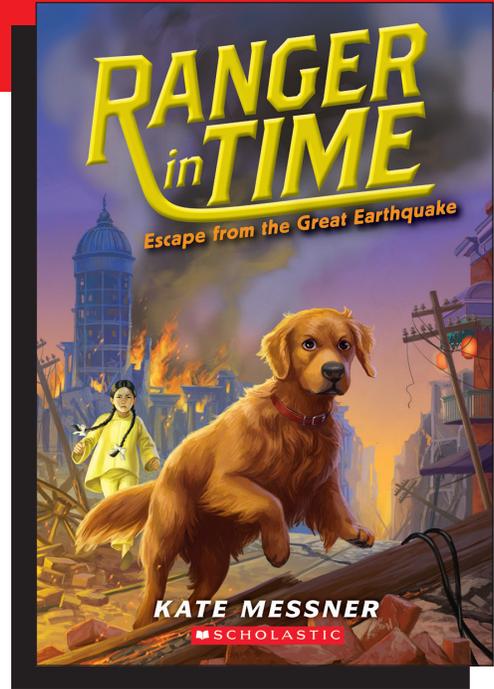


# Booktalk!

## Ranger in Time: Escape from the Great Earthquake Script

### For this Book Talk you will need

- 3 actors (Lily, May, Army Soldier, Extra (offstage))
- Lily & May: black pants, black or white top with wide sleeves & Mandarin collar, black slip-on shoes
- Army Soldier: khaki pants & buttoned shirt, army cap, tall black boots, fake rifle
- Additional props: box, recording of glass breaking & dog barking & growling, copy of *Ranger in Time: Escape from the Great Earthquake*



- Lily:** *(Lily & May looking around stage as they walk on, then stopping mid-stage);*  
Oh, May. Look at all the damage that earthquake caused! *(coughing)*
- May:** *(also looking around, shaking her head & pointing as she speaks)* I know – there are snapped power lines everywhere, and the fronts of all those buildings are completely destroyed. *(clearing her throat as she continues speaking)*. All this smoke is really hurting my throat.
- Lily:** *(coughing)* Mine, too.
- Soldier:** *(spotting the girls, holding up a hand to stop them from walking any further & speaking gruffly)* No one's allowed here – the whole area has been closed off.
- May:** *(coughing)* Please, sir, I must get our family's papers. We live just down the street, and...
- Soldier:** Doesn't matter where you live. They're getting ready to dynamite buildings to stop the fire. No one's going in.
- May:** They're blowing up our homes? They can't! I have to...
- Lily:** *(turning to May & speaking pleadingly)* May, we have to go. *(tugging on May's arm & backing away from the soldier; soldier walking offstage)*

continued on next page...

# Booktalk!

- May:** *(frantically)* Lily – I promised Father I would keep our papers safe... I can't let them get destroyed or we might get sent back to China! *(pausing & coughing)* How are we ever going to get to our store with all these soldiers around?
- Lily:** Maybe there's another way in. But we'll have to be fast. *(pointing to other side of stage and beckoning May to follow her)* May – is there a back way into your family's apartment?
- May:** *(shaking head)* It's just a single room behind the store. There's a window, but I'm not sure I'd fit in. What if the back alley is guarded?
- Lily:** We can check. *(walking quietly towards the other side of the stage; pointing in the direction she's looking in, then turning to May & whispering loudly)* I see another soldier. Don't make a sound.
- May:** *(walking quietly towards where Lily is standing)* All right...
- Lily:** *(still whispering loudly)* You can't just burst out and climb in the window. If that officer sees, he'll think you're breaking in... Let me go down the alley first. I'll approach him asking for help with... I don't know. Something. I'll get him to turn away so you can go in. Stay hidden until then.
- May:** *(sounding worried)* But what if... *(more confidently)* All right. I'll be very fast.
- Lily:** *(nodding)* Be safe. *(May exiting opposite side of stage; Lily walking a few more steps then kicking box and making a noise that alerts soldier)*
- Soldier:** *(running back onstage towards Lily & shouting)* Area's closed off!
- Lily:** *(pleadingly)* Can you help me, please? *(hesitating momentarily)* I... I thought I saw some men looting shops *(pointing past the soldier)* I can show you...
- Soldier:** *(frowning & starting toward Lily, then looking back behind him; motioning to Lily to follow)* Come here! *(Lily stepping closer)* Where did you see these men?
- Lily:** It was up on Stockton.
- Soldier:** Show me. *(sound effect of glass breaking offstage; soldier turning to head to side of stage where May exited, until he hears sound effect of dog barking & growling offstage, right behind him)* Why is that dog barking so much?
- Lily:** *(excitedly)* Oh! I bet he's seen the looters! *(pointing off in distance)* Look!

continued on next page...

# Booktalk!

**Soldier:** *(straining to see) I don't see anyone! (turning & heading towards where May went offstage; dropping book out of his pocket on his way)*

**Lily:** *Please, wait! (running after soldier then stopping, picking up book & turning to audience)*  
Did May get what she needed from her family's apartment without that soldier catching her? The only way you'll find out is if you look for *Ranger in Time: Escape from the Great Earthquake* (holding up copy of *Ranger in Time: Escape from the Great Earthquake*) – it's at your Scholastic Book Fair.