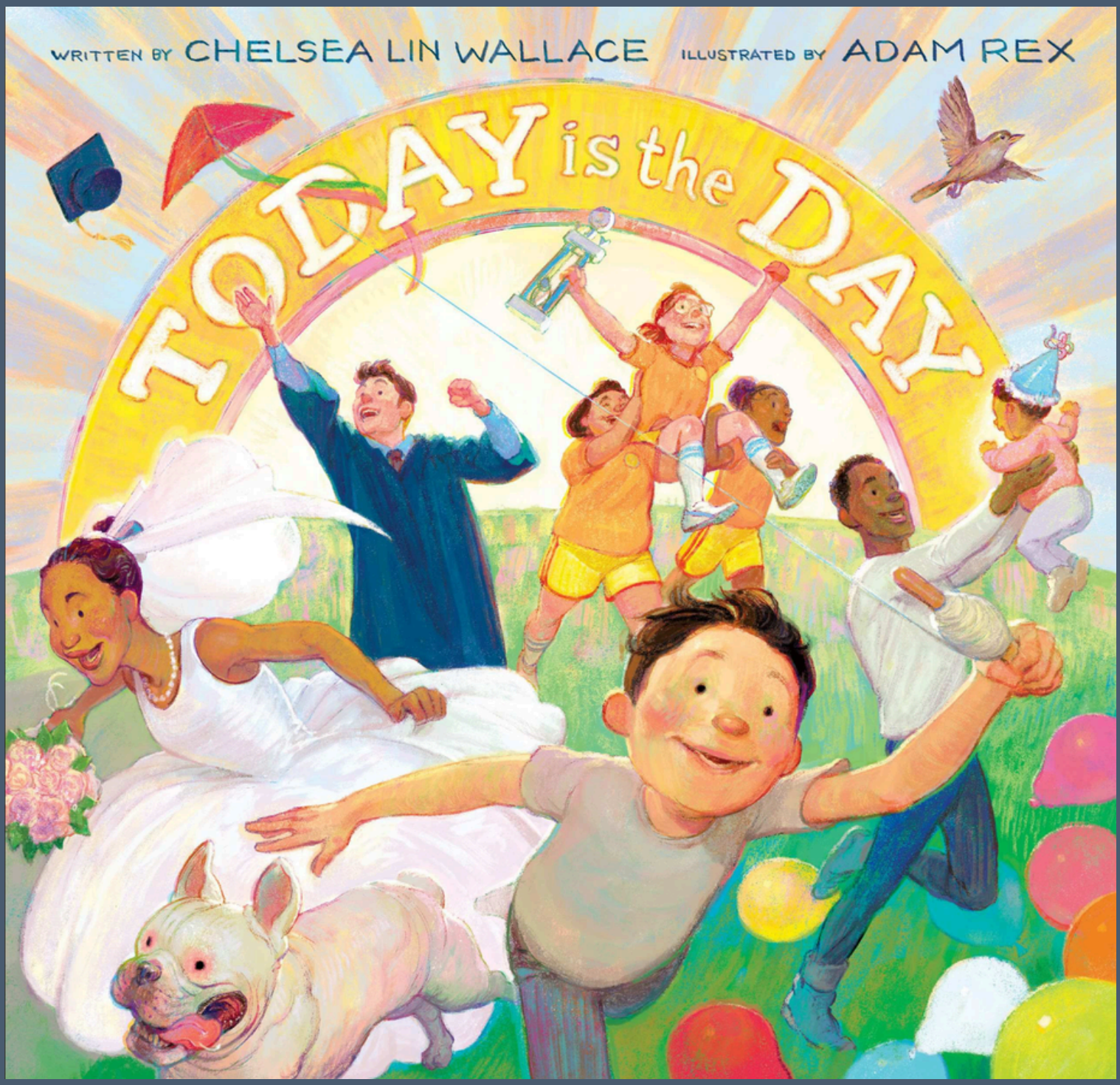



Readers' Theater for

Today is the Day

by Chelsea Lin Wallace and Adam Rex

# About the Creators

Chelsea Lin Wallace (chelsealinwallace.com) is a poet, a school theater director, and an award-winning children's author with an impressive lineup of books, including Ode to a Bad Day, Today is the Day, The Boo-Boos of Bluebell Elementary, Dare to be Daring, and On Our Way with Mr. Jay. She is best known for writing picture books that blend heartfelt hilarity with relatable kid-drama. When she's not penning stories, she's Mom—helping her daughter through homework, club volleyball, and teenage ups and downs. She lives in Los Angeles.

Adam Rex is the author and illustrator of more than forty books for kids. These include New York Times bestselling picture books like Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich and School's First Day of School, (with illustrator Christian Robinson). His work has been adapted for film and television. He's won some awards, including the Margaret Wise Brown Prize in Children's Literature and the National Cartoonists Society Book Illustration Award. His debut novel was shortlisted for the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy.
He used to make art for games like Dungeons & Dragons and Magic: The Gathering. Sometimes he still does. He lives in Tucson, Arizona, with his dog, son, and wife.

# About the Book

A lot will happen today: 22 million people will celebrate birthdays, 55 earthquakes will shake the earth, and 275 million stars will be born.
Yes, quite a lot will happen today. But what will happen to the Day?

A Junior Library Guild Selection

"A kaleidoscope of overlapping moments demonstrating the diversity and commonality in the human experience around the world. A thought-provoking ode to the multitudes each unique day contains." — School Library Journal

★ — "Contemplative yet perfectly calibrated for young readers' sensibilities... A joyous celebration of life and all its myriad wonders." — Kirkus, Starred Review

★ — "With a... full-hearted spirit, this thought-provoking work suggests that it's not the days in life but the life in the day." — Publishers Weekly, Starred Review

★ —"Wonderfully perspective-broadening . . . everyday experiences [are] illuminated and celebrated through Chelsea Lin Wallace's moving, contemplative story and Adam Rex's lovely and kinetic art."—BookPage, Starred Review

★ —"Elegantly conceived and executed, readers will return to this book repeatedly and find something new each time." — Booklist, Starred Review

"Ebullient and brimming with hope, this celebratory book encourages young readers to approach every day with wonder." — The Horn Book Review

About the Guide: This guide was created by Kari Allen. Visit her website: www.kariallenwrites.com for more information about her guides and books. Text excerpts and images are used with permission from the author and illustrator and can ony be used for educational purposes.

**Today is The Day** Readers' Theater

(Readers are standing on stage in a semi-circle or a line so that they can move and react to the text. They should not stand in order though so they can create a popcorn like effect when reading. An alternative set up could also include an actor who is "the day" and acts out the actions throughout the play.)

**All**: A Day is born. [everyone stretches and yawns.]

**Reader 1:** It wakes with a rise, [reach for the sky]

**Reader 2:** just a mess of colors at first,

**Reader 3:** where it is welcomed,

**All**: Hi! Hello! Good morning. [wave]

**Reader 4:** grumbled at, [readers next to #5 grumble to #5]

**Reader 5:** or ignored. [sadly, readers next to #6 turn away from them]

**Reader 6:** But with every ticktock,

**Reader 7:** the Day discovers it has

**Reader 8:** faces and places,

**Reader 1:** emotions and moments

**Reader 8:** in hours

**Reader 1:** and minutes

**Reader 8:** and seconds.

**Reader 2:** No matter how the Day feels,
a day can never take a day off.
It always has so much to do—

[Everyone gets up and walks around, pantomiming different things to do i.e. sweeping, picking things up, stretching...readers all end in a different spot from where they started.]

**Reader 3:** like saying goodbye to thousands of people

**All:** [say goodbye in different languages, sadly, add in what fits your community best] adios, au revoir...adieu, arrivederci, dasvidaniya, kwaheri

**Reader 4:** while welcoming thousands more into the world. [hugs, high-fives, handshakes]

**Reader 5:** Like seeing 100,000 airplanes take off [circles stage pretending to fly like an airplane, others put hands to eyes to look up at the planes in the sky]

**Reader 6:** and hearing 100 billion bursts of laughter. [tell a joke]

**Reader 7: T**oday, the Day is celebrating 22 million birthdays.

**All:** [sing a snippet of Happy Birthday song, pretend to hold a cake for a reader to blow out the candles. Could also sing in different languages.]

**Reader 8:** The Day is shaken by earthquakes, [all stand unsteadily on feet, bracing for the shake]

**Reader 1:** showered with thunderstorms, [all cover heads with scripts or pop up umbrellas]

**Reader 8:** and warmed by sunshine [turn faces up to the sun]

**Reader 1:** all at once.

**Reader 2:** The Day turns into...

**Reader 3:** her day

**Reader 4:** and his day

**Reader 5:** and their day.

**Reader 6:** When the Day learns it is only one of 27,000 days in their lifetimes,

**Reader 7:** it suddenly feels small. [quietly]

**Reader 8:** It wonders if it's even important at all. [quietly, readers 7 and 8 could sit down here.]

**Reader 8:** But then the Day meets this Mayfly. [stands back up.] [all readers look up at imaginary Mayfly flying around the stage. They track it with their eyes and heads.]

Or

[Mayfly enters stage and flits around the readers, weaving in and out in a dance. Pausing aned moving with the words.]

**Reader 1:** This Mayfly is living its entire lifetime

**Reader 2:** **i**n just

**Reader 3:** one

**Reader 4:** day.

**Reader 5:** That day is today.

**Reader 6:** It is not yesterday.

**Reader 7:** It is not tomorrow.

**Reader 8:** The Day now knows that it is a day

**Reader 1:** of firsts and lasts,

**Reader 2:** of missteps and misfortunes,

**Reader 3:** of milestones, of miracles,

**Reader 4:** and everything in between.

**Reader 5:** It makes the most of its time in the universe,

**Reader 6:** watching millions of new stars being born.

**All:** [gasp and murmur in awe.]

**Reader 7:** This is the Day's favorite part—
when it feels free from time
altogether. [spin]

**Reader 8:** But time is always there, waiting.

**Reader 1:** And at the end of a Day's life,
it breathes,

**Reader 2:** ticktock,

**Reader 3:** ticktock,

**Reader 4:** ticktock,

**Reader 5:** until it ticks its last second . . . [all sit but reader 6]

**Reader 6:** and makes space for the next rise. [sit]

[take a beat here, let there be a moment of silence on stage]

**Reader 7:** But while that Day may seem to be gone now,
it will always be remembered by someone. [stands]

**Reader 8:** For someone, that Day was their best day. [all stand to face the audience]

**Reader 1:** Maybe that someone is you. [point to audience]

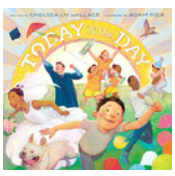
**Reader 2:** Because in your memory,

**Reader 3:** that Day lives not just for a day—

**Reader 4:** but for a lifetime.

**All:** A day is born. [arms could go up here]

**Fin-Bows**

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