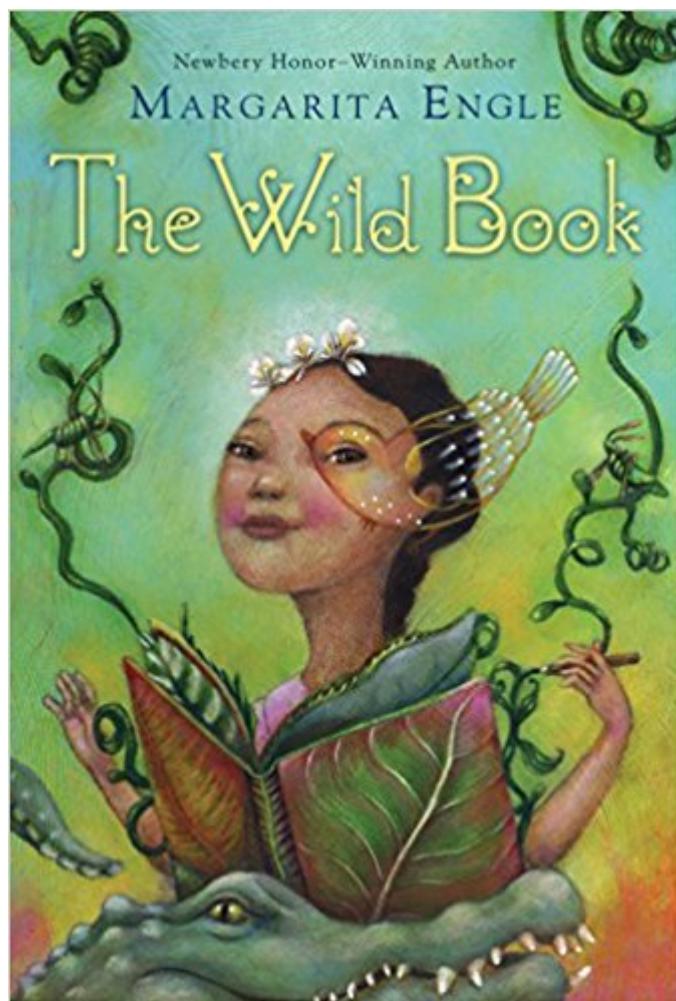


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# The Wild Book



## **Synopsis**

Fefa struggles with words. She has word blindness, or dyslexia, and the doctor says she will never read or write. Every time she tries, the letters jumble and spill off the page, leaping away like bullfrogs. How will she ever understand them? But her mother has an idea. She gives Fefa a blank book filled with clean white pages. "Think of it as a garden," she says. Soon Fefa starts to sprinkle words across the pages of her wild book. She lets her words sprout like seedlings, shaky at first, then growing stronger and surer with each new day. And when her family is threatened, it is what Fefa has learned from her wild book that saves them.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1050 (What's this?)

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (January 7, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544022750

ISBN-13: 978-0544022751

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #376,894 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Central & South America #98 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Children's Health > Learning Disorders #125 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

A Kirkus Best Children's Book of 2012 A Bank Street College of Education Best Book \* "A beautiful tale of perseverance." Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Readers will be enchanted." VOYA "[A] lyrical glimpse of early twentieth-century Cuba." Booklist "Engle's writing is customarily lovely." Publishers Weekly "[A] remarkable, intimate depiction of Fefa's struggle with dyslexia; Engle is masterful at using words to evoke this difficulty, and even those readers unfamiliar with the condition will understand its meaning through her rich use of imagery and detail." Bulletin "The idea

of a wild book on which to let her words sprout is one that should speak to those with reading difficulties and to aspiring poets as well."Ã¢â€šâ€œSchool Library Journal

Margarita Engle is a Cuban-American poet andÃ¢â€šâ€œ novelist whose work has been published in many countries. Her many acclaimed books include *Silver People*, *The Lightning Dreamer*, *The Wild Book*, and *The Surrender Tree*, a Newbery Honor Book. She is a several-time winner of the Pura Belpré and AmÃ¢â€šâ€œricas awards, as well as other prestigious honors. She lives with her husband in Northern California. For more information, visit [www.margaritaengle.com](http://www.margaritaengle.com).

I loved this book and can think of so many people I would like to buy a copy for, not just because it is a great story, but because of the unique prose, which makes us all appreciate just how wonderful words can be and why they are worth persevering with. Fefa is dyslexic. Reading makes her feel dizzy. She has never been a great fan of words, the letters get mixed up and make her feel anxious. The doctor has diagnosed 'word blindness'. "Some children can see everything except words. They are only blind on paper" he says. Fefa's mother refuses to accept his verdict. "Seeds of learning grow slowly" she assures me. She presents her daughter with a book and encourages her: "Think of this little book as a garden, throw wild flower seeds all over each page, let the words sprout like seedlings and then relax and watch as your wild diary grows." Fefa opens the book hesitantly, finds the pages blank within but wide open to her imagination, a place where she can write unobserved, in any way she wishes. Soon Fefa is nurturing the slow transforming pages of her wild book as she would a precious flower garden, turning those awkward spiky, complex letters into words of beauty and importance. Margarita Engle's delightful 'The Wild Book' is a tribute in verse inspired by stories told to her by her maternal grandmother, a young girl growing up in rural Cuba, struggling with dyslexia. It will be enjoyed by readers of all ages, both those who struggle with and those who adore words and of course, lovers of the blank page journal everywhere. It is a book to read and reread, silently and out loud. "No one in my family ever throws anything away, not even an old story that can be told and retold late at night, to make the deep darkness feel a little less lonely." It is a magical story of a little girl coping with school, homework, older brothers, being left behind as the others go off to boarding school, of facing family threats and danger; all part of daily life on the farm and in the village, aided by a loving mother and uncle who love to recite poetry. Now couldn't we all do with a wild book...

Margarita EngleÃ¢â€šâ€œs poetic soul came through in full glow in *The Wild Book*, a

beautifully written tribute to her grandmother who as a child suffered ÅfÅ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Å“word blindnessÃfÅ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Å• (todayÃfÅ¢Ã  ¬Ã  â„¢s dyslexia). Beside this heart-warming story, Engle masterfully weaves in a portrayal of a Cuban family during a turbulent, fearful time at the break of the 20th century. FefaÃfÅ¢Ã  ¬Ã  â„¢s mother, who loved poetry and reading, and FefaÃfÅ¢Ã  ¬Ã  â„¢s brother, who wanted to become a teacher, helped Fefa become a reader and writer, encouraging her patience and belief in herself. At the end, FefaÃfÅ¢Ã  ¬Ã  â„¢s observant nature as well as her effort to learn how to read and write in a blank notebook she received from her mother help her family discover a criminal who lives on their farm and is ready to kidnap their children and blackmail the family that would never have enough money to pay for all the kidnapped children. This novel in verse depicts EngleÃfÅ¢Ã  ¬Ã  â„¢s deep connectedness, love, and understanding of her Cuban heritage.

Cute and empowering story for young readers. I like how it is narrated through the main characters poetry. It's a great book for children who not only love to read, but have learning disabilities or are very creative.

The wordings are sample, but are able to move an adult. Great job!

Excellent book! My ten year old loved ever page!

Purchased for a niece who deals with dyslexia.

The author, Margarita Engle, is an award winning Newbery Honor poet. In this book, she is inspired by her maternal grandmother's life in Cuba. Her grandmother, Fefa, is the source of inspiration for this book when dyslexia was called word blindness. Anyway, the author has written this book for a younger audience. It's layout is based on a volume of poetry. The poems are easy to read and understand which is even easier for older audiences. I'm not a fan of poetry in the first place but I found this book to be refreshingly easy. The author and the subject, Fefa, are inspired poets themselves. Even Fefa's mother was a poet who got married and bore many children. The stories in this book are a combination of delightful, interesting, suspenseful, frightening, and even comical at times. For anybody interested in Cuban literature particularly the diaspora poetry, this book would be an interest for those studying about Cuban life. For anybody with dyslexia, they might be inspired to know how dyslexics were treated a century ago in Cuba. It's a nice book and great for a children's

library at your school.

This beautifully story is told entirely in verse. Taking place in Cuba circa 1912, this is the story of eleven year old Fefa who is dyslexic. Fefa's mother gives her a book with blank pages to write her thoughts in. As Fefa writes in her 'wild book', she describes how her classmates and siblings taunt her for not being able to read like they do. Fefa describes the kidnappings and shootings that were taking place during that time in Cuba. As the story flows, Fefa's reading and writing skills wind up coming in very handy when her siblings are in danger. This is a sweet little story that delivers a nice message as well, you can overcome obstacles in life. I like the cover also. This book was actually inspired by author Margarita Engle's grandmother's childhood years. Engle's grandmother would tell her stories about growing up in Cuba.

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