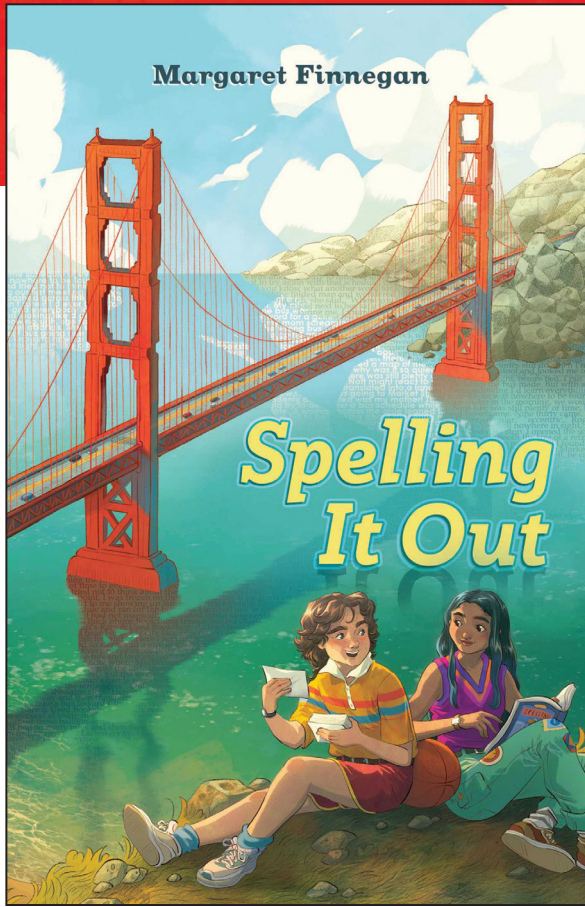


Margaret Finnegan



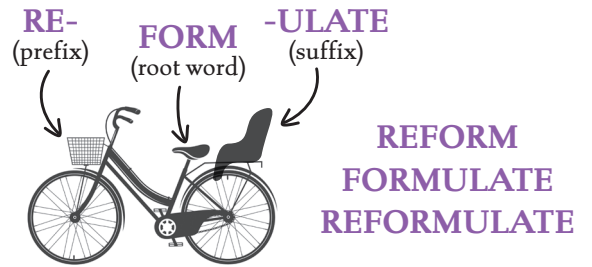
Activities

In *Spelling It Out* by Margaret Finnegan, Ben Bellini did not go looking for spelling bee glory, and yet he sure does like it when it finds him. But as he learns, making it to the Scripps National Spelling Bee—the queen bee of all spelling bees—requires hard work, strategies, and sometimes a little cheerleading. Are you ready to be a champion speller? Use these tips to strengthen your spelling muscles.

Strategies for Spellers

The English language is a wild ride! Just when you think you're a spelling expert, you come across a word like *indefatigable* or *logorrhea* and the rug slips right out from under you. But stress not! Be like Ben! Impress all you encounter by using strategies like these:

Know your root words, prefixes, and suffixes. A root word is like a bicycle. It gets you where you need to go. But add a prefix (like a bike basket) before the root word and/or a suffix (like a baby seat) after the root word and now you're cruising! For a great list of prefixes, root words, and suffixes, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ypkp9axb>



Bouquet
French word =
French spelling!



Consider the language of origin. English has a long history of adopting words from other languages. Knowing a word's language of origin will help you master foreign-language letter combinations and predict which letters to use.



Use flash cards. It's not rocket science. But practice works.

Befriend a paper dictionary. Dictionaries do more than define words. They often include essays on the history of the English language (Yes! It has a history), guides for pronunciation, and more!



Get Your Grit On

Learning anything can be hard, but—as Ben realizes—continued effort pays off. Believe in your ability to get better. Remember a time when you struggled to learn a subject or skill but then got better because you didn't give up? What (or who) helped you stick with it? On a separate sheet of paper, write about it or draw a picture. Finding ways to make our memories or knowledge concrete can help us remember, and remembering when we've persevered in the past can help us persevere again.

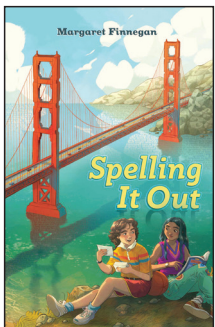
Word Search

These words and places contribute to the memory palace Ben builds of his summer in San Francisco in *Spelling It Out*. See if you can find them all!

S A N F R A N C I S C O S E K
P W E Y T L H Q P S B M P C C
J I N I T Q Q C C M B R E N X
G L H F K T H D N S A E L E H
M L A S N D E V E L S W L D W
C N I I D M J I P W K O I N W
L Y S B E N T F E S E T N E D
C G X N R Y E S C J T T G P A
M L T S L A N I K U B I B E C
B I O I N P R O R U A O E D O
A J M D Y E O Y R F L C E N I
T A C Y P N A T P I L F T I U
F Y P V D O R E M E M B E R W
O M W E C A L A P Y R O M E M
X X Z T A W V L W A R E P X Y

CLODPOLL
BASKETBALL
DEMENTIA
MEMORY PALACE
FRIENDSHIP
COIT TOWER
SAN FRANCISCO
LIBRARY
SPELLING BEE
INDEPENDENCE
FAMILY TIES
REMEMBER

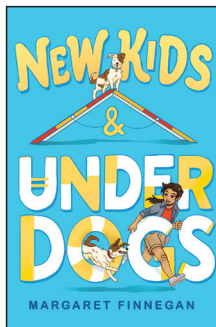
Books by Margaret Finnegan



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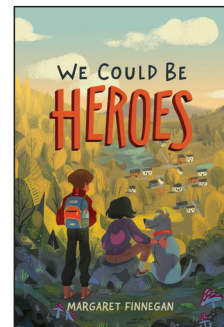
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