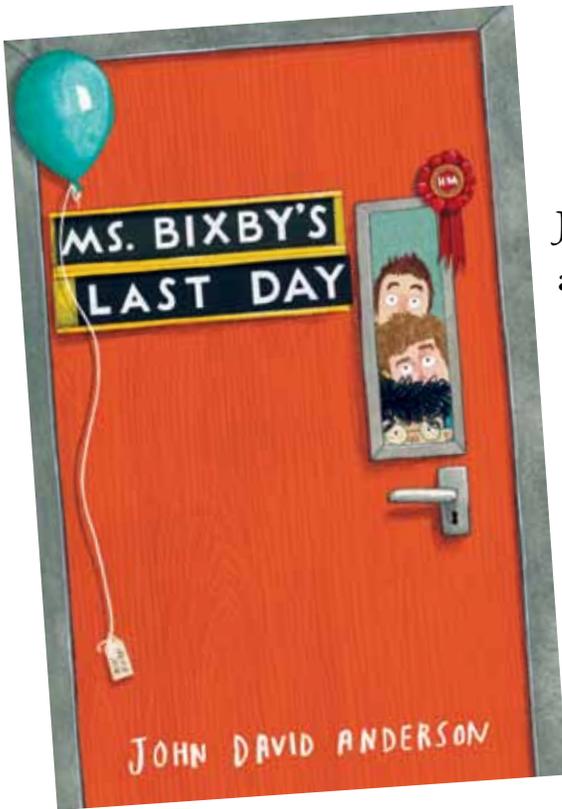


ABOUT THE BOOK



John David Anderson, author of *Sidekicked*, *Minion*, and *The Dungeoneers*, returns with a funny, heartwarming, and heartbreaking contemporary story about three boys, one teacher, and a day none of them will ever forget.

Everyone knows there are different kinds of teachers. The boring ones, the mean ones, the ones who try too hard, the ones who stopped trying long ago. The ones you'll never remember, and the ones you want to forget. Ms. Bixby is none of these. She's the sort of teacher who makes you feel like school is worthwhile. Who recognizes

something in you that sometimes you don't even see in yourself. Who you never want to disappoint. What Ms. Bixby is, is one of a kind.

Topher, Brand, and Steve know this better than anyone. And so when Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she won't be able to finish the school year, they come up with a

BIXBYISM

"Nothing worth doing is easy."

risky plan—more of a quest, really—to give Ms. Bixby the last day she deserves. Through the three very different stories they tell, we begin to understand what Ms. Bixby means to each of them—and what the three of them mean to each other.

BIXBYISM

"I've always said the greatest gift you are ever given is your imagination."

ACTIVITY:
THE PLAN

Describe The Plan in your own words.

- A. On a separate piece of paper, describe The Plan in your own words. Name at least three obstacles the boys face along the way. How do they overcome each obstacle?
- B. In the space below, create a map of The Plan depicting the journey from the school to the park by the hospital. Be sure to include all of the stops along the way, such as the bakery, the liquor store, and McDonald's.
- C. On a separate piece of paper, draw a picture of Topher, Steve, and Brand at the start of the journey and then a picture of the three boys at the end of the journey. What has visibly changed? Are there changes in the boys that cannot be seen? Explain your answer.



BIXBYISM

"The moment you doubt whether you can fly, you cease for ever to be able to do it."

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