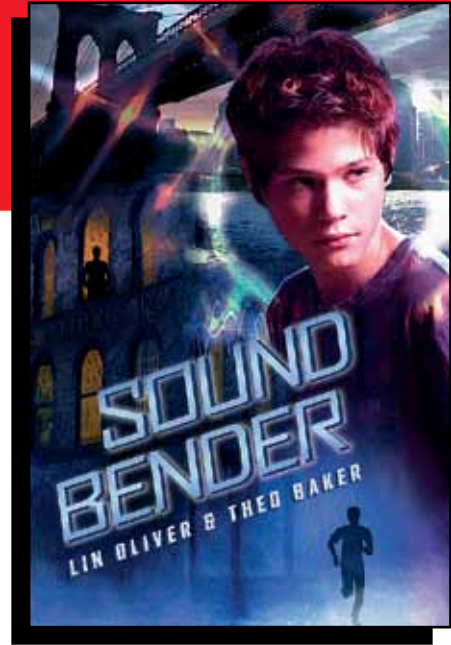


Booktalk!

Sound Bender Book Talk Script

For this Book Talk you will need:

- A copy of *Sound Bender*
- An oversized yellow envelope (“FOR LEO LOMAX TO BE OPENED ON HIS 13th BIRTHDAY – WITHOUT FAIL” written in bold letters on front.) and a crumpled letter inside the envelope.
- Two actors, Leo and side stage narrator



Leo: *(walk over to the table, pick up envelope and turn to audience, open envelope... read out loud).* For Leo Lomax. *(Run fingers over envelope and then turn it over and take out the note, say to audience)* It's from my Dad? But that is impossible! He died 12 years ago! *(begin to read aloud **excerpt taken from book)*

“Dear Leo,

This letter is not to offer you advice about your future, but to tell you about your past, about your birth and your first few days. I am putting it all down in writing now because memory fades and changes with time – and I want you to have a perfect record of what happened on the island the day you were born.”

(look up perplexed) The ISLAND? What island? I don't understand this at all. *(Continue reading)*

Son, you are a Sound Bender. It is a gift – although you may not think so at first. And Leo, tell no one about this, it isn't safe. This is a secret for you and you alone. *(Look up, reach for the book and say quietly)* What is a Sound Bender? *(Touch book, gasp, then back up abruptly)*

Did you hear that? *(Point to someone in the audience)* Did you? Did you hear it? Did you hear the song, it is haunting, disturbing *(touch book again)* And that! Did you hear that? Someone is screaming in pain! *(Drop book and put hands to ears)* Ahhhh! Make it stop! *(Fall to knees)*

Narrator: *(Hold up book to audience)* *Sound Bender*, get it at your Scholastic Book Fair.