

# The Blue House

## Written and Illustrated By: Phoebe Wall

**Synopsis:** Both Leo and his father are angry and sad when their landlord says their old house will be torn down, but soon they find a way to make their new house feel like home.

### Suggested Reading Date:

- For schools that follow PBIS, either January (Perseverance) or May (Being Positive)
- World Habitat Day (October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021)

### Activity Descriptions:

- Use a website like <https://www.washingtonruralheritage.org/> or <https://www.washingtonhistory.org/> to find historical pictures of your town or area. What do students notice is different from then to now?
- Discuss the strategies that Leo uses to regulate his emotions. He's understandably angry about moving; what are three techniques that he and his dad use to process that anger?
- Leo used a dance to work out some of his anger. What does an angry dance look like? Give volunteers an emotion at random to try and express through dance, and have the rest of the class guess at the emotion they're trying to depict.

### Related Websites:

- Phoebe Wall's website: <https://www.phoebewahl.com/>
- KQED, a radio station in San Francisco, has lesson plans on teaching gentrification: <https://www.kqed.org/lowdown/26269/what-you-need-to-know-about-gentrification>
- An interview with Phoebe Wall, from Artists of the North Sound: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFmPOJAmJbc>

### Text to Text Connections:

*Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away* by Meg Medina  
*Clementine and the Family Meeting* by Sara Pennypacker  
*Goodbye Brings Hello* by Dianne White  
*Oscar's American Dream* by Barry Wittenstein  
*Florette* by Anna Walker

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