

ANNA HUMPHREY illustrated by KASS REICH



ITTY-BITTY BAT. **MEGA** PERSONALITY.

## Megabat wants you to know: BATSES ARE FRIENDSES!

Bats have a bad reputation. Maybe it's their pointy fangs, the stories about them turning into vampires or the fact that they only come out at night. But the truth is, bats are an important part of our ecosystem. In fact, we can even think of them as friends! Here are five reasons why:

### 1. Very few bats drink blood.

There are only three species of vampire bats in the whole world, and they don't kill their prey! Instead, they use small sharp teeth that can pierce an animal's skin without them even noticing.

### 2. Most bats help to control insects.

Seventy percent of bats (including the kinds that live in North America) eat insects. A single brown bat can catch around 1,200 insects in an hour. Next time you play outside and don't get a mosquito bite, thank a bat!

### 3. Some bats spread seeds.

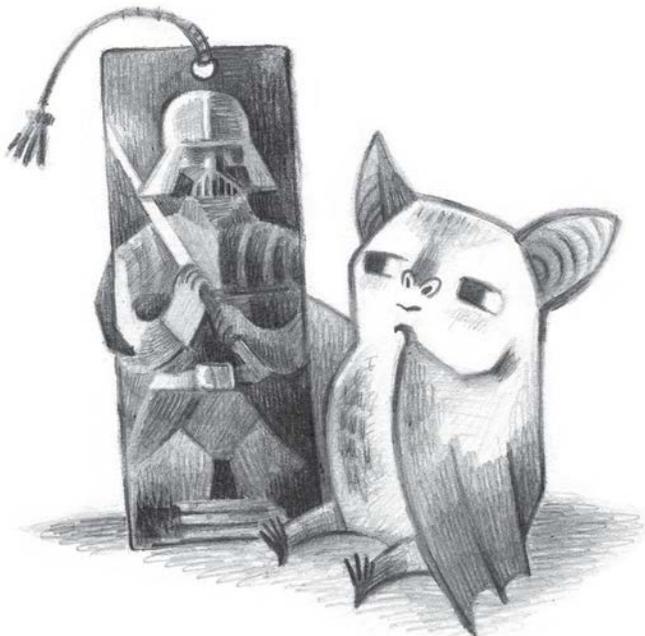
Bats that eat fruit juice and nectar are called megabats or flying foxes. They live in warm climates. Fruit bats help their environments by eating seeds and pooping them out again, planting new trees wherever they go!

### 4. Bats can live a long time.

The average lifespan of a bat varies, but some types of brown bats can live as long as thirty years. Considering other small mammals live only two years or so, that's pretty impressive!

### 5. Bats need our help!

Deforestation and pollution have wiped out many bats and their habitats. One way you can help bats is by learning more about them and helping to protect the environments where they live.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. At the beginning of the book, Daniel and Megabat are both a long way from their old homes. How are they feeling about that? Why do you think they might feel that way?
2. Why do you think Daniel is so nervous to meet Talia and Jamie, the kids next door? Can you remember a time when you were scared to meet someone new? What did you do?
3. Sometimes Megabat has a different (and funny) way of talking! On page 39, Megabat tells Daniel about how he got to Canada. He talks about travelling in a rolling rectangle and then in the belly of a roaring beast. What do you think he means? Can you describe Megabat's journey in your own words?
4. Daniel and Talia's first idea is to mail Megabat home to Borneo. What's the most fun or exciting thing you've ever gotten in the mail?
5. Did you like the ending of the book? Why or why not?