"THE TOOTH"
By Avi Slodovnick

The Tooth gently opens the door to discussion about what a single person can do to make a difference. Marissa loves candy—maybe too much. When she wakes up with a toothache, her mother takes her to the dentist, and on the way, Marissa notices a man sitting on a grate on the sidewalk to keep warm. So begins a day that Marissa will never forget.

Watch online video of actor Annette Bening reading this story at http://www.storylineonline.net

RELATED ACTIVITIES

• Retell the story in your own words.
• Discuss and then write about what you enjoyed most about this book.
• Read The Tooth aloud to someone.
• What experiences have you had at the dentist? Share your experiences with someone.
• Have you left a tooth for the Tooth Fairy? Tell someone about that.
• Marissa ate lots of candy, and that caused the problem with her tooth. How can you protect your teeth if you eat candy?
• Discuss or write about foods that will help keep your teeth healthy.
• Why do you think Marissa was so interested in the man sitting on the sidewalk? Have you seen people like this? How did you feel?
• Why did Marissa want the man sitting on the sidewalk to have her tooth?
• If you have ever had a similar situation, tell about it and draw a picture to show what happened.
• Share your favorite picture in the book The Tooth.
• Research and write a report about “healthy teeth.” Include drawings with your report.
• Make a poster about foods to eat as snacks to keep your teeth healthy. Post it where it can remind you to choose healthy snack foods for your teeth.
• Make a list of questions to ask someone who works with people who are homeless or needy.

• Interview someone who works with people who are homeless. Find out as much as you can about what it is like and what others can do to help. Tell or write about what you learned from your interview.

• Help organize a visit to your classroom by someone who works in a homeless shelter. Learn about their work and find out if there are ways you and your classmates can help those in need.

• Work with an adult to organize a way to help those in need.

• For example: A shelter will instruct how to organize a food drive; make sandwiches and put them in plastic bags for the people who visit the homeless shelter for a meal to take with them; collect toothpaste, toothbrushes, and soap for the homeless shelter to give out.

• Have an adult help you contact the local Habitat for Humanity to see if you and your classmates can help. For instance, provide cookies or sandwiches for the volunteers who help build the houses for those in need.

• Read at least 3 more books about helping others or showing kindness and discuss them.

• Make a word web about “showing kindness.” It’s easy to do. Take a sheet of paper and draw a circle about 2 inches in diameter in the center of the paper. Write the words “showing kindness” in the circle. Now draw 6 or 7 lines out from the edge coming out all around the circle. On each line write something you know or have learned about showing kindness to others. If you need more lines, draw more. Discuss this with someone.

**INTERNET ACTIVITIES**

There are many interesting sites about “teeth” and about “helping others” on the internet. Visit the sites listed below to learn more.

• [http://www.healthyteeth.org/](http://www.healthyteeth.org/)
  This is a great site developed by dentists for elementary-aged children. Some of the sections are: cavities, braces, prevention, experiments and activities, a visit to the dentist, and cutting out the sugar. Read these interesting facts and try some experiments!

• [http://kidshealth.org/kid/htbw/teeth.html](http://kidshealth.org/kid/htbw/teeth.html)
  Visit this site and learn the parts of the tooth. Make a poster of a tooth and label the different parts.

  Visit this site and click on the Games and Activities on the right side. Enjoy!

  Read “Games About Helping Others.” Work with an adult to decide if one of these games would be possible to do. Make helping others a game!
### Themes/Concepts in This Book

- Visiting the Dentist
- Kindness
- Sharing
- Giving/Helping Others
- Homelessness/Need

### Some Books About Visiting The Dentist

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<td>Going to the Dentist by Fred Rogers, photos by Jim Judkis</td>
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### Books About Kindness

- Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco
- Chester’s Way by Kevin Henkes
- Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss
- Miss Spider’s Tea Party by David Kirk
- Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch by Eileen Spinelli
- Tomas and the Library Lady by Pat Mora, pictures by Raul Colon

### Books About Sharing

- A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams
- The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister Herbert, translated by J. Alison James
- Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe
- Sophie’s Masterpiece by Eileen Spinelli

### Books About Giving/Helping Others

- The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
- Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
- The Quiltmaker’s Gift by Jeff Brumbeau, pictures by Gail de Marcken
- Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan
- Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox, pictures by Julie Vivas
- Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting, pictures by Ronald Himler
- I Am David by Anne Holm, translated by and L. W. Kingsland
- Beatrice’s Goat by Page McBrier, pictures by Lori Lohstoeter
- One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference by Katie Smith Milway, pictures by Eugenie Fernandes
- Sam and the Lucky Money by Karen Chinn, pictures by Ying-Hwa Hu and Cornelius Van Wright
- The Little Match Girl by Hans Christian Andersen, pictures by Rachel Isadora
- A Circle of Friends by Giora Carmi
- Selavi
- That Is Life: A Haitian Story of Hope by Youme
- Stone Soup by Heather Forest, pictures by Susan Gaber
- Armando and the Blue Tarp School by Edith Hope Fine and Judith Pinkerton Josephson, pictures by Hernan Sosa
- A Shelter in Our Car by Monica Gunning, pictures by Elaine Pedlar
- Great Joy by Kate DiCamillo, pictures by Bagram Ibatoulline
- Stay!: Keeper’s Story by Lois Lowry, pictures by True Kelley
- Raising the Roof: A Habitat for Humanity Book by Ronald Kidd and Jada Rowland
- Year of No Rain by Alice Mead
- Bone Button Borscht by Aubrey Davis, pictures by Susan Petricic
- The Lady in the Box by Ann McGovern, pictures by Marni Backer
- Grandpa’s Hammer by Ronald Kidd, pictures by Bill Farnsworth
- Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart by Vera B. Williams
- The Magic Beads by Susin Nielsen-Fernlund, pictures by Genevieve Cote
- The Can Man by Laura E. Williams, pictures by Craig Orback
- Some Friends to Feed: The Story of Stone Soup by Pete Seeger and Paul Dubois Jacobs, pictures by Michael Hays
- A Castle on Viola Street by DyAnne DiSalvo
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Avi Slodovnick is a lawyer by day and a children’s story writer and musician (a drummer) by night. He has been a lifelong hockey fan who as a kid loved to collect and play with hockey cards. He and his wife are originally from Montreal. With their three boys (whose love for candy has led to the dentist’s chair on more than one occasion), they now live in Toronto.

Some Other Books BY Avi Slodovnick:
The Hockey Card
The Baseball Card

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Manon Gauthier lives in Montreal, Canada, where she works as a professional illustrator. A graphic designer by training, she decided to devote herself entirely to books for children in 2006. She likes mixing techniques and media. Her work has been recognized by the Governor General of Canada Awards and has won the Illustration Jeunesse Prize.

Another Book Illustrated BY Manon Gauthier:
Marcel Marceau: Master of Mime

ABOUT THE READER

Annette Bening was a Tony-nominated stage actor before her film debut as Dan Aykroyd’s wife in The Great Outdoors. She graduated from San Francisco State University and began her acting career with the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. Known for her ability to create unexpected choices and deeply emotional characters, Bening is a highly respected actor in the industry. She is a four-time Oscar nominee and two-time Golden Globe winner for her roles in The Grifters, American Beauty, Being Julia, and The Kids Are All Right. She spends as much time as possible with her husband, actor/director Warren Beatty, and their four children.