The Someday Birds
Sally J. Pla

GENRE: Realistic Fiction, Adventure

BOOK SUMMARY
Charlie, a boy who suffers from OCD and possibly has autism, is stuck on a cross country road trip with his siblings and a mysterious caretaker. No one understands his logic when he suggests they find a set of birds from a list he and his dad came up with, but he knows finding the birds is what will help his dad recover.

BOOK TALK
Have you ever believed strongly in something, but no one takes you seriously because they misunderstand you? This is what Charlie experiences when he tries to convince his family that in order to save their father’s life, they must find all the birds on the “someday” list. Charlie is misunderstood because he’s not the typical boy—he counts the number of times he soaps and rinses his hands and has a special way that he eats chicken nuggets. When a mysterious caretaker takes him and his three siblings on a cross country road trip, the journey that ensues is humorous, adventurous, and emotional!

LINKS TO HELPFUL WEBSITES
- Official Book Trailer: https://youtu.be/ghaOliL3XM4
- Author: https://sallyjpla.com/
- TeachingBooks.net through INSPIRE: www.teachingbooks.net/ql7qbp8

MAKERSPACE ACTIVITY
Students can observe bird behavior, create their own “someday bird” list and keep track of birds they spot, create bird drawings or sculptures, etc.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
1. How does the road trip help Charlie learn to accept himself?
2. How does Charlie’s desire to find all the “someday birds” help him cope with his dad’s injury?
3. Why is Ludmila such an important character throughout the book? How does her presence help Charlie?

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS BOOK, YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE
- Realistic Fiction by same author: Stanley Will Probably Be Fine by Sally J. Pla
- Realistic Fiction, protagonist with Asperger’s: Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin
- Realistic Fiction, father and son bonding over birds: Soar by Tracy Edward Wymer

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