glove compartment full of snacks, for after his hospital visits. Why do you think this routine helps him? What do you use to cheer you up on difficult days?



When they're being picked on, Will and Max sometimes turn on each other and Shira, instead of sticking together against the bullies. Why do you think this is?



Will calls the Blanding's turtle "it", but RJ names it Grampy and always refers to it as "him". Why do you think they have different attitudes towards the turtle?



Will is terrified of performing in the talent show, but when he's on stage he lets his mask drop. What do you think gives him the courage? Do you have a hobby or talent that makes you feel brave?



Shirah kisses her fist and thinks of her grandmother's encouraging words when she's nervous. What are some things you use to calm you down at big moments?



Will, Ms. Kuper, and friends fight to save the Back 40, to conserve the habitat of the turtles that live there and to help future science classes learn about the natural

ecosystem. Why is this important? Are there any natural environments in your area that you think need to be protected?



At the beginning of the novel, Will is terrified of the idea of surgery. What do you think makes him finally able to face it?



Memory is an important theme of *Turtle Boy*, as at the beginning of the novel, Will can't remember anything about his father, but as he gets closer to RJ some of his childhood memories come back to him. Discuss the idea of memory, and think about what sorts of things trigger Will to remember events he thought he'd forgotten.



From the very first time we meet RJ, the reader and Will know that he is going to die. Does it still come as a shock when he passes away?



A major theme of *Turtle Boy* is memory - remembering things you've forgotten and forgetting things you thought you remembered. Are there memories from a long time ago which you cherish and you hope you never forget?



Are there experiences you've had, which you wish you could remember better (or at all)?



Will invents several new Jewish rituals for himself, including the "Drummer's Kaddish." Are there ways you or your family have invented or innovated special traditions (Jewish or general)?



Will and his friends Shirah and Max go through some rough spots - as he does with his Mother.



Do you feel that they emerge more strongly as a result?



Have you ever gone through a rough time with friends? What effect did it have on your relationship?



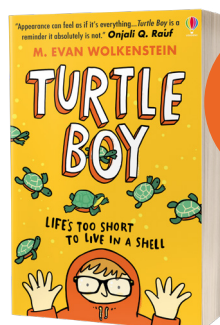
Is there a character in *Turtle Boy* you felt especially fond of? Why? What did they do or say that struck you?



Sometimes, a mishap and proper apology will help a relationship grow more strongly than if the mishap never happened. Why do you think that is?




Has an adult (a parent, teacher, Rabbi) ever apologized to you? What did that feel like?



OUT
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TURTLE BOY

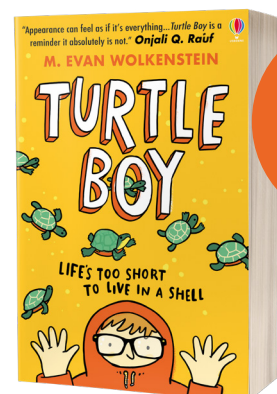
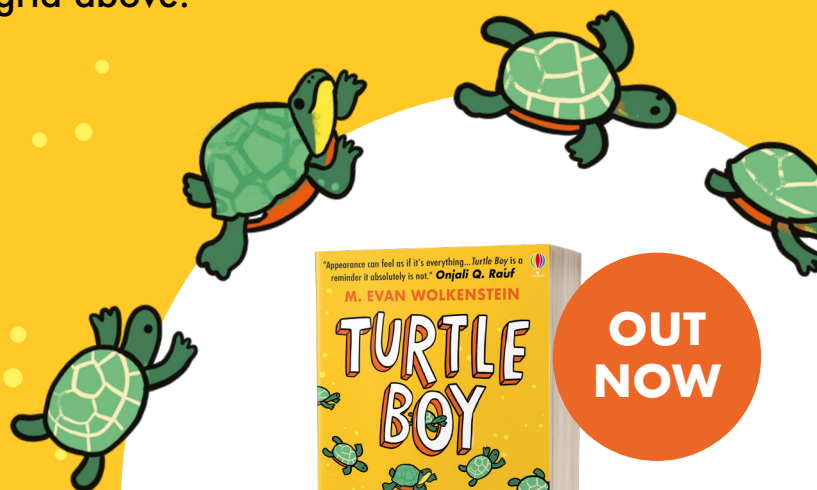
WORD SEARCH



B	X	V	U	N	B	X	K	Z	L	G	I
A	C	M	F	O	O	C	I	B	Z	T	P
T	N	I	R	I	P	S	B	Z	B	E	M
M	Q	D	I	T	M	H	H	V	V	R	N
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T	L	J	N	V	F	A	C	R	D	A	S
Z	T	P	D	R	A	B	B	I	T	R	L
V	R	F	S	E	R	J	F	U	R	I	L
A	U	I	H	S	Z	U	R	H	W	U	I
H	T	P	I	N	P	E	P	G	D	M	W
J	Y	F	P	O	E	G	A	R	U	O	C
S	H	O	V	C	Q	M	Z	P	J	L	I

Find the 10 words below in the grid above:

TURTLE
TERRARIUM
WILL
RJ
RABBI
BATMITZVAH
CONSERVATION
FRIENDSHIP
COURAGE
NATURE








**OUT
NOW**

TURTLE BOY





CREATE YOUR OWN TURTLE

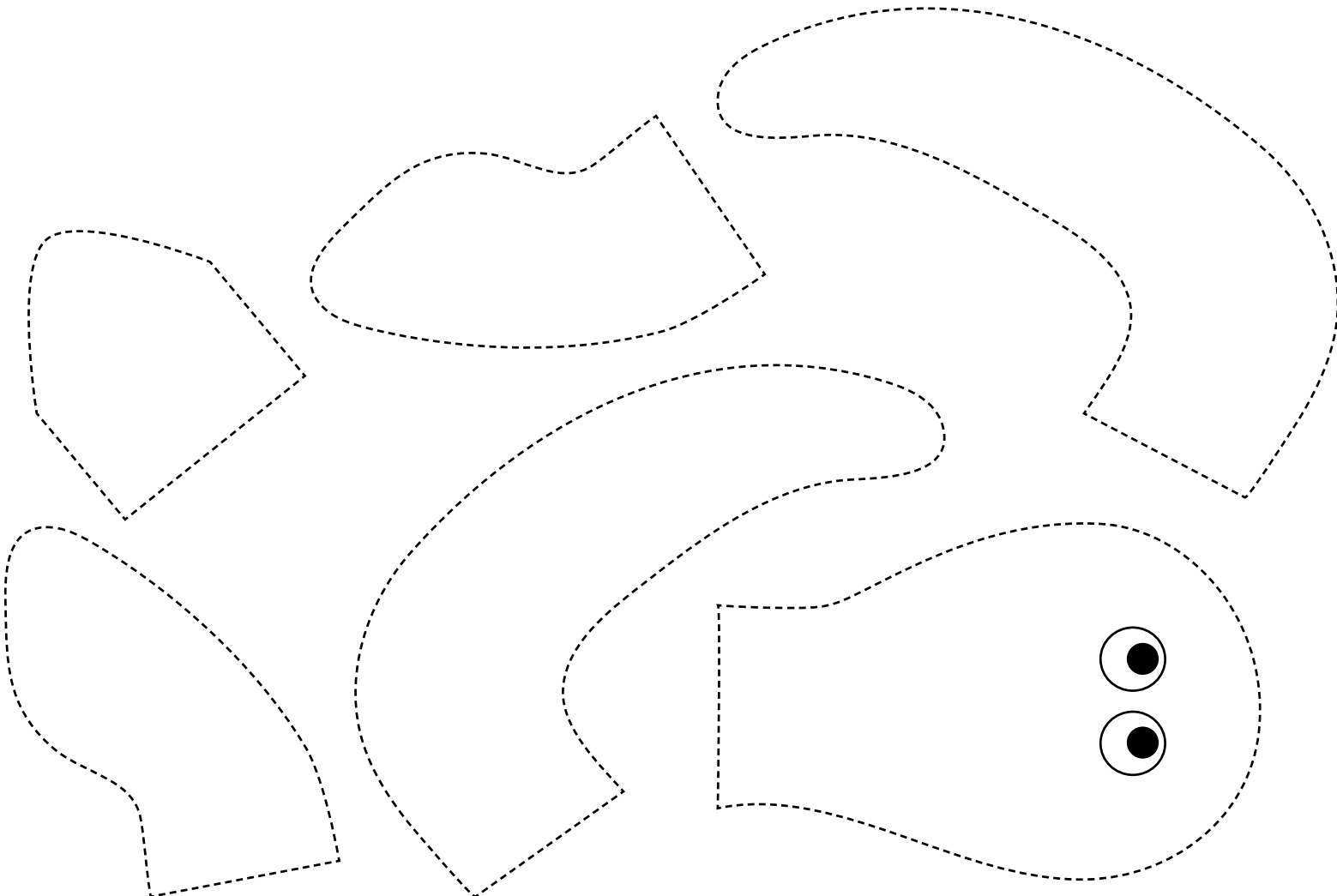
Grab a paper plate, some paint or colouring pencils, and cut out the shapes below to make your very own pet turtle.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

-  a paper plate
-  paint brush
-  colouring pencils
-  scissors
-  glue

INSTRUCTIONS:

-  Colour in the paper plate to create your turtle's shell. Don't worry if you don't have green - use whatever colour you like.
-  Cut out the below shapes to give your shell a head and flippers.
-  Colour these shapes in and don't forget to give the turtle a BIG smile.
-  Now glue these shapes to the paper plate.



TURTLE BOY



HOPES AND DREAMS LIST

Make a list of hopes and dreams that you have for the next year.

Hopes and dreams can be all different sizes, such as learning to ride a bike, paint a picture, or maybe even become an author.

Maybe you just want to make someone smile each day.

Share the list with your family and friends and tick them off when you complete them!



.....'s LIST



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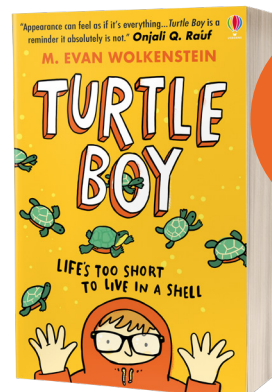
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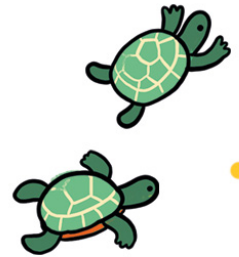
OUT NOW

TURTLE BOY



WHAT MAKES A GOOD BEST FRIEND

Draw your best friend and then list what makes them so awesome!



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