Should Ruby, a blind 4th grader, be suspended when she hits a boy who pulled a nasty prank on her at school? What if the boy she hit wasn’t really the culprit?

Blooming Besties is the story of a blind elementary school student, Ruby, and her goofy, sighted sidekick and best friend Charleigh, who sticks up for her in the principal’s office.

This is just one of several experiences the girl’s have together that solidify their bond, challenge their values, and cause hilarious growing pains. Themes of blindness, using a cane, responsibility, lying, bullying, no-tolerance policies, inclusion, and growing up with a best friend weave together in a sensory-rich storyline spanning the girls’ fourth through seventh grade years.

Mary Tellefson has been a teacher for visually impaired and blind students, ages birth to 98, for over 40 years. A well-respected professional in her field, she has given workshops all over the US and has published in multiple peer-review journals. Blooming Besties is her second children’s book, and her first book, Two Canes on the Tundra, was also published by Orange Hat Publishing this year. A professional text entitled Culturally Responsive Orientation and Mobility Career, College and Community Readiness Standards is also in publication with Austin Macauley.

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