

*A semiautobiographical middle-grade graphic novel about frenemies, fitting in, and finding your voice.*

# TIMID

## PRAISE FOR **TIMID**:

★ “It is easy to interpret the emotions of the characters in Todd’s illustrations, which are straightforward and emotive... *Timid* is sure to fit right in next to other popular contemporary graphic novels such as Jerry Craft’s *New Kid*, *Allergic* by Megan Wagner Lloyd, and *Guts* by Raina Telgemeier.”

—*SLJ*, starred review

“Todd’s bold inks and vibrant, moody palette capture the nostalgia and inner dialogue of old-school comic strips, resulting in a refreshing take on classic newspaper illustrations that paints a lively graphic novel portrait of Cecil’s trial-and-error approach to building authentic friendships and navigating pre-teen growing pains.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

So many kids can relate to the feeling of being in a new situation and unsure of where they fit in. Jonathan Todd’s debut **TIMID** (Graphix; on sale April 2, 2024) spotlights that feeling through Cecil, a young boy whose family has just made a big move. **TIMID** is a contemporary, semiautobiographical middle-grade graphic novel featuring a boy protagonist, perfect for fans of *Twins*, *Miss Quinces*, and *New Kid*.

Cecil Hall and his family have just moved from Florida to Massachusetts, near Boston. Cecil is anxious about making friends because he doesn’t know where he’ll fit in. His older sister, Leah, thinks he should befriend the other black kids at his new school, but Cecil isn’t sure how he’d go about doing that. He wants to be known for his comics-making talent, anyway.

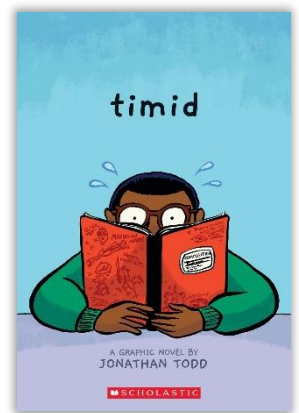
But the few kids who are impressed by Cecil’s art aren’t always nice to him. When one of his drawings is misused and gets him into serious trouble, can Cecil stand up for himself and figure out who his real friends are?

Featuring a Black boy protagonist, **TIMID** brings much-needed representation to the contemporary middle grade graphic novel genre. **TIMID** centers on themes kids can relate to, like how to survive middle school when you feel like an outsider, identity, family, and friends.

**TIMID** features Jonathan Todd’s expressive style complete with hand lettering. In an author’s note in the back of the book, Jonathan invites readers into the creation of his graphic novel. It’s perfect for young artists and curious young readers who are just starting to think about how books are made. This guide encourages readers to try their own hand at comic creation, just like Cecil: “it’s imperfect but that’s how people are too.”

Cecil is shy, which is something many kids can relate to. He’s unsure how to relate to other kids his age and how to navigate situations where he feels out of his depth. Using his art, he finds a way to communicate his feelings and his humor that everyone can understand. **TIMID** follows Cecil from the beginning of the year when he’s largely alone to the end of the year when he’s developed a sense of community and belonging. It’s a heartwarming story that kids will love to see themselves in.

Debut author Jonathan Todd is a cofounder of the Boston Kids Comics Fest and teaches comics classes in children’s libraries and schools. He’s also a former second grade teacher who draws on his experience in classrooms to create a realistic atmosphere for Cecil’s school. His cartoons have appeared in newspapers across the country including the *Boston Globe* and the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.





FURTHER PRAISE FOR [TIMID](#):

“The warm, nostalgic color palette complements the thick, fluid black lines. This well-paced story will appeal to readers who are struggling to claim their places in a world that tells them where they should fit in... An inspiring coming-of-age story.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“It’s a quiet story, but one that makes it clear that Cecil is *seen*, that kids like Cecil are seen.

I look forward to more from Jonathan Todd.”

—SLJ’s Teen Librarian Toolbox



◀ **Jonathan Todd** is a cofounder of the Boston Kids Comics Fest and former second-grade teacher. He was a Jacqueline Woodson Fellow in the Solstice MFA in Creative Writing program at Lasell University, where he studied writing for children and young adults. A frequent comics teacher in children’s and young adult departments in libraries and schools, Jonathan was the 2015 Graphic Novelist-in-Residence at the Morse Institute and Bacon Free libraries near Boston. Before writing and drawing graphic novels for kids, Jonathan studied journalism and illustration at Syracuse University and English and history at Emory University. He was also an education reporter and political cartoonist. His cartoons have appeared in dozens of newspapers, including the *Boston Globe*, the *Tennessean*, and the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. He lives near Boston with his wife, two children, and an irresistible lemon beagle named Cariño.

**TIMID** by Jonathan Todd

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