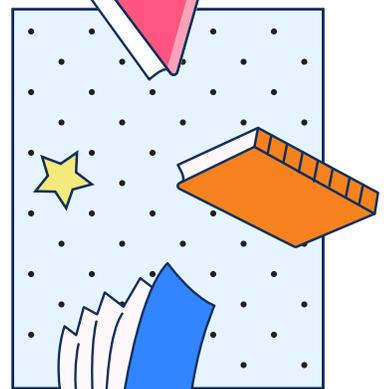
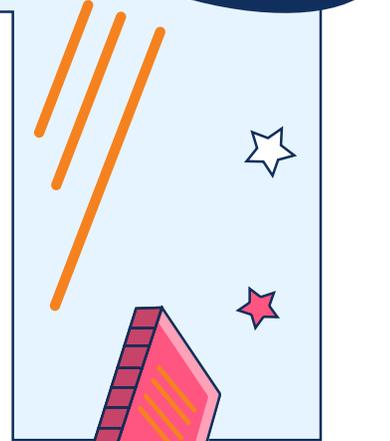


3RD GRADERS

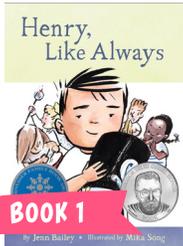
2024-25 TEACHER GUIDE

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2025 OTTER Award Nominees



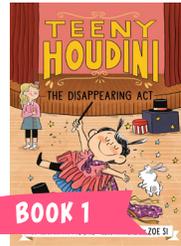
[Henry, Like Always](#)

by Jenn Bailey,
illus. by Mika Song

OTHER BOOKS IN THE HENRY SERIES:

Book 2: [Henry and the Something New](#)

Picture Book:
[A Friend for Henry](#)



[Teeny Houdini, The Disappearing Act](#)

by Katrina Moore,
illus. by Zoe Si

OTHER BOOKS IN THE TEENY HOUDINI SERIES:

Book 2: [The Super-secret Valentine](#)

Book 3: [The Giant Panda Plan](#)



[The Skull](#)

Written and illus.
by Jon Klassen



[The Story of Gumluck the Wizard](#)

Written and illus.
by Adam Rex

OTHER BOOKS IN THE GUMLUCK THE WIZARD SERIES:

Book 2: [The Story of Gumluck and the Dragon's Eggs](#)



[Miles Lewis, King of the Ice](#)

by Kelly Starling Lyons,
illus. by Wayne Spencer

OTHER BOOKS IN THE MILES LEWIS SERIES:

Book 2: [Whiz Kid](#)

Book 3: [Matchmaker](#)

Book 4: [Track Star](#)

Book 5: Pet Sitter (coming soon)



[Officer Clawsome: Lobster Cop](#)

by Brian "Smitty" Smith,
illus. by Chris Giarrusso

OTHER BOOKS IN THE OFFICER CLAWSOME SERIES:

Book 2: [Crime Against Time](#)



Thank you for participating in Third Graders Read Together!



The books in this program are 2025 OTTER Award Nominees. As with the Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award and the William C. Towner Award, the OTTER Award is given by the Washington Library Association. This award is designed to spotlight titles that are both engaging and developmentally appropriate for readers transitioning into chapter books. 

In this guide, you will find discussion questions, author/illustrator fun facts, extension activities, and read-alike suggestions for each book. Additional activities and promotional resources can be found at wla.org/otter_promotion.

Schools use the OTTER books in a variety of ways. Do what works best for you!

Ideas from educators participating in the program:

- Create a book club using all or some of the titles.
- Read the books aloud to your class.
- Make books available in your classroom or library.
- Craft a display inspired by the selected titles.
- Have students write book reviews.
- Have students read the books together with a buddy.
- Have students keep an OTTER journal.
- Do class research projects based on the OTTER books.
- After the author/illustrator events, invite students to create their own book.
- Encourage students to vote for their favorite book in May!
- Have a classroom party when the winning book is announced.

Save the dates for our online author/illustrator events:

- Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 9:30 a.m. with Kelly Starling Lyons
- Thursday, March 6 at 2:30 p.m. with Jon Klassen

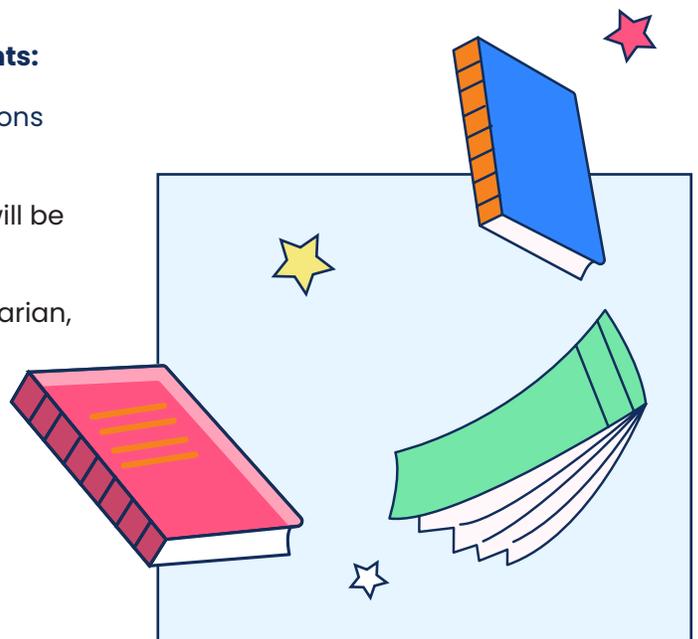
Additional details will be sent via email. Recordings will be available for at least three months.

If you have any questions, reach out to your local librarian, or contact us using sno-isle.org/school-support.



Happy reading!

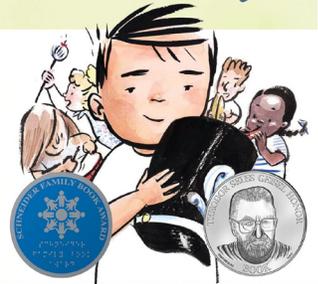
Download this guide as a PDF!



Henry, Like Always

by Jenn Bailey, illus. by Mika Song

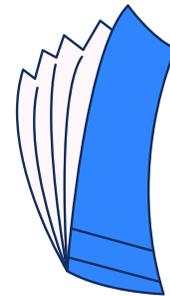
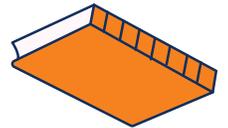
Henry,
Like Always



By Jenn Bailey • Illustrated by Mika Song

Discussion Questions

1. Henry likes routine and the classroom calendar. However, one week there is a change to the calendar. What was it? **p. 2-6**
2. Can you think of some routines that you do in your own life in class or at home? These could be things you do every day like brushing your teeth.
3. How does Henry feel after there is a change to the calendar? How does he react throughout the week?
4. Most kids in the class chose an instrument for the parade, but Samuel was chosen to lead the parade. Would you prefer to lead the parade or play an instrument? **p. 17-20**
5. When Henry needed quiet, he asked to have time in the big closet. Do you ever feel like you need quiet? **p. 32**
6. What does Henry find in the closet? What did Henry like about what he found? **p. 33-39**
7. Both Henry and Samuel are unhappy with their roles in the parade. What do they do to resolve this issue? **p. 37**
8. Can you relate to having big feelings over a change in a schedule? Or maybe you wanted to go to something that was canceled? Do you have a strategy to share how you got through it?



Author Fun Facts

- ★ Jenn Bailey wrote her first story when she was in 2nd grade. It was from the point of view of a bat on Halloween night.
- ★ Jenn Bailey made it to the Top 40 in the Lego Master Builder competition.
- ★ Jenn Bailey kayaked with gray whales off the coast of California and swam with dolphins off the coast of Bermuda.

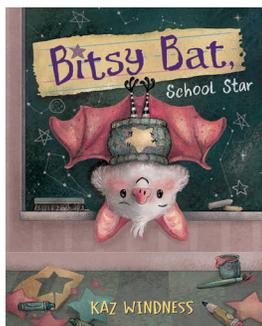


If You Liked... *Henry, Like Always*

CHECK OUT

sno-isle.org for more books.

Fiction



[*Bitsy Bat, School Star*](#)

by Kaz Windness

[*It was Supposed to Be Sunny*](#)

by Samantha Cotterill

[*A Day With No Words*](#)

by Tiffany Hammond

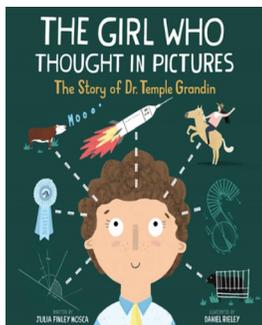
[*Benji, the Bad Day, and Me*](#)

by Sally J. Pla

[*A Boy Called Bat, Book 1*](#)

by Elana K. Arnold

Nonfiction



[*The Girl Who Thought in Pictures*](#)

by Julia Finley Mosca

[*My Life with Autism*](#)

by Mari C. Schuh

[*I am Odd, I Am New*](#)

by Benjamin Giroux

[*Understanding Autism*](#)

by Jessica Rusick

[*Just Ask!*](#)

by Sonia Sotomayor

Movement Extension Activity: Quiet Parade

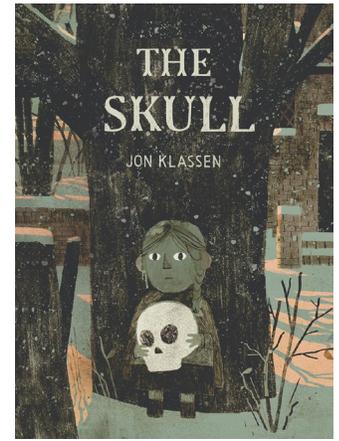
Put on a quiet parade in honor of Henry! Have everyone in the class choose one movement or quiet artistic expression and parade around the classroom. Another idea is to turn your parade into a memory game where each student attempts to memorize the quiet movement associated with each classmate.

Design Extension Activity: Create a Quiet Space

Big emotions are a part of being human. Some kids need more support than others and that's ok. Henry seems to have developed some strategies in his class to help him, like asking for quiet time in the closet. Are there strategies the class can brainstorm together to help with settling emotions when someone needs it? For example, practice breathing techniques every morning or create a quiet space the class agrees to respect.

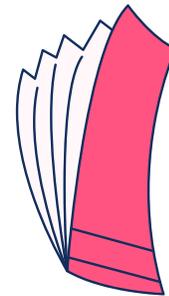
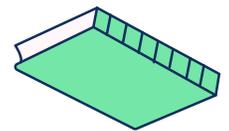
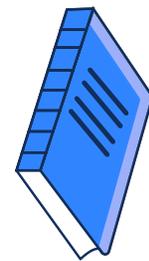
The Skull

Written and illus. by Jon Klassen



Discussion Questions

1. The story begins when Otilla runs away. What do you think she could be running away from? Have you ever felt like running away? **p. 1**
2. The Skull shows Otilla all around the house. What rooms would you want to show someone visiting your house? Are there any rooms you would like your house to have that it doesn't? **p. 27-43**
3. Otilla helps the skull eat a pear and carries them because those things are hard for the skull. Was there ever a time you helped a friend or family member do something that was hard for them but easier for you? Have you ever had a friend or family member ask you for help? **p. 30**
4. How do you think Otilla felt when the skeleton was chasing them? How would you have felt? **p. 63**
5. Otilla got rid of the skeleton by smashing it, burning it, and throwing it in a bottomless pit. How would you have gotten rid of the skeleton? **p. 82**
6. After the scary night Otilla and the skull went for a walk together. What activity do you like to do after something scary? **p. 94**
7. This book is based on a folktale story that the author once read. The author changed the story without knowing it! Have you ever changed a story without realizing it? How would you change the story of "The Skull?" **p. 104**



Author Fun Facts

- ★ Jon Klassen worked on animation for the feature films Kung Fu Panda (2008) and Coraline (2009).
- ★ Jon Klassen began drawing in second grade
- ★ In 2018, Jon Klassen was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada. To date, approximately 4,000 Canadians have been appointed to this special order!

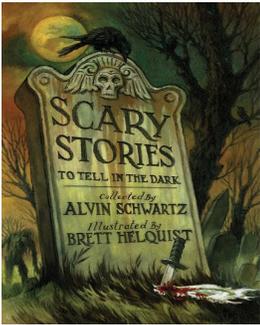


If You Liked... *The Skull*

CHECK OUT

sno-isle.org for more books.

Fiction



[*Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*](#)
by Alvin Schwartz

[*Into the Goblin Market*](#)
by Vikki VanSickle

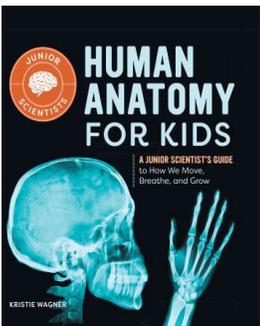
[*The Tunnels Below*](#)
by Nadine Wild-Palmer

[*There's a Ghost in This House*](#)
by Oliver Jeffers

[*Fae and the Moon*](#)
by Franco Aureliani

[*Things in the Basement*](#)
by Ben Hatke

Nonfiction



[*Human Anatomy for Kids*](#)
by Kristie Wagner

[*The Human Skeleton*](#)
by Jody Sullivan Rake

[*Teatime Around the World*](#)
by Denyse Waissbluth

[*The McElderry Book of Grimms' Fairy Tales*](#)
by Saviour Pirota

Writing Extension Activity: Change the Story

"The Skull" is based on a different story that the author Jon Klassen read. Have your students write their own short story based on a different story they enjoy.

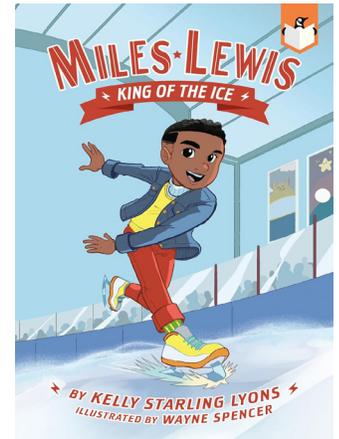
Art Extension Activity: Mask Making

Materials needed: construction paper, markers, decorations, scissors, and yarn

In the story, Otilia and the skull wear masks around the castle. Using some simple art supplies, create your own masks to wear or decorate the classroom.

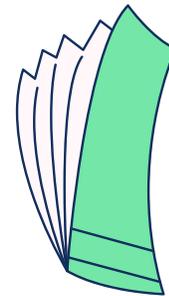
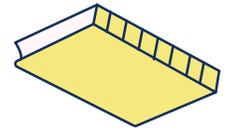
Miles Lewis, King of the Ice

by Kelly Starling Lyons, illus. by Wayne Spencer



Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever tried ice skating or any other new sports activity? What was your first time like? What did you try and how did it make you feel?
2. Why did Miles say, "I just hoped we were going somewhere different" when his teacher Miss Taylor mentioned the ice skating field trip? How does Miles feel about ice skating? [p. 3](#)
3. RJ wants to compete with Miles in ice skating. Have you ever competed with friends? How did you feel about it? [p. 10](#)
4. Miles' favorite portrait is the one where his Momma, Dad, Nana, and him are holding hands around the dinner table. Why do you think he loves this portrait? Do you have a special portrait? Why is it special to you? [p. 14](#)
5. Do you have any siblings? What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a brother or sister?
6. Why did Miles feel uneasy when he saw a flyer for "luxury apartments and townhomes for independent seniors"? [p. 28](#)
7. Having his Momma, Dad, and Nana makes Miles feel special. Is there anyone in your family who makes you feel special? [p. 58](#)
8. Upon leaving the rink, Miles decided to start taking hockey lessons after seeing a sign for them. What exciting experiences do you think lie ahead for Miles on the ice? [p. 77](#)
9. Do you have a favorite sport or hobby? If so, what is it, and why do you enjoy it?



Author Fun Facts

- ★ Kelly Starling Lyons modeled for Chic clothing store as a teenager.
- ★ Kelly Starling Lyons wrote her first poem in elementary school and raps in middle school.
- ★ Kelly Starling Lyons dug a hole in her grandparents' backyard in hopes of finding buried treasure.
- ★ Kelly Starling Lyons won second place in a city-wide spelling bee!

If You Liked... *Miles Lewis, King of the Ice*

CHECK OUT

sno-isle.org for more books.

Fiction



[*Dog Days, Book 1*](#)

by Karen English

[*J.D. and the Great Barber Battle, Book 1*](#)

by J. Dillard

[*Swim Team*](#)

by Johnnie Christmas

[*Zoey and Sassafras, Book 1*](#)

by Asia Citro

[*Aven Green Music Machine, Book 3*](#)

by Dusti Bowling

[*My New Team, Book 1*](#)

by Ryan Howard

[*The Best Friend Plan, Book 1*](#)

by Stephanie Calmenson

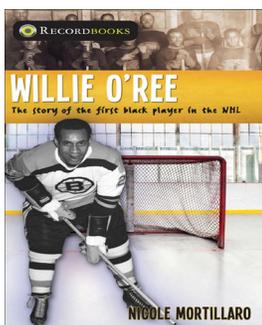
[*Lola Levine Is Not Mean!, Book 1*](#)

by Monica Brown

[*The Magical Ms. Plum*](#)

by Bonny Becker

Nonfiction



[*Willie O'Ree*](#)

by Nicole Mortillaro

[*The Friendship Book*](#)

by Wendy Moss

[*Can I Touch your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship*](#)

by Irene Latham

[*You Can Be An Ice-skater*](#)

by Alix Wood

[*Illustrated Sports Encyclopedia*](#)

by Abigail Ellis (editor)

[*The Science of Hockey*](#)

by Ryan Nagelhout

[*The Kids' Winter Fun Book*](#)

by Claire Gillman

Art Extension Activity: Drawing Time

Draw a picture of what you want to be when you grow up. Share the job you have and why you picked it.

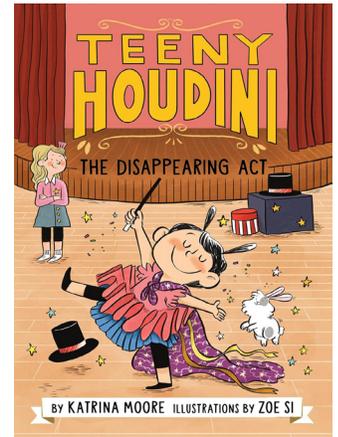
Game Extension Activity: Roll and Retell

Roll the dice and answer the question you get.

1. What is your favorite sport?
2. Which character do you like the most? Why?
3. Do you have a favorite ice skater or hockey player?
4. Miles helps Nana with gardening. What would you like to grow?
5. How does the story end?
6. What is your favorite part of the story? Why?

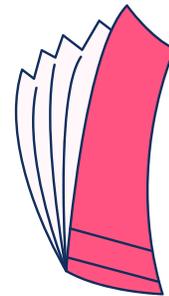
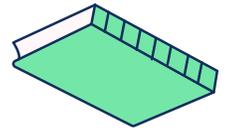
Teeny Houdini, The Disappearing Act

by Katrina Moore, illus. by Zoe Si



Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever tried performing magic tricks? What are they and how do they work?
2. Bessie exclaims “Ta-da!” when she reveals a big surprise. Do you have any special words you use to surprise someone? Can you recall a time when you used that word to surprise someone? [p. 32](#)
3. When Bessie is wrapped in streamers and ribbons, her big sister Bailey says, “Nice outfit...”. Do you think Bailey is being sincere? If not, why do you think she said that? [p. 38](#)
4. Have you ever tried Chinese food or other ethnic cuisines? What kinds did you try, and how did you like them? [p. 38](#)
5. Bessie attempts to make Rufus disappear with magic and ends up losing him from the cage. What would you do to make Rufus reappear in his cage? [p. 59](#)
6. Bessie sometimes makes her mom worry a lot. Have you ever made your mom or dad really worry about you? What did you do to cause their concern? [p. 69](#)
7. Bessie says she feels like “there is a big, invisible rock stuck in her throat” when she can’t apologize to her sister Bailey for ruining her blanket. What does “there is a big, invisible rock stuck in her throat” mean? [p. 77](#)



Author Fun Facts

- ★ Katrina Moore used to be an elementary school teacher for 13 years.
- ★ Katrina Moore enjoys cooking without a recipe and painting creatively.

If You Liked... *Teeny Houdini, The Disappearing Act*

CHECK OUT

sno-isle.org for more books.

Fiction



[*Catalina Incognito, Book 1*](#)

by Jennifer Torres

[*Mia Mayhem and the Super Switcheroo, Book 10*](#)

by Kara West

[*Newbie Fairy, Book 1*](#)

by Kate Korsh

[*The Magic Day, Book 1*](#)

by Calliope Glass

[*EllRay Jakes Is Magic, Book 6*](#)

by Sally Warner

[*Judy Moody and the Not Summer Summer, Book 10*](#)

by Megan McDonald

[*Clementine, Book 1*](#)

by Sara Pennypacker

Nonfiction



[*Big Magic for Little Hands*](#)

by Joshua Jay

[*Science Is Magic*](#)

by Steve Mould

[*Abracadabra*](#)

by H.P. Newquist

[*Everyday Magic for Kids*](#)

by Justin Flom

[*Magic Tricks for Kids*](#)

by Phil Ackerly

[*Stand-up Magic and Optical Illusions*](#)

by Nicholas Einhorn

Research Extension Activity: Harry Houdini

Use the library to research the famous magician Harry Houdini and share your favorite facts with your classmates.

Art Extension Activity: Magic Cape

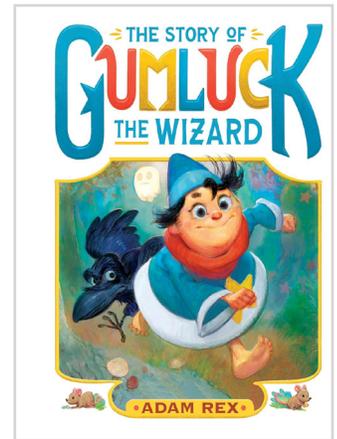
Materials needed: fabric or butcher paper, glue, and a variety of art supplies.

Bessie makes a cape out of found materials in her house. Make magic capes using a variety of art materials in your classroom. Use butcher paper or fabric for the cape. Or work together as a class to make one very special magic cape!



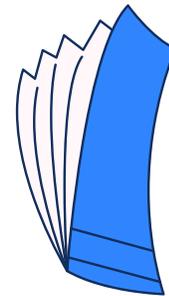
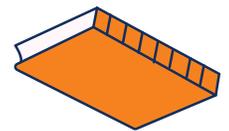
The Story of Gumluck the Wizard

Written and illus. by Adam Rex



Discussion Questions

1. The raven says, “This is a story of good lies, and bad truths”. What do you think they meant by that? What is a good lie? A bad truth? **p. 4**
2. Gumluck accidentally knocks Helvetica’s nest out of the tree. Have you ever accidentally messed up someone else’s project? What did you do to fix it? **p. 7**
3. Helvetica pretends to be afraid to help the ghost feel better about himself. Has there ever been a time when you said something that wasn’t true to make a friend feel better? Is this an example of a good lie? **p. 44**
4. When Gumluck was in town everyone was gossiping about the Shrinking Wizard Who Lives Next to a Big Hole. Have you ever said something unkind about another person behind their back? Have you ever heard a rumor about yourself from someone else? How did it make you feel? **p. 52**
5. We learn about a whole bunch of other wizards including The Wise Wizard Who Lives in The Moon, The Round Wizard Who Tamed the Sky, and The Beautiful Wizard Who Caries his House in a Teapot. What would you want your Wizard name to be? **p. 71**
6. The King tricks Gumluck into turning a bunch of random things into gold for him. Why did the king want Gumluck to turn these things into gold? Do you think he needed to trick Gumluck or would he have just done it if the king asked? **p. 73**
7. Gumluck tells Helvetica that “a person should get to tell you who they are”. What kind of person do you tell others you are? **p. 128**



Author Fun Facts

- ★ Adam Rex’s proudest moment as an artist was getting a ribbon at the Arizona State Fair for a drawing of a wizard in 1984.
- ★ DreamWorks Animation adapted his book “The True Meaning of Smekday” into the animated feature film *Home* (2015).

If You Liked... *The Story of Gumluck the Wizard*

CHECK OUT

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Fiction



[*The Wishkeeper's Apprentice*](#)

by Rachel Chivers Khoo

[*Magic at Midnight, Book 1*](#)

by Lindsey Kelk

[*Once Upon a Unicorn*](#)

by Lou Anders

[*Grilled Cheese and Dragons, Book 1*](#)

by Nancy E. Krulik

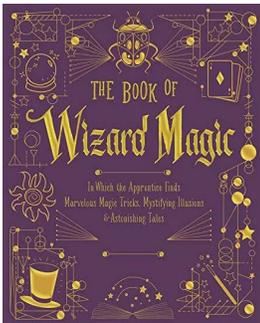
[*The Cave of Aaaaah! Doom!, Book 1*](#)

by Jaden Kent

[*The Dragon of Doom, Book 1*](#)

by Bruce Coville

Nonfiction



[*The Book of Wizard Magic*](#)

by Janice Eaton Kilby

[*Magic Tricks With Coins, Cards, and Everyday Objects*](#)

by Jake Banfield

[*Investigating Ghosts and the Spirit World*](#)

by Susan Henneberg

[*Ravens*](#)

by Christine Webster

[*Crows and Ravens*](#)

by James V. Bradley

STEM Extension Activity: King's Castle

Materials needed: cup, cardstock, and pennies.

In the book, the King's Castle fell over because all his money was stored on one side. p. 102. Now it's your turn to see if you can keep your castle upright! Place the plastic cup upside down on the table and balance the cardstock on top of it. Next see how many pennies you can place on the cardstock before it falls off the cup.

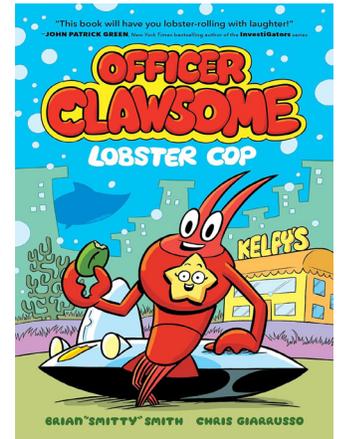
Where is the best place to put the pennies? Where is the worst place? Is it easier to spread the pennies out or to keep them all together?

Research Extension Activity: Break a Leg

Gumluck often ends up being too literal when he grants people's wishes and does not give them the thing they really wanted. What are some words or phrases we use in English that don't mean what they say? Think of phrases like "break a leg" which means good luck. Can you find out where these phrases came from and how they came to mean what they mean now?

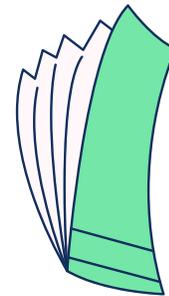
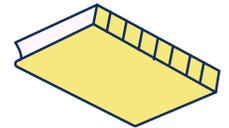
Officer Clawsome: Lobster Cop

by Brian "Smitty" Smith, illus. by Chris Giarrusso



Discussion Questions

1. The name Clawsome combines the words Claw and Awesome. Can you combine two words to create your superhero/real life hero name?
2. What does Officer Clawsome wear as a badge and how does he use it to help him catch the bad guys?
3. Officer Clawsome's motto is "You Break the Law...You get the Claw" Law and Claw rhyme. What would your motto be using two rhyming words? [p. 12](#)
4. What does it mean to cause a diversion? What was the diversion that caused Clawsome to be distracted from Kelpy's disappearance? [p. 76-82](#)
5. Why was it frustrating to interview the goldfish witness after Kelpy's disappearance? [p. 83-88](#)
6. What is the character's name that suspiciously started his own cake business and what are the cakes called? [p. 112-121](#)
7. What large mechanical sea creature zaps Officer Clawsome and Stariana and pulls them into its body? What bad guy is in charge there? [p. 191](#)
8. Why were Officer Clawsome and Stariana arrested at the end? What do you think about ending a story like that? [p. 236](#)



Author Fun Facts

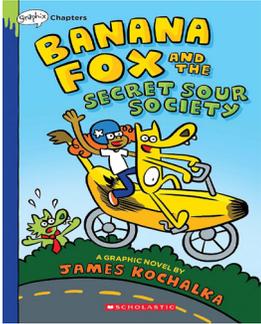
- ★ Brian "Smitty" Smith is a former Marvel Comics and DC Comics editor.
- ★ Brian "Smitty" Smith is the winner of the Kids Read Comics "Most Epic Adventure".

If You Liked... *Officer Clawsome: Lobster Cop*

CHECK OUT

sno-isle.org for more books.

Fiction



[*Banana Fox and the Secret Sour Society, Book 1*](#)

by James Kochalka

[*Max Meow: Cat Crusader, Book 1*](#)

by John Gallagher

[*InvestiGATORS, Book 1*](#)

by John Patrick Green

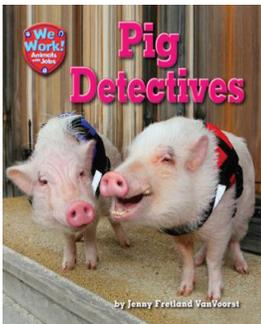
[*Super Turbo Saves the Day, Book 1*](#)

by Edgar J. Powers

[*Agent Moose, Book 1*](#)

by Mo O'Hara

Nonfiction



[*Pig Detectives*](#)

by Jenny Fretland VanVoorst

[*Odin, Dog Hero of the Fires*](#)

by Emma Bland Smith

[*Tuesday Takes Me There*](#)

by Luis Carlos Montalván

[*Hero Dogs*](#)

by Mary Quattlebaum

[*Paws of Courage*](#)

by Nancy Furstinger

Storytelling Extension Activity: Comic Strip

Print off a blank comic strip template. Have the kids come up with a main character, secondary character, problem, and resolution. Discuss the difference between speech and thought bubbles. Have them think through a few comic squares of action and dialogue.

Writing Extension Activity: Crafting a Pun

A pun is a joke that depends on a word having two meanings or sounding like another word. Can you find any examples in the story? Can you think of any words with two meanings and come up with your own joke?

3RD GRADERS READ TOGETHER

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