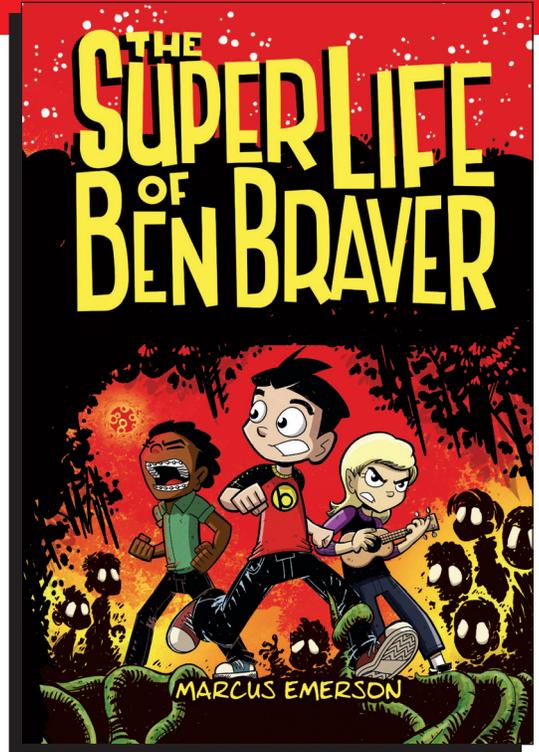


Booktalk!

The Super Life of Ben Braver Script

For this Book Talk you will need

- 2 actors (Donald Kepler, Ben Braver,)
- **Donald Kepler:** Black shirt, black pants, black jacket, black tie, black shoes, long white wig
- **Ben Braver:** Black pants, t-shirt with lower case “B” on it, running shoes
- **Additional props:** 1 chair with black blanket draped over it (to simulate wing-backed chair), 3 chairs side-by-side with large patterned blanket draped over them (to simulate couch), copy of *The Super Life of Ben Braver* face down on couch



Mr. Kepler: *(scene opens with Ben seated on the couch; Mr. Kepler seated in the chair opposite him & sounding mysterious as he begins speaking)*

Hello, Ben. I'm Donald Kepler and I've been here with your parents, waiting for you to wake up so we can discuss a few things. Firstly, I'm headmaster of Kepler Academy, a secret school for kids with special abilities.

Ben: *(seated on couch with his legs crossed; sounding suspicious)* So...what do you mean by *(making air quotes)* “special abilities”?

Mr. K: *(taking a deep breath and exhaling slowly)* I'm speaking about individuals who have developed special abilities... I hesitate to call them this, but you would say they were *(sounding mildly disgusted)*...superpowers.

Ben: *(staring at Kepler & sounding skeptical)* No way... You're messing with me, right? *(turning to his parents & adding laughingly)*

Mr. K: *(shaking head)* After your scuffle left you with your body frozen in a block of ice, I spent three days here proving to your parents that...*(pausing momentarily)* that you are... *(pausing again)* special!

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- Mr. K:** *(folding his hands on his lap)* All abilities manifest around the age of middle school... *(Ben looking speechless)* which is why my academy starts at sixth grade. My school helps children with their new abilities.
- Ben:** *(laughingly & answering mockingly)* Okay, Professor X, that's already been done. Is your school in a mansion, too?
- Mr. K:** *(frowning)* Why would my school be in a mansion?
- Ben:** You know...like the X-Men? *(shaking head & sounding unsure)* Okaaay, so you're telling me you started a school for people with superpowers?
- Mr. K:** Abilities.
- Ben:** Right, abilities. So where are all these superpowered kids in the world? There's no such thing as superheroes.
- Mr. K:** Obviously, it's all very secret. It must be. It's far too dangerous for the world to know we exist. My school teaches students to harness their talents and learn to control them. An uncontrolled ability is a danger to the individual. It can be quite deadly. You know that firsthand.
- Ben:** *(beginning to sound impatient)* Why are you even here?
- Mr. K:** To offer you a spot at my school.
- Ben:** Come on! This is a joke, right? *(looking down at the floor)* Or I'm still dreaming... *(giving Mr. K the thumbs-up)* Thanks for saving my life and stuff, but I think I'm still feeling kinda sick, y'know, from the coma.
- Mr. K:** *(sounding impatient)* Why must you be such a hardheaded child? *(taking a deep breath then continuing)* I've been at this for so long that I sometimes forget how unrealistic it might sound to the uninitiated.
- Ben:** *(jumping up quickly & shouting)* Leave! Now!
- Mr. K:** *(standing up facing Ben)* I'll go. But before I do, you need to know this: my academy is not open, nor even exist to the public. And I assure you, this is no prank.
- Ben:** *(voice softening somewhat)* But why me? Are you telling me I have a superpower?!

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Mr. K: *(ignoring Ben's question & answering calmly)* Ben, I'd very much like for you to attend my school. I don't use this word often, but I do believe it's your destiny. You're full of spirit, and that's something I think the academy is in desperate need of. Everyone will be excited to meet you. *(nodding towards Ben, then walking offstage)*

Ben: *(walking toward audience)* This is all way too much to believe... *(pausing)* or is it? *(holding up a copy of The Super Life of Ben Braver)* Find out by reading *The Super Life of Ben Braver*. You'll find it at your Scholastic Book Fair.