

From the author of *On the Day You Were Born*

# Miss Alaineus

A VOCABULARY DISASTER

Written and illustrated by

**Debra  
Frasier**





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I have a feeling this awesome ailment will cause me great agony soon.



**N**one of this would have happened if it wasn't for Forest. Forest is not *a thicket of trees*. Forest is a boy. A sick boy. A boy sneezing and coughing all over my desk and pencils.

I caught Forest's cold and had to stay home from school on Tuesday. Tuesday is Vocabulary Day at Webster School. Follow my advice: Never get sick on Vocabulary Day.

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On Tuesday afternoon I called my best friend, Starr, who is not a *luminous celestial object seen as a point of light in the sky*, but a very smart girl who listens perfectly on Vocabulary Day. She was late for baseball practice, so she spelled the first fourteen vocabulary words as fast as she could.

I had to scribble them quickly because her mom was calling her to the car. "The last one's 'Miss Alaineus'!" Starr yelled. "I gotta go. I hope you feel better tomorrow, Sage." And she hung up the phone with a crash.





## VOCABULARY WORDS

1. dinosaur
2. snake
3. museum
4. reptile
5. constrictor
6. herpetologist
7. fossil
8. carnivore
9. herbivore
10. nest
11. species
12. theory
13. hypothesis
14. category
15. Miss Alaineus

I didn't feel much better on Wednesday, so my mom called Mrs. Page, who is not a *single side of a printed sheet of paper usually found bound in a book*. She's my teacher, and actually Mrs. Page is a good name for her because she reads to us every day. My mom told her yes, I had my math problems and vocabulary words, and yes I would get better soon.

Every week Mrs. Page gives us a list of words with a theme like Story Writing or Musical Performance or Electricity. We're supposed to look up each word in the dictionary, but sometimes I already know the words, so I try to make the definitions sound like I looked them up.

I croak when I cough, and I call this a terrible catastrophe.



## A riotous vocabulary calamity!

Sage has misheard and misunderstood one of Mrs. Page's weekly vocabulary words. Her error leads to a humbling **catastrophe**: a *momentous tragedy*, in front of the entire class. Can Sage turn her vocabulary **disaster**: *an event bringing great misfortune*, into a **triumph**: *a true success*?

★ "There are delightful surprises on every page of this charmer. It is sure to be a favorite that will be read again and again."—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

A Book Sense 76 Pick  
An IRA-CBC Children's Choice  
An IRA Teachers' Choice  
A Storytelling World Award Winner

On the Day You Were Born



Debra Frasier

Praise for Debra Frasier's bestselling *On the Day You Were Born*:

★ "Both parents and educators will find themselves wanting to share this book over and over."—*School Library Journal* (starred review)

A Publishers Weekly Children's Bestseller  
A Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner

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