

The font spacing and size are **easily readable** yet still **appropriate for the intended audience.**

*The Way I See It* books are written from **culturally diverse perspectives.** *Lilly* is told from the point of view of a homeless teen.

Lilly

watching me? The fact was that Oak Park was never going to be my safe place again. I felt a chill hit me when I realized it never had been.

Pedro frowned. "Are you okay, Miss?"

I forced the smile again. "Yes, I'm . . . I'm just upset because I went the wrong way. I'm sorry." I felt my cheeks warm. I had outright lied. It wasn't even a half-truth or a short little throw-away lie, like when I told June nothing was wrong. This was a full-on lie.

Pedro did not smile. He knew, but he was the bus driver, not my parent. "Okay." I began to pull out my Hancock-Metro Card again, but he waved his hand. "No, it's okay." He pointed at the seat behind him. "Just sit down and let's get you home."

*Home.*

It felt like a slap.

*Home.*

Something began to break.

*Home.*

I quickly sat down and took a breath. That word would NOT break me. But even if I had wanted to say something to Pedro, I couldn't. If I opened my mouth, I would break down and cry. But I could not do that.

I had to survive.

One hour at a time.

I leaned my head against the window and watched the rain hit the glass hard, making it look like small rivers trying to break into the dry safety of the bus. The dry safety zone I'd soon have to leave.

Simple sentence structure and fast-paced plots keep readers engaged and **improve reading fluency.**

**Free reading guides** provide question and reflection prompts, **drawing from background knowledge**, to engage in discussion or writing opportunities. For example:

Lilly believed there are different types of lies. How did she feel about lying, and what type of lie really bothered her?

Plots contain **relevant and relatable themes and topics**, such as dealing with homelessness and survival.

**Short chapters** promote a quicker pace and help keep students engaged.

