



# Truman

by Jean Reidy  
Illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummins

## Before We Read: Introduce the Book

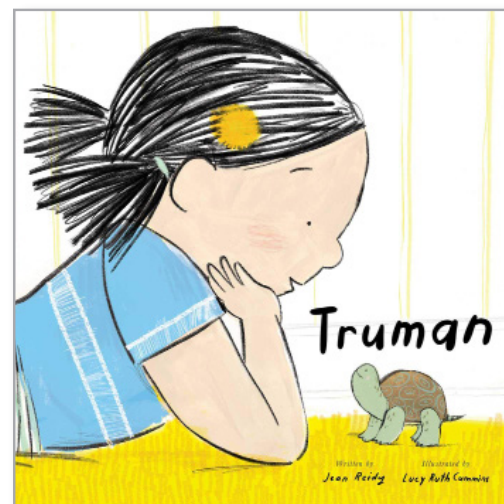
- Many picture books can be used to address more than one social-emotional topic or strength.
- Suggested scripted text for readers is indicated in italics with the lesson. Feel free to adapt as you wish.
- The **Now We Read** and **After We Read** sections include suggested instructions in brackets for readers.

- *Jean Reidy, the author, once lived in a big city, high above honking cars and trash trucks, and people everywhere, all going places. Now she lives in a smaller town, across from her library.*
- *She never had a tortoise but she has had several turtles, and many other kinds of pets.*
- *Lucy Ruth Cummins is the illustrator. She created the pictures. She had a turtle for a pet when she was a little girl. She writes some books, and also draws the pictures for some of them.*
- *The main character in this story is Truman, a tortoise who lives with his Sarah. This little girl is an important character too.*

- *One day something different is happening. You can see clues in the pictures and words. See what children notice.*

[Hints, if help is needed for noticing differences:]

- *Sarah has a backpack and a brand new sweater.*
- *She gives Truman two extra green beans for breakfast. \*She kisses her finger, touches it to his shell, and whispers, "Be brave."*



- *Sarah leaves. She has never left before. What's THAT all about?*

[Of course, children may not notice all the ways this morning is different. But you may be surprised by how much they do notice!]

[Children might want to give some of their own ideas about what is going on here.]

- *Where could Sarah be going?*
- *How does Truman feel about all this? How can you tell?*

## Now We Read: Read the Book

Children are going to learn a great deal about how a big city looks by looking at these drawings. They are also going to see, and guess what Truman is up to....

## After We Read: Talk about the Book

- *What is Truman planning to do? Where do you think Sarah went? Why did Sarah tell Truman to be brave?*
- *Truman does some things he has never done before. What were some of these things? What does it mean that he thinks they are “unsettling?”*
- *What is the surprise Truman gets after he has been traveling all day long?*
- *How does Truman feel about himself? How can you tell?*
- *Sarah told him to be brave. Do you think he was? What's another word for being brave?*

## Optional Activities

- Give children time to pair up with a partner or in small groups. (You might suggest groups yourself.) Invite them to share with their partner or small group some ways they have felt brave. They may also want to talk about the story, Truman. Some children or groups may wish to share their ideas with the whole group.
- Give each child a piece of construction paper that has been folded in three parts. Invite them to draw Truman at the beginning of the story, the middle of the story, and the end of the story.
- Invite children draw pictures of their own brave accomplishments and share them with the group. Create a display of children's work.