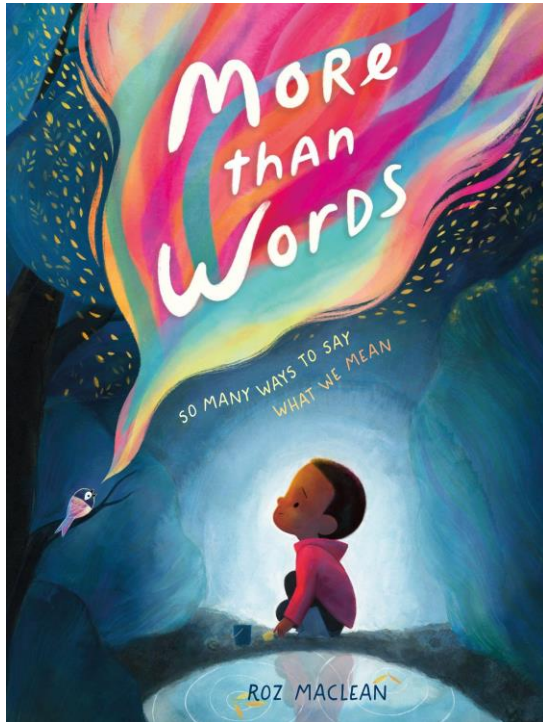


## More Than Words: So Many Ways to Say What We Mean by Roz MacLean

Henry Holt and Co. (BYR) | On sale September 5, 2023 | ISBN: 9781250864505 | Hardcover | Ages 4-8 | 48 pages | \$18.99



In the tradition of *All Are Welcome* and *The Day You Begin* comes a touching picture book about the many unique ways we communicate, and how we can better listen to and respect these different modes of expression.

*Nathan doesn't say much.  
He sure has a lot on his mind, though.*

At school, Nathan quietly observes the ways his peers communicate. Even when they're not talking, they're expressing themselves in all sorts of ways!

By witnessing the beauty of communication diversity, Nathan learns and shows his classmates the essential lesson: Not only does everyone have something to say, but seeking to understand one another can be the greatest bridge to friendship and belonging.

This tender, stunningly illustrated picture book explores and celebrates the many forms of expression—signing, speaking, singing, smiling, among others— and culminates in a poignant story about connection and understanding.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR-ILLUSTRATOR

**Roz MacLean** lives on beautiful Vancouver Island where she loves to make art and spends as much time as possible in the forest and near the ocean. While she now writes and illustrates full time, she worked for over a decade supporting students with disabilities and diverse needs in schools. Roz incorporates her passion for inclusion and promoting positive mental health in her books.

## A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

In *More Than Words: So Many Ways to Say What We Mean*, I wanted to share some of the beautiful ways that I have seen folks communicate and express themselves, because I think it's so important to honor them all. For more information on how communication works and access, please check out the back matter! I wonder, how do *you* say what you mean?

Thanks for reading!

- Roz MacLean

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you think 'communication' means?
  - What do you think 'expression' means?
  - Do you think communication and expression are important? Why or why not?
  - Did you learn about any ways of communicating you didn't know about before?
  - Was there ever a time you couldn't express yourself? How did that feel?
  - Did you have a favorite way of communicating from the book? Can you think of any ways of communicating that weren't in the story?
  - What are some good things to do if someone communicates in a different way than you? (hint: check back matter under 'How to help everyone have communication access')
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## WORKSHEET ACTIVITY

What is your favorite way to express yourself? Draw a picture and write about it too if you like.

How do you notice the people around you expressing themselves? Do you notice them doing anything other than talking? Draw a picture and write too if you like.

## THUMBPRINT LEAF BOATS

### Materials:

- Modeling clay / plasticine or play dough
- Card stock paper, firm construction paper. Optional to use yellow construction paper or paint a yellow background on thick painting paper.
- Drawing materials
- Tracing leaf shape templates

### Instructions

#### Boat:

STEP 1: Roll a small piece of modeling clay into a small ball in the palm of your hands

STEP 2: Hold the ball in your palm and press your thumb from your other hand into the middle of it

STEP 3: Fold up the sides a little bit



## Leaf sail:

STEP 1: Draw a leaf shape on your paper (tracing template optional). Make sure it has a pointy bottom.

STEP 2: Write a kind, fun, silly or encouraging message on the sail. Keep it short so it fits! Add lots of color around your message. Some examples are: "I like you" or "You're great" OR draw a picture on the sail of something that you really like.

STEP 3: Cut out your leaf and press the point into the middle of the boat. It should stick.

STEP 4: Boats can be shared within the class so that everyone gets a message, or kept where you can see it later (like on your desk) to give future you a smile or encouragement.

\*a child with communication difficulties may want to make more than one sail with functional messages to share with peers like, "want to play?" or "want to read together?"

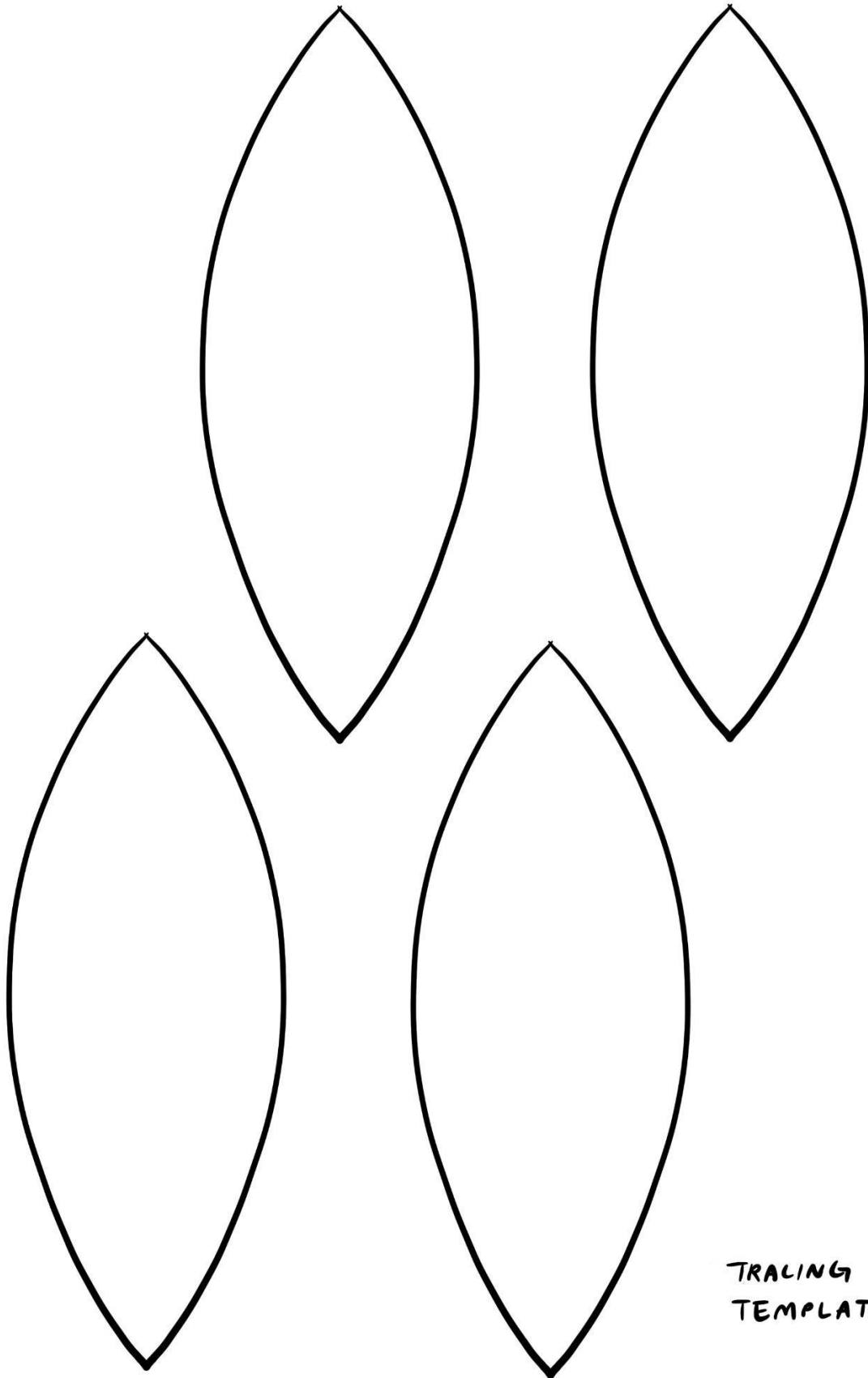


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## LEAF BOOKMARKS

Either use the leaf shape template as a tracer for children to trace and cut out their own leaves,, or they can be directly drawn on.

Draw a picture or create patterns on the leaf shape to create a vibrant bookmark.



TRACING  
TEMPLATE