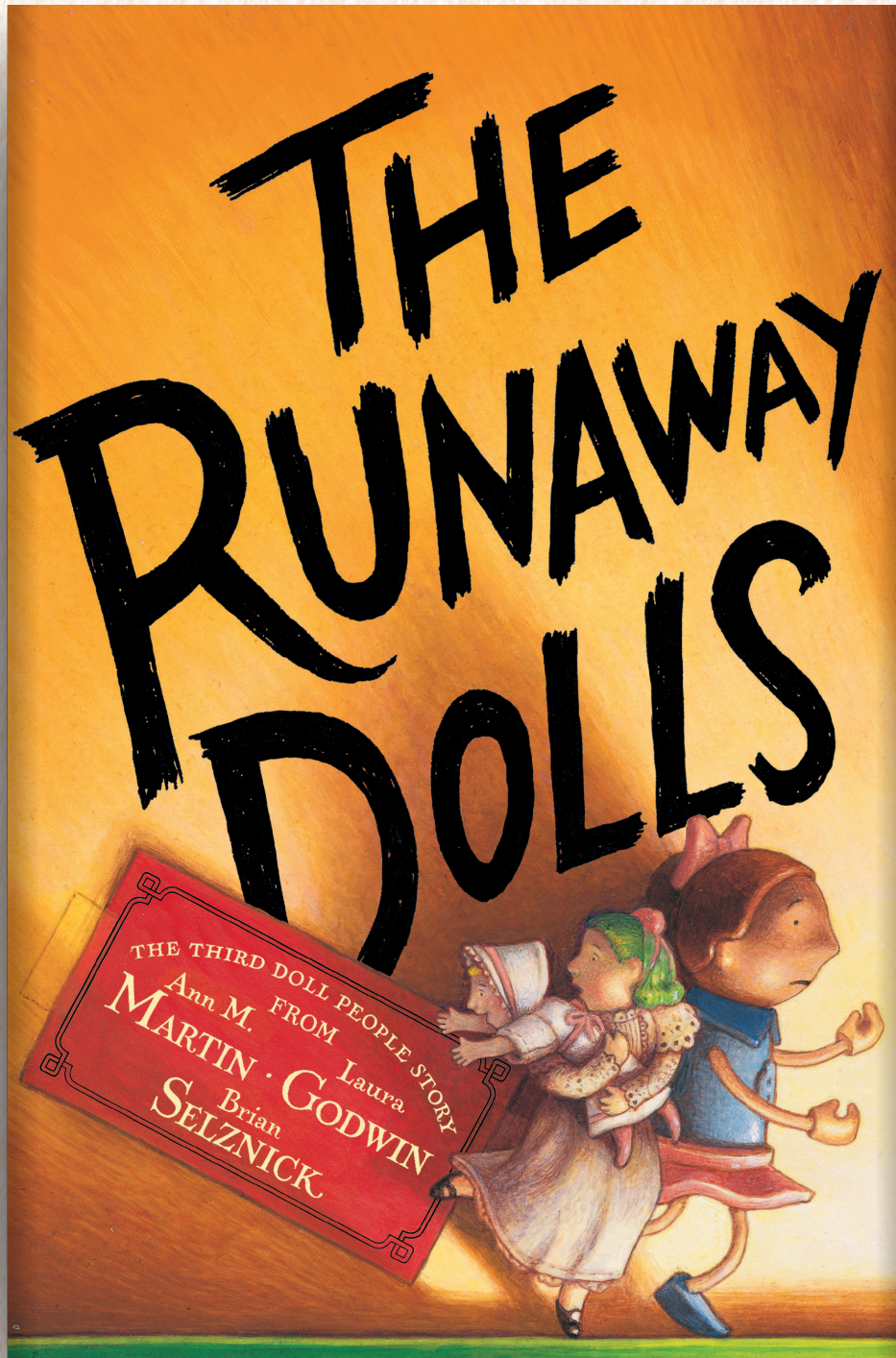
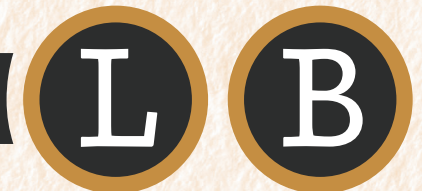


LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

# Educator's Guide | Ages 8–12



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## PRE-READING: ACTIVATING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

- It is important to remember that sometimes new members, such as siblings, are added to families. When was the last time someone new became a part of your family? How did you feel? Why? Write about a new member in your family, explain whether the addition was positive or negative, support your opinion with related details (e.g., when it occurred and key events that took place afterwards), and end with a concluding statement that highlights the information presented.
- There are many different types of dolls that children buy and play with every year. Using the graphic organizer below, record the types of dolls that you have received or played with in the past. Also identify key traits or things that make each doll special. As you read the story, add new dolls to your list and cite examples from the text.

Doll's Name or Type	Things That make the Doll Special (Traits)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Look at the series of illustrations included before chapter one. How do these pictures contribute to your understanding of the story? Why do you believe the author and illustrator thought these drawings were important? Provide examples from the text.
- Do you believe Tilly May is Annabelle's sister? Why? Tilly May was in a box for one hundred years. Why do you think she has a lot to learn? What types of things does Tilly May understand? How does Tilly's knowledge help the Doll and Funccraft children throughout the story? Provide examples from the text.
- In chapter three, Tilly May has a lot of questions about the unfamiliar things around her. Why is it so difficult for Annabelle to explain the term dust bunny to Tilly May? Think of an idiom, simile, or metaphor that might be challenging to explain to Tilly May.

## The Runaway Dolls

- While lost in the woods, Annabelle thinks about *Hansel and Gretel*, a story that Grandma Katherine read to Kate. What events and feelings from chapter five are similar to or different from *Hansel and Gretel*? Do you believe the Doll and Funcraft children will learn the same lesson as *Hansel and Gretel*? Why? Provide examples from the text.
- In chapter five, we learn that two adventures are taking place at the same time: one with the boys and another with the girls. How are the events similar or different? Do you believe the girls should team up with boys? Why? Using the graphic organizer below, sequence the separate events of the boys and girls until they meet in the woods.

### BOY'S ADVENTURE

EVENT	EVENT	EVENT

Meeting in the Woods

### GIRL'S ADVENTURE

EVENT	EVENT	EVENT

- Bobby remembers many science facts from Kate's nature unit in school. Are these facts helpful? Why? How do these facts influence the events that occur in the woods? Provide evidence from the text.
- Have you ever made a decision and wished you could change your mind? When? Annabelle thinks, "If she ever got home, she would never leave again. Ever. (Probably.)" (p. 90). Based on what you know about Annabelle, do you think this is true? Why? Provide evidence from the text..
- McGinitie's has many dolls that are identical and others that are *one of a kind*. Consider how the new setting and variety of dolls impact Annabelle's views of herself. For example:

continued on next page . . .

## The Runaway Dolls

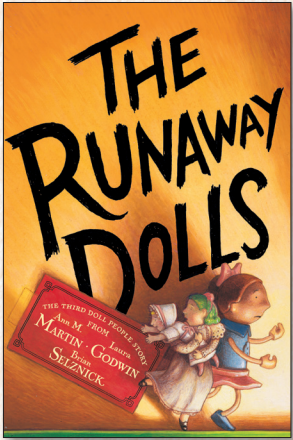
- ◆ After the Dolls are discovered, Nell asks, “You found these dolls in Jewelry?” Ms. Lewis responds, “Yes. These two dirty plastic ones, and these beautiful antique ones” (p. 136). How does Ms. Lewis’s comment make Annabelle feel? In the store, are the Doll children more or less valuable than the Funcraft children? Why? Provide examples from the story.
- ◆ Annabelle becomes very nervous when she learns that she will be fixed in the doll hospital. Review the work order described on pages 257 and 258. Do you think Annabelle will be more or less beautiful if she is fixed? Why? Do you believe she will be more or less valuable? Why? Support your response with evidence from the text.
- Review the to-do list on pages 310 and 311. Why might these activities be important to Annabelle? How do they relate to her recent adventure at McGinitie’s? Provide evidence from the story.
  - ◆ TEXT-TO-SELF CONNECTION: If you had to make a list of five things to do during three free days, what would you include? Explain why each activity is important.
- Revisit your graphic organizer (pre-reading activity) that contains doll types you listed before and while reading the book. Which doll from the organizer is your favorite? Locate your favorite scene from the book that includes your favorite doll. Practice reading that section of the book aloud (at least three times) and be sure to give special voices to any paragraphs with dialogue.

### ACTIVITY

Some dolls have thousands of replicas while others are *one of a kind*. First, use online and text resources to research how dolls from factories are made. Then, examine the process that doll makers use to create dolls by hand. Write an essay that explains which method you *believe* is better. You should begin by clearly stating your opinion, support your stance with details about the doll construction process and results, and end with an aligned conclusion.



## About the Book

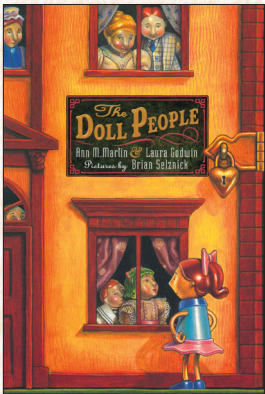


PB: 9780786855858

The Doll family is surprised to learn that a very old mysterious package has arrived at the Palmer home. Annabelle Doll cannot wait to discover what is inside, especially since the Palmers are away on vacation. With the help of her best friend, Tiffany Funcraft, Annabelle realizes that the package may contain her long-lost baby sister. When the small doll, Matilda (Tilly) May, emerges from the package, Annabelle is convinced that she is indeed her little sister. Annabelle's greatest fear is that the

package will be returned, and she will never see her sister again. Out of fear, Annabelle and Tiffany decide to run away from home. The girls end up on an exciting adventure that forces them to navigate through the woods, department stores filled with toys, and the uncertainty of becoming a missing doll. Readers will follow the Doll and Funcraft children on a journey filled with unexpected surprises and valuable lessons.

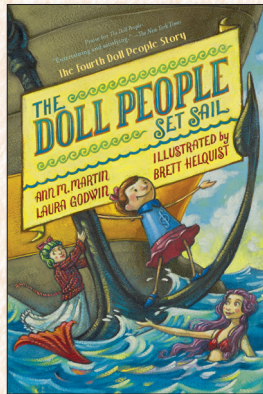
## Read All About The Dolls!



HC: 9780786803613  
PB: 9780786812400



PB: 9780786852970



PB: 9781423139980

## About the Authors



**Ann M. Martin** is the bestselling author of the momentous Baby-Sitters Club series as well as the Main Street series. Her other acclaimed novels include *A Dog's Life*, *Belle Teal*, *Rain Reign*, and the Newbery Honor Book *A Corner of the Universe*. She lives in upstate New York.



**Laura Godwin** lives and works in New York City but grew up in Alberta, Canada. She has written many well-loved books for children, including *Owl Sees Owl*, *Christmas in the Manger*, *This Is the Construction Worker*, and *Oh, Cats!*

## About the Illustrator



**Brian Selznick** is the author and illustrator of the *New York Times* bestselling *Invention of Hugo Cabret*, winner of the Caldecott Medal and a National Book Award nominee. He is also the author and illustrator of *Wonderstruck*, *The Marvels*, *Kaleidoscope*, and *Big Tree*, and he's illustrated many other books for children, including *Frindle* by Andrew Clements. Brian lives in Brooklyn and San Diego.