

## Crumbs

By Phillip Cummings and Shane Devries  
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On a wintry city street, a one-legged bird dances for crumbs to eat ... but Ella has nothing to give. Then her father shows how a simple act of human kindness can spread joy to all. A captivating and universal story to warm the hearts of readers everywhere, from the award-winning creators of *Boy* and *Ride, Ricardo, Ride*.



### Themes:

- Homelessness
- Social welfare
- Kindness
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Giving
- Community

### Discussion Questions:

- Looking at the cover of this book, what is your first impression of what the story might be about?
- How do you think Ella is feeling at the start of the story? Study her face and what she was doing while she was waiting for her Dad.
- 'A morsel was its gold but Ella had nothing to give.' What do you think this means? Do you think that she would have helped the one-legged bird if she could have?
- Look at the spreads where the man is introduced. How do the author and the illustrator show the reader that the man is homeless?
- What was your initial reaction when the man was rejected by those that he reached out to?
- Why do you think that the man was the one that helped the little bird, even though he was the one who had the least to share? What does this tell you about him? What do you think we could all learn from his behaviour?
- Do you think the world would be a better place if we all took the time to show more compassion and humanity to those around us, especially those that are less fortunate?
- Once you have read the whole story, think about what range of emotions you think Ella might have felt throughout the story?
- Look at the illustrations closely. Does the use of colour influence the mood of the story, and how it shifts throughout the course of the book? Discuss how colour can help convey emotion and feeling.
- What is the final feeling that you have at the end of this story? What do you think the moral of this story is?

### Activities:

- In groups, come up with a list of small things that you can do in your everyday life to make the lives of people around you better.
- Choose an emotion. It could be one from the story, or one of your own, and think about how you could convey this through the use of colour. Draw or paint a picture to convey this emotion using these colours.