Book Guide
Milwaukee Public Library Summer Reading Program
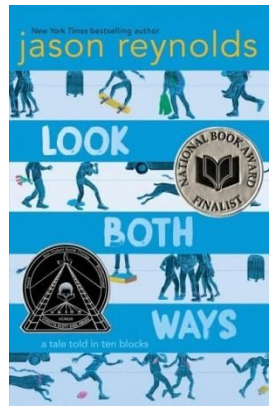
Book Title:	Look Both Ways: a tale told in ten blocks
Author:	Jason Reynolds
Illustrator:	Alexander Nabaum

Recommended Audience	☐ K5	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	☐ 3rd	☐ 4th	☒ 5th	☒ 6th

Length of Time to Read:
Read aloud in short chunks (around 20-30 minutes each day until you finish the book)

Summary:
What happens on the walk home from school? And why did no one notice the school bus falling from the sky? Jason Reynolds weaves ten short stories together into a funny, moving portrait of a neighborhood and the resilient young people who call it home.

Before Reading (Create Interest):
Ask your students if they have read any other books by Jason Reynolds (titles they might recognize include Ghost, As Brave As You, and Long Way Down). Have them look at the illustrations on the front cover. Ask your students: What do you think the setting is? Who are the characters? What do you predict will happen in the book? Why do you think it's called Look Both Ways?

During Reading (Discussion/Questions):
Pause before each chapter to show students the street name, illustration, and chapter title. Using these clues, ask your students to make predictions about what might happen in each chapter. If you have students who are confident reading aloud in front of the class, invite them to take a turn reading. You might ask students to read the dialogue for some of the characters while you read the narration (feel free to pass the book back and forth if needed to make this work).

After Reading:

-Select 2-3 follow-up questions to spark conversation with your students:

-Which character from the book would you most like to meet or hang out with?

-Were there any characters that reminded you of someone in your own life?

-In chapter 5, Bryson stands up for his friend. Tell the story of a time you stood up for someone else.

-Look again at the front cover of the book. Can you name each character who appears on the cover?

-Come up with an alternate title for the book that captures what it means to you.

-Do you have a favorite block or street in Milwaukee? Why is it your favorite?

-In the book, people aren't always what they appear to be. What surprised you about some of the characters? Have you ever been surprised by someone who turned out to be different from what you were expecting? Have you ever surprised others or challenged their assumptions about you?

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Connection:

On the back cover of the book, Jason Reynolds asks readers: "How you gon' change the world?" Make a list of characters from the book and discuss how each character changed the world or affected those around them. On a sheet of paper, ask your students to write a letter to the author telling him how they plan to change the world.

Jason Reynolds uses words to "paint" a colorful picture of a neighborhood that readers can almost see in their imaginations. Challenge your class to try "painting" with words. First, ask your students to sketch a basic outline of their own face using pencil. It doesn't have to be perfect – just capture what's unique about you! On a separate sheet of paper, make a list of adjectives that describe who you are. Then use markers to add your adjectives in bright colors over the pencil outline of your features (see examples).

Have students pick a character from the book who doesn't get their own chapter and write a short story about what that character does on their way home from school.

Challenge your students to write a short story about something interesting that happened to them on the way home from school. Challenge: write your story in the form of a list (like Fatima in Chapter 4).

Ideas for younger or older children

Look Both Ways contains some mature content and is intended for students in grades 5-6.

Additional Notes: Check out Jason Reynolds' "Write Right Rite" videos for fun creative writing prompts for tweens and teens: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpAGnumt6iV5nrfdALRzsRVbfu-fOno3J