

FREE ACTIVITY KIT

and group discussion guide



RAFA and the WRONG LEGS

Angie Lucas
Ana Sanfelippo

Host a story time in your classroom, library, or bookstore. Or use these activities to discuss the book at home.

Recommended ages: 3-10 years old, or preschool to 5th grade.

Rafa and the Wrong Legs is a sweet, clever, and wise story that every parent and curious child will recognize as their own. Rafa promises Mama he will stay by her side at the market, and for a while, he does. But after a bouncing berry lures him away, Rafa finds himself hugging the wrong mom's legs. How will he find his way back to the right legs?

Use this guide to discuss the themes of the book with all the Rafas in your life, so they'll know what to do if they ever ramble off in a public place.

The last page of this PDF is a full-color poster you can use to publicize your story time event.

NOTE: While this book is primarily aimed at preschool and early-elementary-age students, the underlying lessons are important for kids of any age. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited

Children, a significant percentage of attempted abductions involve girls and children between the ages of 10 and 14. You can learn more and find additional resources for older kids at

www.missingkids.org/education/kidsmartz

“Not all those who wander are lost.”

—J.R.R. TOLKIEN



The author reading her previous book with Marble Press, *My Big Embarrassing Elephant*, to a pre-kindergarten class.

Group Discussion Guide

After reading *Rafa and the Wrong Legs* aloud, talk about the following questions together.

1. When Rafa realized he was hugging the wrong legs, he panicked and ran away—twice. Do you think that was the best choice for Rafa to make? Why or why not?
2. What are some other choices Rafa could have made?
Answers might include:
 - Staying where he was until his mom found him
 - Asking for help from another mom who has kids with her
 - Walking to the counter where you pay for things to ask for help
 - Asking for help from someone who works at the store
3. Rafa knew the Cookie Man would be able to help because he worked at the store. What are some of the ways you can tell whether someone works at the store? Answers might include:
 - They're wearing a special vest, t-shirt, or uniform
 - They're wearing a name tag
 - They're standing behind the counter where you pay for things
 - You recognize them from past visits
4. Once you find a store worker or another mom with kids to help you, what should you say?
Answers might include:
 - Say: "I can't find my mom/dad/grandma. Can you help me?"
 - Tell the person your name and your mom or dad's name
 - Ask if they have a phone and if they can call your mom or dad (see phone memorization tips on next page)
 - Tell the person where you were when you last saw your grown-up

Tip: Help children memorize mom's or dad's phone number as early as possible.

Sources: Karla Feindt, M.D., a Utah-based pediatrician
"How to talk to your child about interacting with strangers,"
babycenter.com



Group Activities

Choose from the following activities to do with your group after reading *Rafa and the Wrong Legs* together. Teachers might choose to do all of the activities as a unit, sharing a new one each day for a week or two. There is also a Parent Handout at the end of this section to send home with students, so parents can reinforce these concepts at home.

Lesson 1: Look for a Mom with Kids

If a child gets lost in a public place, like a store or an amusement park, teach them to approach the nearest mom who has kids to ask for help. Dr. Karla M. Feindt, M.D., a Utah-based pediatrician, says that moms with kids are the best option because: they're easy to identify, they're not as intimidating to children as other adults may be, they're highly motivated to help, and they're less likely than any other group to pose a threat to a child.

Activity

Have an adult pretend to be a shopper who is very focused on the task at hand. Have each child practice approaching the adult, getting her attention, and confidently asking for help. "Excuse me, can you help me find my mom?"

Optional further discussion: If there isn't a mom with kids around, the next best options are a store employee or a security guard/police officer. Explain that children can tell whether someone works at the store based on **what** they're wearing, **what** they're doing, or **where** they're standing (e.g., by the registers). Teach them how to identify a police officer (by their uniform), and show them what their community's police uniforms and/or vehicles look like.



Why aren't these options listed first? Because store employees can sometimes be hard for young children to identify. And while it's rare, offenders have been known to wear uniforms to give children a false sense of safety. (Don't share this last tidbit with children, since you don't want to discourage them from approaching a police officer if that's the nearest/most available option.)

Lesson 2: Learn Mom or Dad’s Phone Number

Find out from parents which phone number they want their child to memorize and pass off in class. Pull children aside one by one and have them practice singing the phone number to the tune of *Frere Jacques* (“Are you sleeping?”). You sing each line first, and have the child sing it back like an echo.

Are You Sleeping Song Lyrics	Example with a Fake Phone Number
Are you sleeping? (Are you sleeping?)	two-oh-one (two-oh-one)
Brother John? (Brother John?)	five-five-five (five-five-five)
Morning bells are ringing. (Morning bells are ringing.)	seven-seven-three-four (seven-seven-three-four)
Ding-dang-dong. (Ding-dang-dong.)	That’s mom’s number. (That’s mom’s number.)

After they’ve passed it off by singing it, you could also have them pass it off by simply reciting it aloud.

Lesson 3: Stay an Arm’s Length Away

Teach children to always stay at least an arm’s length away from strangers. Instruct them to never, ever leave a store or get in a car with someone they don’t know. Reassure them that if they get lost, mom or dad will always come find them; mom or dad will never leave without them. If a stranger tells them that mom or dad left and offers to drive them to find mom or dad, that person is lying. The child should run away and find a safe person to help. (Reminder: a mom with kids is the safest option.)

Activity

Show children what an “arm’s length away” means. Teach them that they should always stay at least that far away from adults they don’t know. Play a game where you try to reach out and gently grab each child by the arm, and they practice staying out of reach. If you catch a child, they should yell out: “Help! This is not my mom!” or “Help, this is not my dad!” As soon a child is caught, they go to the safe zone, and you try catching another child. Give each child a chance to practice yelling: “Help! This is not my mom!” as loud as they can.

Lesson 4: Plant Your Feet and Squawk Like a Bird

Teach children what to do if they get lost in nature. Explain what you mean by “nature”—the forest, the mountains, or the desert, where there are no other people around. If a child gets lost when they’re out in nature, they should STOP and stay exactly where they are until their grown-up finds them. Even if it takes a long time.

Activity

Have the children repeat the following together, while role playing the actions:

I’ll plant my feet [stomp, stomp]

and squawk like a bird [open and close hand near mouth like a beak]

“Help, I’m lost!” [hands around mouth, shouting together]

Have a contest to see who can squawk the loudest. Tell them not to be shy! This is a good time to practice being VERY LOUD. Tip: use an app, like the Noise app on the Apple Watch, to measure who’s the loudest.

Bonus: Share a Favorite Cookie Recipe

If you’d like to include a treat with your story time, cookies are a great fit for the theme. Bring your own favorite recipe or packaged variety, or try author Angie Lucas’s favorite: her mom’s snickerdoodles! Not only does Angie enjoy saying the word “snickerdoodle,” she also can’t resist these kinda-crunchy, kinda-chewy cookies her mother used to make.

Mama’s Snickerdoodles

1 c. butter

1½ c. sugar

2 eggs

2 ¾ c. flour

2 tsp. cream of tartar

½ tsp. salt

1 tsp. baking soda

2 tsp. cinnamon mixed with 2 Tbsp. sugar

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cream butter, sugar, and eggs. Sift dry ingredients and stir into creamed mixture. Roll into balls, then roll in cinnamon-sugar mixture until entirely coated. Place 2 inches apart on cookie sheet. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on a wire rack or paper towels and enjoy!

Parent Handout

We read the book *Rafa and the Wrong Legs* by Angie Lucas and Ana Sanfelippo in class this week. I learned what to do if I ever get lost in a public place –and what NOT to do. Here are some ways you can reinforce what we learned at home.

Lesson #1: Look for a Mom with Kids

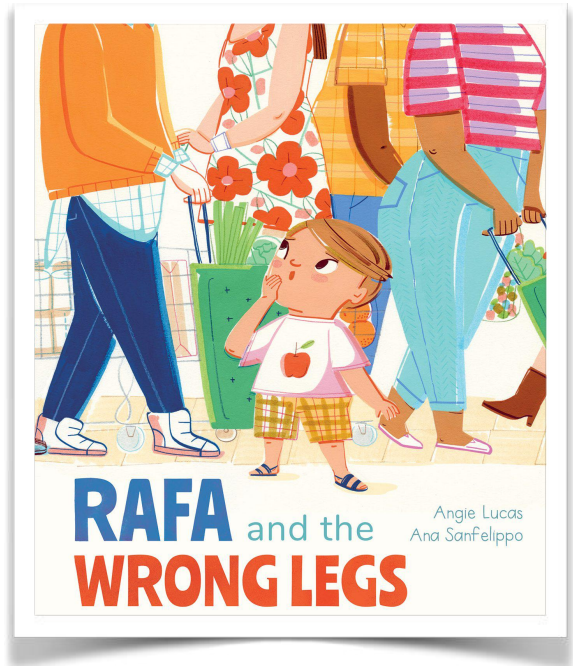
I learned that if I get lost in a public place, like a store or an amusement park, I should look for the nearest mom who has kids and ask her for help.

We had an adult pretend to be a mom who was very focused on her shopping. I practiced approaching the shopper, getting her attention, and confidently asking for help. “Excuse me, can you help me find my mom?”

I learned that if there’s not a mom with kids around, I can also look for a store worker or a police officer/security guard. I learned how to identify these individuals.

Lesson #2: Learn Mom or Dad’s Phone Number

I learned that it’s important to know mom or dad’s phone number as early as possible. Help me learn it by singing the phone number to the tune of Frere Jacques (“Are you sleeping?”). You sing each line first, and I’ll sing it back like an echo.



Are You Sleeping Song Lyrics	Example with a Fake Phone Number
Are you sleeping? (Are you sleeping?)	two-oh-one (two-oh-one)
Brother John? (Brother John?)	five-five-five (five-five-five)
Morning bells are ringing. (Morning bells are ringing.)	seven-seven-three-four (seven-seven-three-four)
Ding-dang-dong. (Ding-dang-dong.)	That’s mom’s number. (That’s mom’s number.)

Lesson #3: Stay an Arm's Length Away

I learned to always stay at least an arm's length away from strangers. And if I get lost in a public place, I learned to never, ever leave the store or get in a car with someone I don't know. I learned that my mom or dad will always come find me; mom or dad will never leave without me.

I practiced staying an arm's length away from my teacher. If my teacher managed to catch me by the arm, I practiced yelling out: "Help! This is not my mom!" or "Help, this is not my dad!" as loud as I could.

Parents: Reinforce this message at home. They need to hear you tell them, "I will never, ever leave you at a store. If someone tells you I left you, and that they'll drive you to find me, they are lying. Do not EVER get in a car with someone you don't know."

Lesson #4: Plant Your Feet and Squawk Like a Bird

I learned what to do if I get lost in nature. I learned that I should STOP and stay exactly where I am until my grown-up finds me. Even if it takes a long time.

Ask me to show you the actions I learned:

I'll plant my feet [stomp, stomp]

and squawk like a bird [open and close hand near mouth like a beak]

"Help, I'm lost!" [hands around mouth, shouting together]

For additional safety tips, the complete lessons we talked about in class, and coloring pages you can download for free, please visit

marblepress.com/resources

For more books by Angie Lucas, including free downloadable activity kits, visit the author's website at angielucas.com

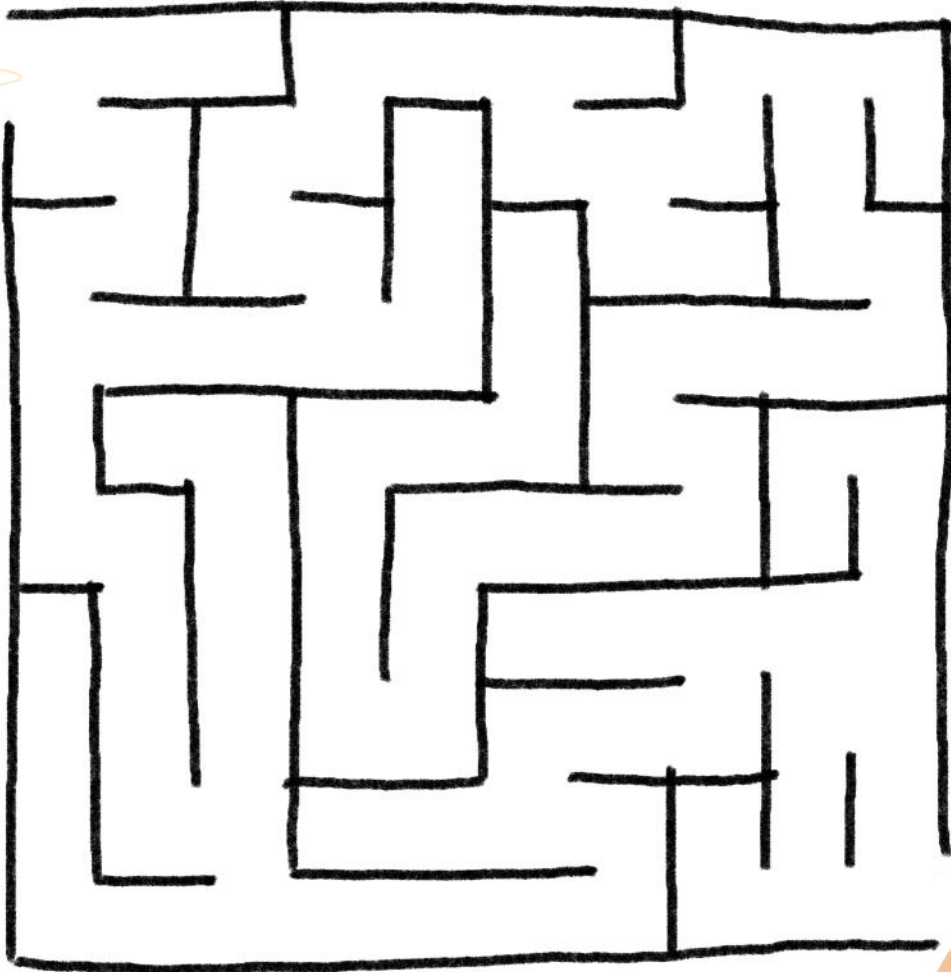


Rafa and the Wrong Legs can be purchased wherever books are sold. Look for a copy at your favorite independent bookstore or a mass retailer like Barnes & Noble or Amazon.



Help Rafa find Mama

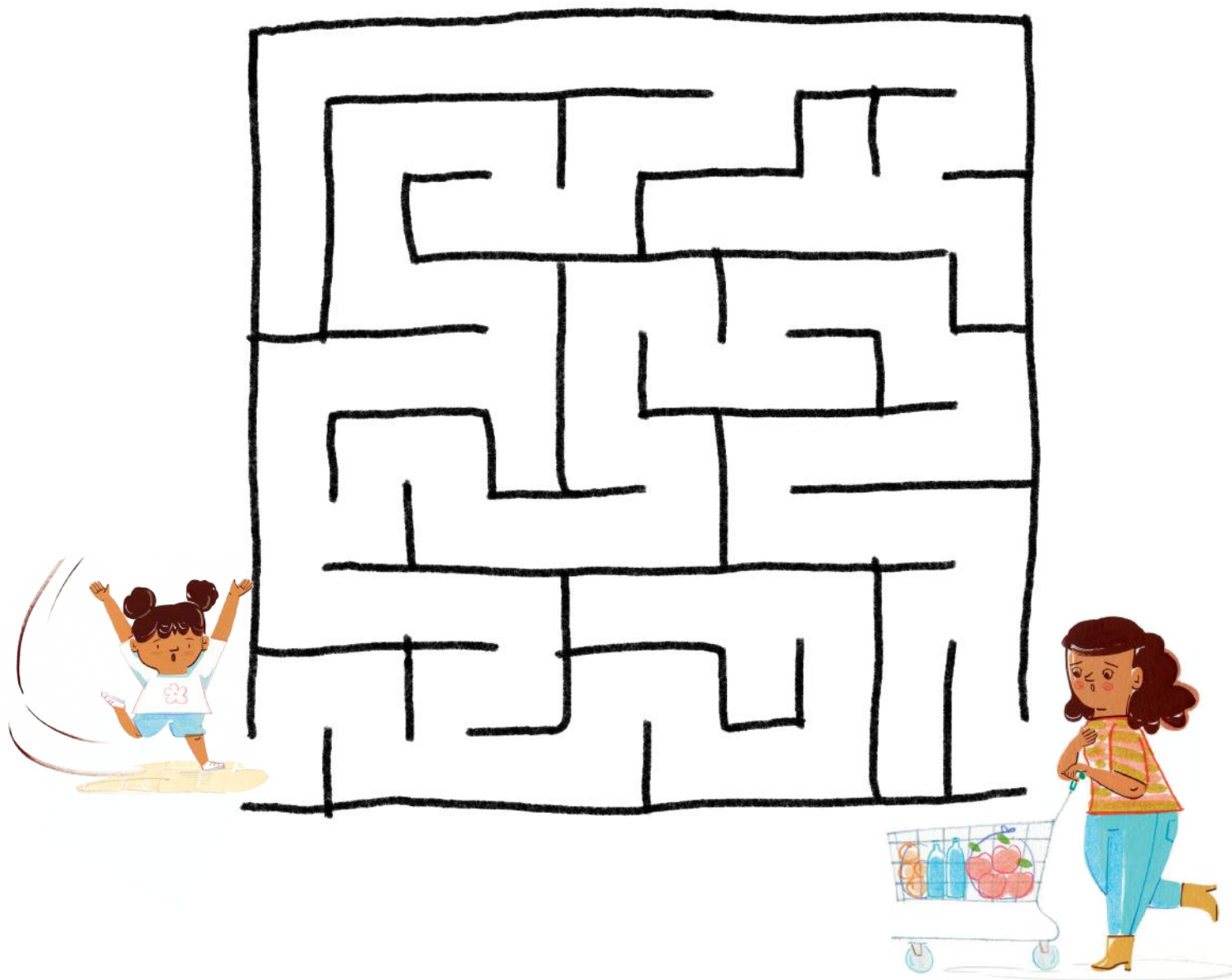
Rafa is visiting the market with Mama. After a bouncing berry lures him away, Rafa finds himself hugging the wrong mom's legs. Oh no! Can you help Rafa find his way back to the RIGHT legs?



Rafa and the Wrong Legs can be purchased wherever books are sold.
For more books and free activity kits, visit: marblepress.com/free-resources
For more from the author, visit: anjielucas.com

Help Roxie find her mom

Rafa isn't the only one in the story who gets lost. Roxie is so busy watching Rafa that she loses sight of her mom too. Oh no! Can you help Roxie find her way back to her mom?



Rafa and the Wrong Legs can be purchased wherever books are sold.

For more books and free activity kits, visit: marblepress.com/free-resources

For more from the author, visit: angielucas.com

Color Rafa



Illustration by Ana Sanfelippo for *Rafa and the Wrong Legs*, written by Angie Lucas. Full activity kit at marblepress.com/free-resources

Color the Cookie Man



Illustration by Ana Sanfelippo for *Rafa and the Wrong Legs*, written by Angie Lucas. Full activity kit at marblepress.com/free-resources

Does your child know what to do
if they get **LOST** in a public place?



RAFA and the **WRONG LEGS**

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SPECIAL STORY TIME

Date:

Location:

Time:

Storyteller: