

Dear Readers,

Have you ever seen a wall that was just tall enough that you could hop up and walk all the way to the end? One day my friend, author Stephanie Greene, was telling me about such a wall. She had seen a boy – probably close to your age – climb up, find his balance, walk to the end, and disappear into the library.

Like most of my stories, the idea for *SOMETIMES A WALL...* began in this rather ordinary way - a conversation! It got me thinking. Not just about the wall beside the library steps, but about all the different kinds of walls there are.

Some are fun! A chalk wall. A rock wall. The walls that rise when we build a fort with blankets and pillows.

Other times, walls that start out as fun turn a corner. Feelings are hurt, and someone is left out.

We can all remember the times we were one of the ones who was “in,” and the times we were “out.” I wanted to write a picture book that explored the leap from fun and togetherness to separation and exclusion. But I didn’t want to leave it there, because figuring out how to make amends once things go wrong is part of growing up and learning how to get along.

I worked for months, brainstorming and playing with words. When I finished, the illustrator, Barroux, brought his creative vision to the story.

Books open our eyes to things we may not have known or thought about before. It’s my hope that *SOMETIMES A WALL* can begin a conversation about friendship and forgiveness, conflict and resolution, and be *one* way to begin to talk about what it’s like to “put on another person’s shoes.”

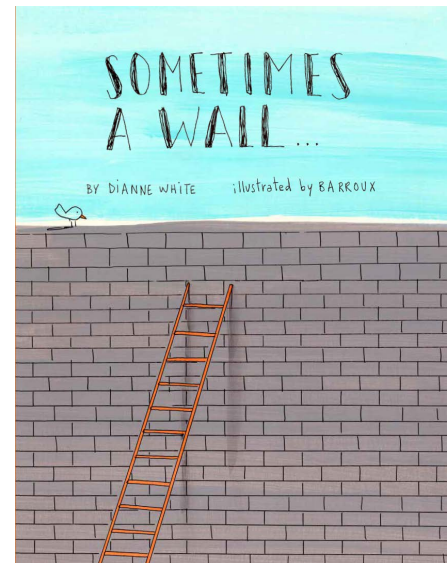
What are some of the walls – both physical and metaphorical – that *you’ve* experienced? How do *you* respond to the “different sides and points of view” you encounter at school, home, and the world beyond?

I believe *SOMETIMES A WALL* can be part of that journey of discovery.

With appreciation,



Dianne White



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