

*Your Fantastic Elastic Brain*  
**Discussion Guide**  
Grades Pre-K – 3

**Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.**

- Start by showing a picture of the brain and asking students what they know about it. Activate prior knowledge by completing a [KWL chart](#) with your students about the brain.
- Engage students by asking: "Why do you think the brain is important? What do you think it helps us do?"
- What does it mean to stretch? Do you think you can stretch and shape your brain? How?

**During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.**

- What are some of the things your brain helps you do? Use details from the words and pictures to support your thinking.
- As you read, pause after reading each part of the brain and have your students practice pronouncing the new vocabulary word.
- Ask students to give examples or make connections to their lives. You may use a think aloud strategy. For example, "The hippocampus helps you remember like the way I remember the day we got my dog Buddy and how excited I was to meet him. What is something your hippocampus helps you remember?"
- Look at the pictures of the girl growing. Her body is growing on the outside. What is happening to her brain on the inside?
- Why is it important to practice? How does this help your brain?
- Why is it important to make mistakes? How does this help your brain?
- Look at the picture of the girl playing piano. How do the different parts of her brain work together to help her learn piano?

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

- What are some ways you can become a neurosculptor and help your brain grow? (Optional: Pair Share)
- Return to your KWL chart and complete the "Learned" section. Did you learn what you thought you would from reading this book? Did you think of any new questions after reading this book?
- Extend your students' understanding by having them work in small groups to create a reader's theatre or puppet show about the parts of the brain. Integrate art processes by having them create costumes and props or puppets to teach others about different structures of the brain and their functions. Use RIF's reading passages ([K-2](#) or [3-5](#)) to support your students' understanding of the parts and functions of the brain.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more books about growth mindset such as [Taco Falls Apart](#) and [The Magical Yet.](#)