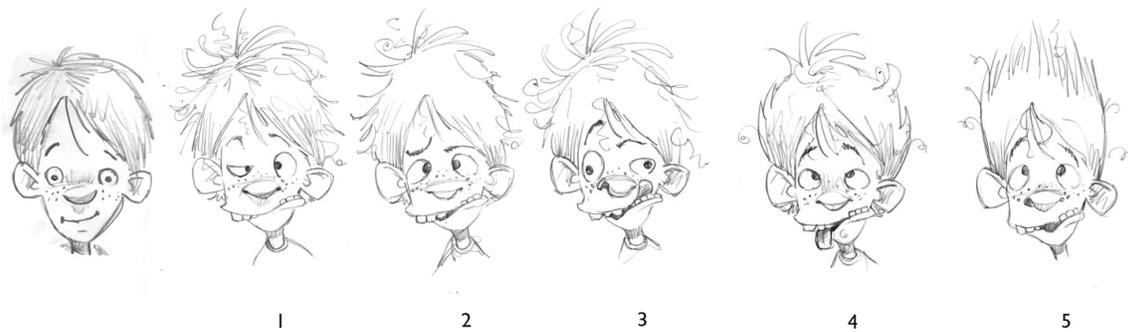


The Boy Whose Face Froze Like That
by Lynn Plourde & Russ Cox, Running Press Kids, 2020

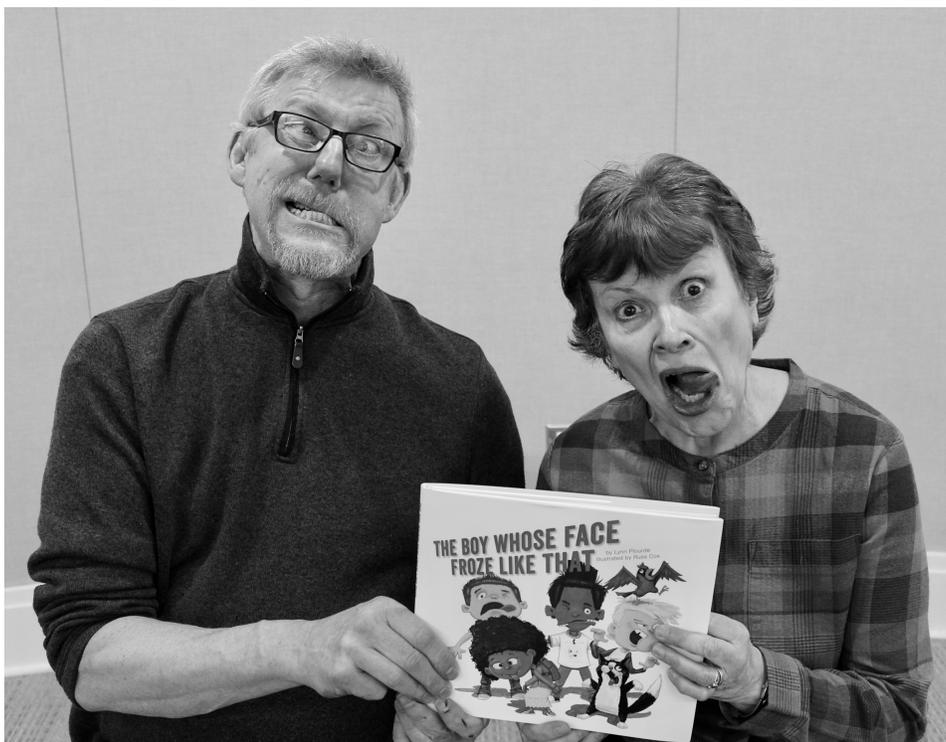
ACTIVITIES

1. Things to talk about . . .
 - a. Have you ever been told “Stop it! Your face will freeze like that?” Have your parents? Your grandparents? Ask them.
 - b. Why do you think Wendell’s face froze like that?
 - c. Wendell always followed the rules, never disobeyed, and felt a lot of pressure to be good. Do you ever feel that way? Do you think it’s a good thing or a bad thing to feel like you always have to “be good?” If you feel pressure to please others, can you think of any strategies to feel less pressure?
 - d. Have you ever been told that someone “loves you just the way you are?” If so, how did that make you feel? Is it easy or hard to love someone “warts and all”—which means, loving them even if they do things that bother you or have habits that irritate you?
 - e. Look at the endpapers of *The Boy Whose Face Froze Like That* and look at Wendell’s shirt throughout the story. What do you notice?
 - f. Which is your favorite funny face in the book? Why?

2. Look at these sketches that illustrator Russ Cox made when he was first creating the character of Wendell. Which of these sketches do you like the best and why? Talk about the details that Russ changed in each image. These sketches look quite different from the character of Wendell who appears in the finished book—how so?



- 3. Look at this photo of illustrator Russ Cox and author Lynn Plourde making funny faces. Then pretend someone can NOT see their faces and describe them in detail (i.e. Russ' eyes are crossed. Lynn's tongue is sticking out to the left. Hint: When someone is facing you, right and left are the opposite of your right and left.)**



- 4. Now take a photo/selfie of yourself making several funny faces. Choose your favorite funny face and write a detailed**

description of your face (i.e. your eyes are looking to the left, your lips are puckered with your tongue just barely sticking out). Note descriptive writing for # 3 and # 4 is an important kind of writing where you have to pay attention to details. The more you practice it, the better you'll get at it. Journalists, broadcasters, and scientists making observations need to use descriptive writing. Who else does?

5. You will see in *The Boy Whose Face Froze Like That* that Wendell talks kind of funny when his face is frozen in place. That's because he can't move his lips, can't move his tongue. Search and find information about facial muscles. Here are a few links to get you started, but look for more information on your own—some of it might be targeted toward grown-ups but write what you learn in a way that you and other kids can understand it:

[The muscles of the face](#)

[Fun facts about the muscular system](#)

[Muscle facts for kids](#)

[Anatomy of speech sounds](#)