



Book Kits for the 2020 Beehive Book Awards Graphic Novel Nominees

Fake Blood

Mr. Wolf's Class

My Beijing

New Shoes

The Time Museum



Fake Blood

Author: Whitney Gardner

Illustrator: Whitney Gardner

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

Publication Date: September 4, 2018

ISBN: 9781481495561

Grade Level: 5-6



Description

It's the beginning of the new school year and AJ feels like everyone is changing but him. He hasn't grown or had any exciting summer adventures like his best friends have. He even has the same crush he's harbored for years. So AJ decides to take matters into his own hands. But how could a girl like Nia Winters ever like plain vanilla AJ when she only has eyes for vampires?

When AJ and Nia are paired up for a group project on Transylvania, it may be AJ's chance to win over Nia's affection by dressing up like the vamp of her dreams. And soon enough he's got more of Nia's attention than he bargained for when he learns she's a slayer.

Now AJ has to worry about self-preservation while also trying to save everyone he cares about from a real-life threat lurking in the shadows of Spoons Middle School.

Themes

Family, Friendship, Graphic Novels, Humor, Middle Schools, Portland. Schools, Vampires

Author Information

Whitney Gardner is an author, illustrator, and coffee addict. Originally from New York, she studied design and worked as an art teacher and school librarian before moving to Victoria, BC, where she lives by the Salish Sea with her husband and two pugs. In the rare moment Whitney isn't writing or drawing, she's likely to be reading comics, knitting, or roasting her own coffee beans. Follow her on her website heywhitney.com, on Twitter at [@heywhitney](https://twitter.com/heywhitney), and on Instagram at [@heywhitneywrites](https://www.instagram.com/heywhitneywrites).

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever lied to friends about activities you did or didn't do in order to appear cool? Why do people do this?
2. Why would AJ pretend to be a vampire just to impress a girl? Why do some students act similarly and pretend to be something they aren't in order to impress other people?
3. If you could select any country in the world to learn more about, which country would you pick and why?
4. AJ's sister basically saved the day by talking with the vampire teacher to help distract him. How would you have handled the teacher at the end of the book?
5. This book is full of parodies of vampire movies and books. Can you identify any of the originals the parodies are based on? Why do you think the author chose to write based on a parody style?

Activities

1. Write a backstory for Mr. Remington Niles, the vampire teacher. What did he do before he moved to Portland?
2. Recreate the locations in the story in a virtual world such as Minecraft or physically using blocks like LEGO.



3. Do some research on the actual place of Transylvania. Find out why the legend of the vampire begins in that location.
4. Select your favorite scene from the book and rewrite it as a script. Then find some friends to act out that scene.
5. The characters are listening to audiobooks throughout the story. Help to select a soundtrack of different songs they should be listening to instead.

More Resources

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brxILkLLTUg> - 3-minute video review by a School Librarian in North Carolina.
- <https://www.britannica.com/place/Transylvania> - Encyclopedia Britannica website about the actual location of Transylvania.
- <http://www.bran-castle.com> - The official website of Bran Castle, the inspiration for Castle Dracula from the Bram Stoker's classic Dracula.

Similar Books

- Crush (Berrybrook Middle School) by Svetlana Chmakova
- Makin Friends by Kristen Gudsruk
- Hampire! by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen
- Blood Diaries: Tales of a 6th-Grade Vampire by Marissa Moss
- Eighth Grade Bites: The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod by Heather Brewer

Related Non-fiction

- Transylvania by Denny Von Finn
- Romania (Pallas Guides) by John Villiers
- A Concise History of Romania by Keith Hitchins
- In Search of Dracula: The History of Dracula and Vampires by Raymond T. McNally and Radu Florescu
- Vampire: The Complete Guide to the World of the Undead



Mr. Wolf's Class

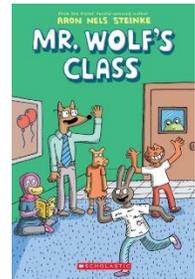
Author: Aron Nels Steinke

Publisher: Graphix (imprint of Scholastic)

Publication Date: 2018

ISBN: 9781338047691 (hardcover); 9781338047684 (paperback)

Grade Level: 2-5



Description

Mr. Wolf has just started teaching at Hazelwood Elementary. He wants the first day of school to go well, but he's got his hands full with his new class. Some of his students include: Margot, who is new in town and is trying to make friends. Sampson, who brought something special to school for show-and-tell. Aziza, who just wants everyone to be quiet and do their work. And Penny, who is VERY sleepy because she has a new baby brother at home, goes missing! This delightful new series captures the everyday -- and unexpected -- ups and downs of a fourth-grade classroom.

Themes

Animals, First Day of School, Schools, Teachers

Author Information

Aron Nels Steinke is the Eisner Award-winning coauthor (with Ariel Cohn) and illustrator of *The Zoo Box*. He's a second- and third-grade teacher by day, and a cartoonist by night. He lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife and son. For more information, <https://aronnelssteinke.blogspot.com/>

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think teachers do before the first day of school? What are some things that Mr. Wolf does?
2. What do the characters in *Mr. Wolf's Class* do the night before the first day of school? Do any of these characters remind you of yourself on the night before school starts, and why?
3. Describe your favorite first day of school. Why was it special to you?
4. What happens when Penny goes missing? How do you think Mr. Wolf feels? How about the other students? What would happen at your school if a student went missing? Can you imagine being Penny?
5. How do you feel about the rat problem in Mr. Wolf's classroom? How do you think your school would handle a rat problem?
6. Why do you think the students yell "Freedom" at recess? How do you feel about recess? What are your favorite things to do at recess?
7. Mr. Wolf played tag with his students at recess. Would you like to play tag or a different game with your teacher at recess? Is there a time when you remember playing a game with a teacher?
8. Do you think the students in *Mr. Wolf's Class* seem like real kids in a 4th grade class? What are some of the things that they do that are things real kids would do? How are they different from real kids?
9. The kids have sharing time at school. Have you ever had sharing time in class? What is the best thing you have ever shared? What is the best thing that you saw shared in your class?

Activities

1. Venn Diagram Activity: Randy's does a Venn diagram survey about farts vs. ice cream. Poll your group using Randy's question or use a "this or that" question and use a Venn diagram to show the results.



2. Palindrome Play: Share as many palindromes as you can and do some fun activities with them.
<https://writeshop.com/fun-palindromes/>
3. DIY School Supplies: decorate pencils with washi tape, glue jewels on notebooks, or decorate other school supplies. Or create duct tape school supplies -- <https://www.duckbrand.com/ducktape-makers/educators-and-parents/6-diy-duct-tape-crafts-to-style-your-school-supplies/>. More ideas found at <https://diyprojectsforteens.com/diy-school-supplies/>
4. Talk about collections. Bring in a shell collection like Sampson (or another collection) to share with students.
5. Have a sharing time where kids can share something that is important to them like they do in the story.
6. Have a donut treat like Mr. Wolf does in the story.
7. Play "What Time Is It, Mr. Wolf?"
One child is chosen to be Mr (or Mrs) Wolf. He stands a good distance (3+ metres) away from the other players with his back to them.
The other players stand side by side in a line, facing Mr Wolf's back. All together they call out, "What's the time, Mr Wolf?"
Mr Wolf then selects and calls out an o'clock time (between 1 and 12) and the other players take the selected number of steps towards Mr Wolf. For example, "3 o'clock," would mean the players take three steps towards Mr Wolf.
These two actions are repeated resulting in the other players moving closer and closer to Mr Wolf. When Mr Wolf is ready (usually when the other players are getting close), he changes his response to the question, "What's the time, Mr Wolf?" to "Dinnertime!"
At this cue, all of the players must turn around and race back to the starting position with Mr Wolf chasing after them to try and catch his dinner. The player who is caught becomes the next Mr Wolf and the game continues.

Similar Books

- Hammy and Gerbee: Mummies at the Museum by Wong Herbert Yee
- CatStronauts by Drew Brockington
- HiLo: The Boy who Crashed to Earth by Judd Winick
- Ariol: Just a Donkey Like You and Me by Emmanuel Guibert
- Babymouse series by Jennifer Holm
- Dog Man by Dav Pilkey

Related Non-fiction

- Wolves (National Geographic) by Laura Marsh
- School Rules (American Girl) by Emma MacLaren Henke
- School Jokes by Hugh Moore
- Rock Your School Stuff by Laura Torres
- Going to School by Rebecca Rissman
- Animal (Smithsonian) by John Woodward
- Animals: A Visual Encyclopedia by James Buckley



My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder

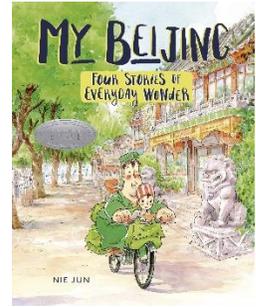
Author: Nie Jun

Publisher: Graphic Universe

Publication Date: September 1, 2018

ISBN: 9781541526426

Grade Level: 3-6



Description

Yu'er and her grandpa live in a small neighborhood in Beijing--and it's full of big personalities. There's a story around every corner, and each day has a hint of magic.

Themes

Disabilities, Beijing, Asia, Multigenerational

Author Information

Nie Jun began drawing at an early age by copying lianhuanhua (Chinese sequential art). He later discovered the cartooning legends of Europe, Japan and elsewhere. He lives in Beijing and teaches drawing to university students.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think Grampa meant when he said, "When we believe in ourselves, we make our own luck"?
2. Did Doubao actually help Yu'er or was it something that she and Grampa imagined? Why or why not?
3. Collecting stamps was a very popular hobby before email existed and people had to write actual letters. What types of things do you like to collect?

Activities

1. Create an obstacle course to help you train to compete just like Yu'er
2. [Build a bug hotel!](#)
3. [Bug watch field journal](#)
4. Write a letter and mail it to someone- [Letter writing activity](#)
5. Creative pursuits activity- As a team list as many varied and unusual things you could collect as a hobby. Once you have listed at least 30 different things, as a group award the following superlatives,
 - a. Most Unusual Item to Collect
 - b. Most Realistic Item to Collect
 - c. Most Interesting Item to Collect

Similar Books

- Brawl of the Wild by Dav Pilkey
- Cardboard Kingdom by Chad Sell
- Chick & Chickie Play All Day! By Claude Ponti
- Grandpa Green by Lane Smith
- The Wind in the Willows by Michel Plessix



New Shoes

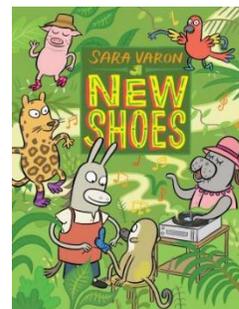
Author: Sara Varon

Publisher: First Second

Publication Date: March 20, 2018

ISBN: 9781596439207

Grade Level: 1-4



Description

From Sara Varon (*Robot Dreams*, *Bake Sale*) comes *New Shoes*, a heartwarming graphic novel about a donkey on a quest to make the perfect pair of shoes.

Francis the donkey is the best shoemaker in the village. He uses only the finest materials: coconut wood for the soles, goat's wool for the insoles, and wild tiger grass for the uppers.

One day he receives a special order from his favorite singer: Miss Manatee, the queen of calypso. But he's all out of tiger grass! To make the perfect pair of shoes, Francis must journey deep into the jungle . . . and that means leaving his village for the first time.

In *New Shoes*, Sara Varon takes us on a vivid journey into the jungles of South America. From the capybara to the jaguar to the three-toed sloth, Francis meets a variety of animals outside his neighborhood. They're not so scary when you get to know them. (Amazon)

Themes

Craftsmanship, Jungle Animals, Problem solving, Shoemakers, Trade, Trust

Author Information

Sara Varon is a printmaker, comic book artist, and illustrator currently living in Brooklyn, NY. She is also an avid runner, baker, movie watcher, and a compulsive dog petter. Visit her online at www.chickenopolis.com

Discussion Questions

1. How does Francis and Sophie's perception of what happened to Nigel change with each of the animals they get information from along their journey?
2. How does Francis show his passion for making shoes? Have you ever had pride in something you created?
3. How does Nigel make reparations for stealing the grass?
4. On page 167, Nigel and Harriet apologize for past actions, who do you think committed the worst crime, Nigel for stealing the grass or Harriet for keeping Nigel tied to a tree?
5. When Francis discovers that Manatees don't have feet, he comes up with a clever solution to fill Miss Manatee's order, can you think of another one?

Activities

1. The community in *NEW SHOWS* is modeled on the South American county of Guyana. Go to Culturegrams at Utah's On-line Library and look up information on the county. Look for other images on-line.
2. Get some of the fruits mentioned in the jungle and have a tasting table.
3. Francis's book contains information about many native animals in the region. Set out easy reader informational books on these animals and do your own research.
4. Do a bit of math with some shoe sorting: <https://buggyandbuddy.com/pete-cat-sorting-shoes-math-activity/>
5. Design your shoes: <https://www.deviantart.com/tuck3rd/art/Converse-template-139815715>



6. Make your own flip-flops: <https://raisingwhasians.com/summer-kids-craft-footprint-flip-flops/>
7. Find some calypso music and have a dance party.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ642zSpQgc&list=RDJpUh5wUBkbM&index=2>

More Resources

- Adventures in Cartooning, provided by the publisher: http://us.macmillan.com/firstsecond/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2016/12/AICAB_Downloadable_Kit1.pdf

Similar Books

- Pete the Cat: I Love my White Shoes by Eric Litwin
- Robot Dreams by Sara Varon
- My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett
- Peter & Ernesto : a tale of two sloths by Graham Annable
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen

Related Non-fiction

- Jungle Animals: origami Safari by Ruth Owen
- Sloths by Sara Swan Miller
- Never Smile at a Monkey by Steve Jenkins
- New World Monkeys by Melissa Stewart
- Parrots over Puerto Rico by Susan L. Roth
- Jaguars by Helen Frost
- Manatees by Frank J. Staub



The Time Museum

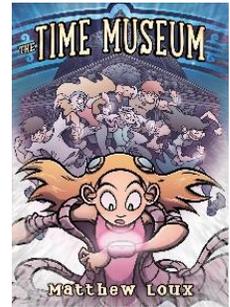
Author: Matthew Loux

Publisher: First Second

Publication Date: February 21, 2017

ISBN: 9781596438491

Grade Level: 4-6



Description

The internship program at the Time Museum is a little unusual. For one thing, kids as young as twelve get to apply for these prestigious summer jobs. And as for the applicant pool . . . well, these kids come from all over history.

When Delia finds herself working at the Time Museum, the last thing she expects is to be sent on time-traveling adventures with an unlikely gang of kids from across the eons. From a cave-boy to a girl from the distant future, Delia's team represents nearly all of human history! They're going to need all their skills for the challenge they've got in store . . . defending the Time Museum itself!

Themes

Friendship, Teamwork, Summer Vacation, Museums, Time Travel, Internships, Adventure

Author Information

<http://www.mattloux.com/about/>, Matt Loux grew up in eastern Connecticut, hung out for a bit, then went to college at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. There he learned such useful skills as black and white photo developing and finding the body armor in every level of *Golden Eye*. As a post grad. Matt has chosen to wander the frozen tundra of New York City, summersaulting from borough to borough till his foot got stuck in Brooklyn. These days he can be seen there drawing comics while crying.

Discussion Questions

1. If you found the Time Museum, what time period would you want to visit?
2. Which of the characters have the traits most similar to you? What are those traits?
3. What are the dangers of time travel? Do you think it's worth it? Why?
4. If you were part of a team, would you be a leader or a follower? Why?
5. Delia is very excited about becoming an intern at the Time Museum. Talk about a time when you've been excited to learn or do something new.

Activities

1. Divide into groups. Each group creates a scavenger hunt for another group.
2. Build a Cretaceous period diorama with a baking soda volcano
3. Choose a time period, either past or future, and create or recreate a costume from that time.
4. Create a timeline of your lifetime, including world events, <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Timeline>
5. Design and make a scroll like you might find in the Library of Alexandria
6. Design and build a robot from everyday materials.

More Resources

- Cretaceous period, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/prehistoric-world/cretaceous>
- Library of Alexandria, <https://www.crystalinks.com/libraryofalexandria.html>



Similar Books

- The Time Shifter, Chris Grine
- Star Scouts, Mike Lawrence
- Mighty Jack, Ben Hatke
- Cleopatra in Space, Mike Maihack
- The Boy Who Crashed to Earth, Judd Winick
- Amulet, Kazu Kibuishi

Related Non-fiction

- Ancient Wonders: Then and Now, Stuart Hill
- Timelines of Everything, DK Publishing
- The Dinosaur Book, John Woodward
- Early People, Jim Pipe
- The History of Robots, Chris Oxlade