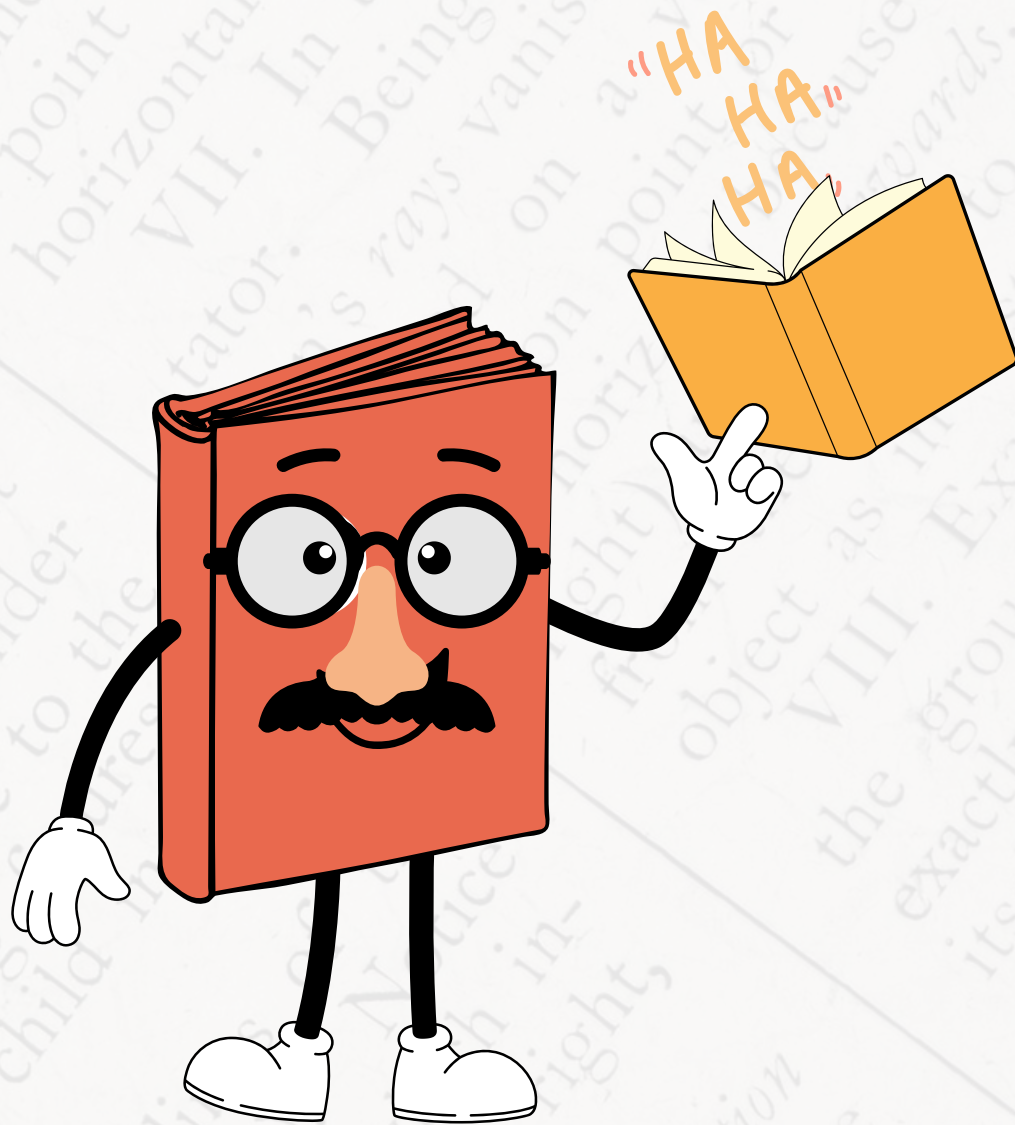


WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS



FUNNY BOOKS

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of funny books as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the animal main character list.
2. Scan the QR code to play the read-aloud video.
3. Students complete the response sheet while listening.
4. Students vote: Would you keep reading?
5. Display the book cover poster to build classroom book buzz.

Classroom Use Ideas Quick List:

- First Chapter Friday
- Sub plans
- Book tasting stations
- Library preview lessons
- Early finisher reading activities



To check the reading level, video length or to find a book purchasing link, look at this [Google Doc](#) that organizes ALL of my First Chapter Friday read aloud videos alphabetically.

Table of Contents

Page 2: Instructions/Table of Contents

Page 4: What is First Chapter Friday?

Pages 5-6: Book Tracking Charts

Page 7: Book List

Page 8: Full List Book Cover Poster

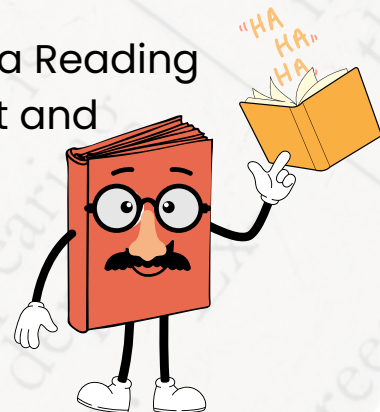
Pages 10-20 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets

Pages 22-31: Individual Book Posters

** More resources will be added in the future including a Reading Round Up Video to briefly explain every video on this list and possibly even some thematic coloring sheets.

As always, please email me with any title requests or questions. (wordnerd@amandazieba.com)

HAPPY READING!



Word Nerd Daily

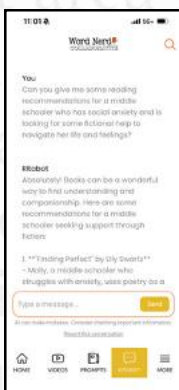
an app from Amanda Zieba

MUST TRY!



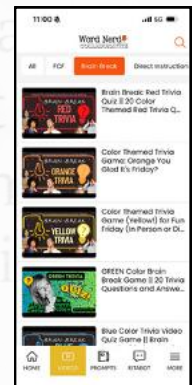
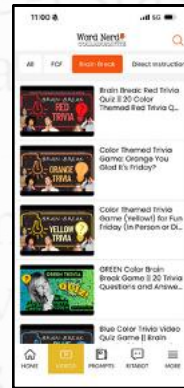
First Chapter Friday Videos

ChatBot for Reading Recs and Lesson Planning



Writing Prompt Library

Brain Break Videos



AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES



FIRST CHAPTER *Friday Videos*

Not sure how First Chapter Friday works?

Check out this [video](#) for a full explanation and 4 implementation ideas.

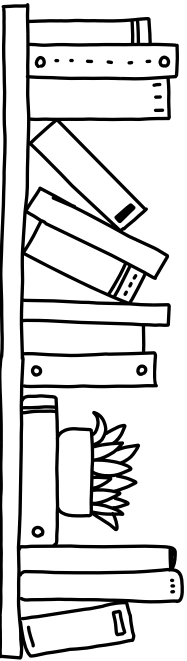


If you prefer a written description in lieu of a video, click [here](#).

[Click here](#) for a live, continually updated, Google Doc of the First Chapter Friday videos on my channel. Additionally you will find links to purchase the books and watch the read aloud videos, as well as book reading levels, genre/format, video length and more!

All my best,
Amanda Zieba

[illegible]



First CHAPTER Fridays

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32. _____

NAME: _____

FUNNY BOOKS

These books will tickle your funny bone and have you cracking up!

Busted

by Dan Gemeinhart

The Defense of Thaddeus A. Ledbetter

by John Gosselink

Finn and the Intergalactic Lunch Box

by Michael Buckley

The Fourth Stall

by Chris Rylander

Guys Read: Funny Business

edited by Jon Scieszka

Little Blog on the Prairie

by Cathleen Davit Bell

Mexikid

by Pedro Martin

Our Teacher is A Vampire: And Other NOT True Tales

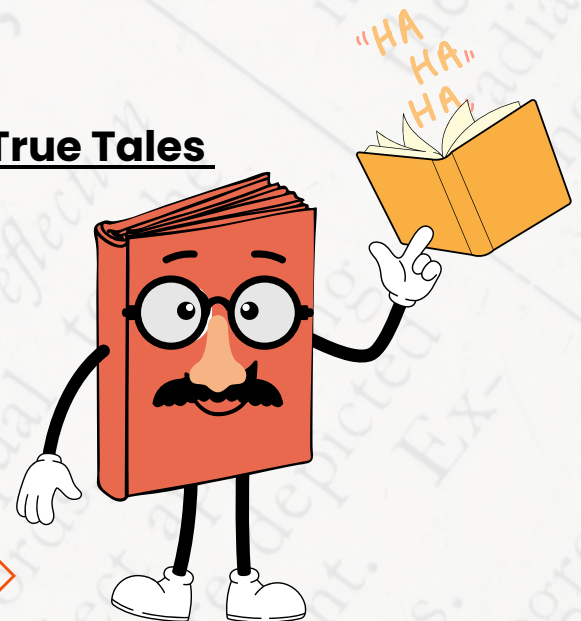
by Mary Amato

Sideways Stories from Wayside School

by Louis Sachar

The Whipping Boy

by Sid Fleischman

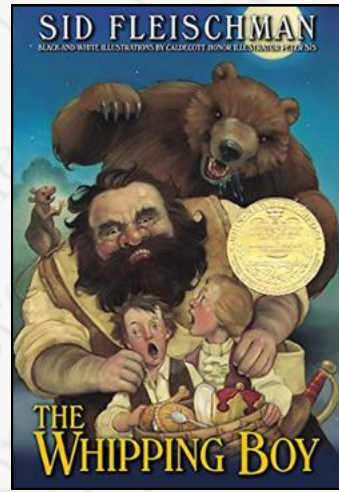
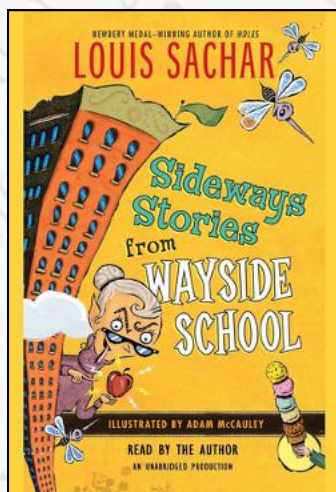
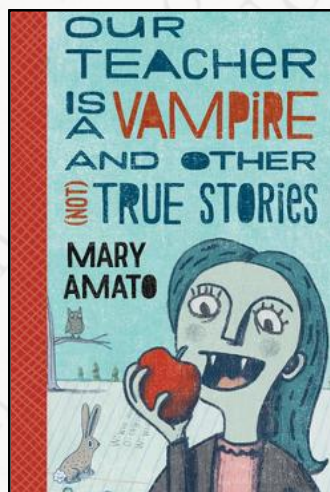
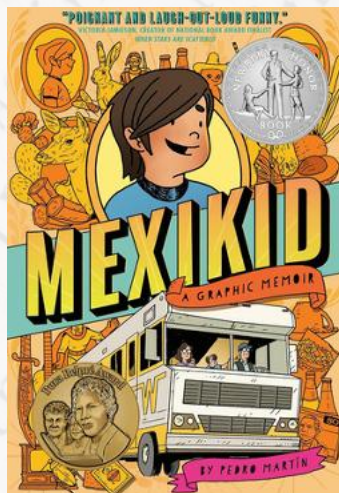
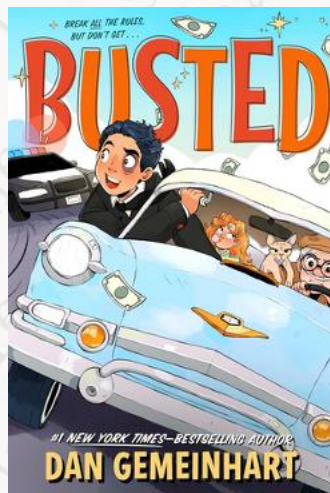
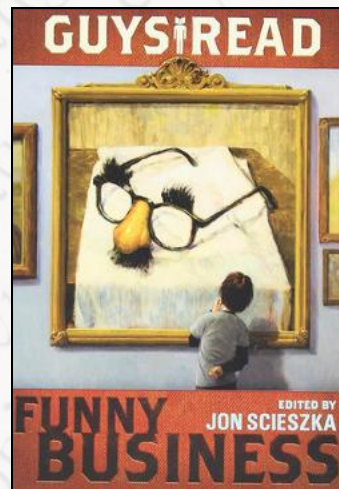
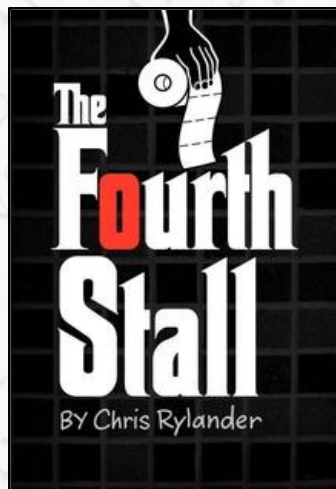
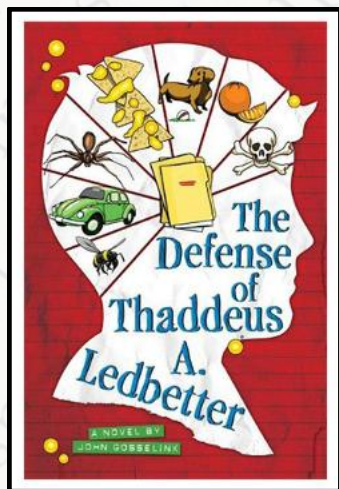


HA
HA
HA



WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

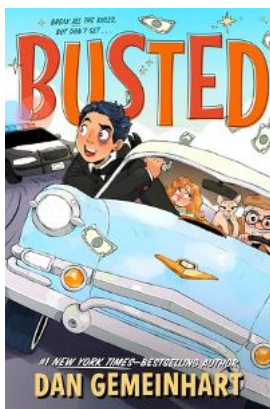
FUNNY BOOKS



WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

[illegible]

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date _____

Busted

by Dan Gemeinhart

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

When 12-year-old Oscar Aberdeen decided he would do anything to save the only home he's ever known, he didn't realize that anything would include theft, trespassing, gambling, a broken nose, grand theft auto, a federal prison, and a police chase. He had no idea it would be so dangerous...or so fun. Oscar Aberdeen is a bit of an oddball. He's an ace at playing bridge, loves Frank Sinatra, and attends a whole lot of funerals. He's also the youngest resident of Sunny Days retirement home by more than a half-century—and he wouldn't have it any other way. So when his grandpa's suddenly served an eviction notice that threatens their place at Sunny Days, he needs to find some cash. Fast. Enter Jimmy Deluca, a shady elderly man with a reputation for being bad news, who makes Oscar an offer he can't refuse. He's got the drop on riches hidden away on the "outside" and he'll share the loot with Oscar on one condition: he busts him out of Sunny Days. In this humdinger of an adventure, the ultimate odd couple, along with an uninvited stowaway, go from high-stakes escape to rollicking escapade as they search for the secret stash—and forge an unlikely friendship along the way.

Who Wrote It?

Dan Gemeinhart was born in Germany because his father was in the Army. Now he lives in a small town smack dab in the middle of Washington state with his wife and three young daughters. He was lucky and grateful to be a teacher-librarian in an elementary school for thirteen years, where he got to share awesome books with awesome kids. He loves camping, cooking and traveling. He also plays guitar (badly) and reads (constantly). His house is always a mess. He is really



pretty darn happy. You can learn more about him and his books @ www.dangemeinhart.com.

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Lexile Level: Unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.



PREVIEW & PREDICT



Read Aloud Video



Look at the objects featured on the YouTube thumbnail and book cover and then make a few predictions.



I predict this story will be about...

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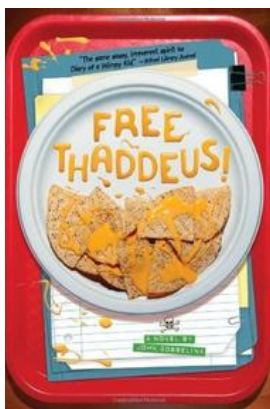
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.....

Name _____

Date _____



Free Thaddeus

by John Gosselink



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Designed like a case file, chock-full of notes, journal entries, letters, e-mails, illustrations, and more, *The Defense of Thaddeus A. Ledbetter* is a hilarious middle-grade novel that argues why Thaddeus should be released from his in-school suspension and explains the unbelievable circumstances that led to his punishment. Like *Adrian Mole* and *the Great Brain*, Thaddeus is a too-smart-for-his-own-good hero. Soon readers will be chanting, 'Free Thaddeus!'

"This original and entertaining book, with its smarty-pants narrator and case-file format, will draw comparisons to the *Wimpy Kid* series." —Booklist

"It has the same sassy, irreverent spirit as Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series but will appeal to a slightly older crowd. The format makes it an enjoyable choice for everyone, including reluctant readers." —School Library Journal

Who Wrote It?

John Gosselink was born in San Francisco, California. His dad was a Vietnam War Veteran and his mom was a teacher. He is now also a teacher and figures if he teaches his students to write badly, then there will be less competition for him as an author. In addition to teacher, he writes a weekly humor column for his local newspaper and has been doing so for more than a decade.

Free Thaddeus is currently his first and only book.



(insert sad face!)
He lives with his wife (a librarian) and their three kids just outside of Austin, Texas.

AR Reading Level: unavailable

Lexile Level: 790L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.



Name _____

Date _____

Finn and the Intergalactic Lunchbox

by Michael Buckley

Includes
Author
Interview!



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Finn Foley has a lunchbox, and when he opens it, weird things come out . . . like a seven-foot-tall robot and a strange, blinking device that glues itself to his chest. The lunchbox also opens wormholes--shortcuts through space--that take Finn to the farthest corners of the galaxy. Sounds awesome, right? Not so much. Rocketing through the cosmos attracts the attention of the Plague, a race of gigantic bugs. The thing on Finn's chest belongs to them--it's the most dangerous weapon in the universe--and they want it back. To fight the Plague, Finn will need the lunchbox, as well as an unlikely squad of assistants: Lincoln, the bully; Julep, the coolest girl in school; Kate, Finn's unicorn-obsessed little sister; and Highbeam, a robot spy from another galaxy. If they can learn to work together, they just might have a chance, but the bugs are coming, and they'll stop at nothing to get their weapon--even if it means destroying the world.

Who Wrote It?

I grew up in Akron, Ohio - which used to be the HOME OF MICHAEL BUCKLEY but is now THE HOME OF LEBRON JAMES. I used to stand up there in the local comedy club with Drew Carey. He wouldn't remember me. I was also in a punk rock band called Danger Will Robinson. We were not a very good punk rock band but it was fun. When the band was over I went to college - a small state school called Ohio University, then moved to NYC to be an intern for the Late Show With David Letterman. When it was over, I stayed in the city and got a job working in TV and advertising. Then, one day I had an idea that became The Sisters Grimm. It was pretty successful and totally changed my life.



Michael Buckley is the multiple NY Times bestselling author and one half of the creative team behind CN's Robotomy. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and son. He likes cupcakes.

www.buckleywrites.com

AR Reading Level: 4.6

Lexile Level: 630L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.



Name _____

Date _____

The Fourth Stall

by Chris Rylander



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Do you need something? Mac can get it for you. He and his best friend and business manager, Vince. Their methods might sometimes run afoul of the law, or at least the school code of conduct, but if you have a problem, if no one else can help, and if you can pay him, Mac is on your side. His office is located in the East Wing boy's bathroom, fourth stall from the high window. And business is booming. Or at least it was, until this particular Monday. Because this Monday is when Mac and Vince find out that the trouble with solving everyone else's problems is there's no one left to solve yours.

The school setting; fast-paced, cinematic, and funny story; and engaging voice make The Fourth Stall a perfect classroom read.

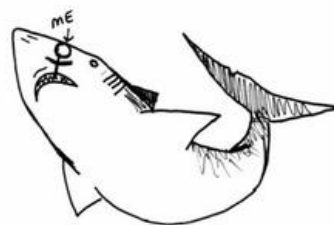
This is the 1st book in a series (of 3).

Who Wrote It?

SOME STUFF ABOUT ME:

I WAS BORN and RAISED in North Dakota. I LOVE SPORTS, MOVIES, MUSIC and BOOKS of all kinds. I am married to a COOL girl named AMANDA. We have one dog and one cat.

HERE is a SELF PORTRAIT:



AND HERE'S what I look like up close:
(also while getting eaten by a shark)



Chris lives in Chicago, Illinois.

AR Reading Level: 5.1

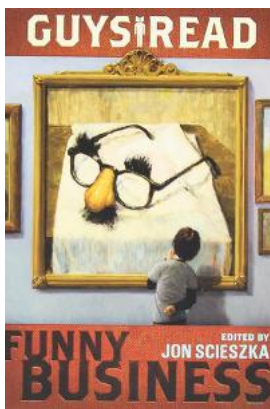
Lexile Level: 760L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.



Name _____

Date _____

Guys Read: Funny Business

Edited by Jon Scieszka

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Funny Business, the first volume in Jon Scieszka's **Guys Read Library of Great Reading**, features ten short stories guaranteed to delight, amuse, and possibly make you spit your milk in your friend's face. There's something for everyone in this collection of short stories from some of the funniest writers around. This hilarious, offbeat first installment in the **Guys Read Library** is 100% grade-A humor, guaranteed to have kids of all ages asking for more.

Authors include Mac Barnett, Eoin Colfer, Christopher Paul Curtis, Kate DiCamillo & Jon Scieszka, Paul Feig, Jack Gantos, Jeff Kinney, David Lubar, Adam Rex, and David Yoo, with illustrations by Adam Rex.

My personal favorite in this collection of short stories is **Your Question for Author Here** by Kate DiCamillo and Jon Scieszka

What Do You Think?

After listening to the first paragraph of each story, place a check mark next to your reaction.

1. Best of Friends

Like __ Not Sure __ Dislike __

2. Will

Like __ Not Sure __ Dislike __

3. Artemis Begins

Like __ Not Sure __ Dislike __

4. Kid Appeal

Like __ Not Sure __ Dislike __

5. Your Question for Author Here

Like __ Not Sure __ Dislike __

6. A Fist Full of Feathers

Like __ Not Sure __ Dislike __

7. Unaccompanied Minors

Like __ Not Sure __ Dislike __

8. What? You Think You Got it Rough?

Like __ Not Sure __ Dislike __

9. My Parents Give My Bedroom to a Biker

Like __ Not Sure __ Dislike __

10. The Bloody Souvenir

Like __ Not Sure __ Dislike __

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Lexile Level: 760L

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

Name _____

Date _____



Little Blog on the Prairie

by Cathleen Davitt Bell

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Funny summer Camp Book!

Camp Frontier promises families the "thrill" of living like 1890s pioneers. Gen will be thrilled if she survives the summer stuck in a cabin with her family and no modern amenities. But ever the savvy teen, Gen sneaks in a phone and starts texting about camp life. Turns out, there are some good points-like the cute boy who lives in the next clearing. But when her texts go viral as a blog and a TV crew arrives, Gen realizes she may have just ruined the best vacation she's ever had.

A CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center) choice book for 2011!

Who Wrote It?

Cathleen Davitt Bell has hiked on the rocky Italian coastline, used positive visualization to control pain, visited every bowling alley in the Adirondacks, invented her own kind of pasta dish (write and she'll give you the recipe), and is halfway to raising two kids in partnership with a terrific husband. She can tell a pretty mean ghost story, make butter with ingredients from the



corner deli, and has published four very good books! You can learn more about her and her work at cathleendavittbell.com.

AR Reading Level: 5.1

Lexile Level: 820L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

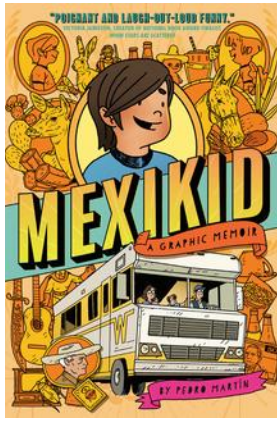
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

Name _____

Date _____



Mexikid by Pedro Martin



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

An unforgettable graphic memoir about a Mexican American boy's family and their adventure-filled road trip to bring their abuelito back from Mexico to live with them that National Book Award Finalist Victoria Jamieson calls 'one of those books that kids will pass to their friends as soon as they have finished it.'

Pedro Martín has grown up hearing stories about his abuelito—his legendary crime-fighting, grandfather who was once a part of the Mexican Revolution! But that doesn't mean Pedro is excited at the news that Abuelito is coming to live with their family. After all, Pedro has 8 brothers and sisters and the house is crowded enough! Still, Pedro piles into the Winnebago with his family for a road trip to Mexico to bring Abuelito home, and what follows is the trip of a lifetime, one filled with laughs and heartache. Along the way, Pedro finally connects with his abuelito and learns what it means to grow up and find his grito.

** Also available in SPANISH! :)

Who Wrote It?

Pedro grew up in California with his very larger family (9 kids!). He went to San Jose and earned a degree in Editorial Illustration and Design. Pedro created greeting card art for Hallmark for almost 30 years! He is also the creator of the cartoon Asteroid Andy and also illustrated Don't Know Much About® The Solar System and Don't Know Much About® The Presidents. He loves to eat Dot's Homestyle Pretzels while he is writing. His favorite holiday tradition is making tamales with the whole family. He lives in Kansas City, Missouri. Mexikid is the first book he has written, but hopefully it will not be his last!



AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: N/A

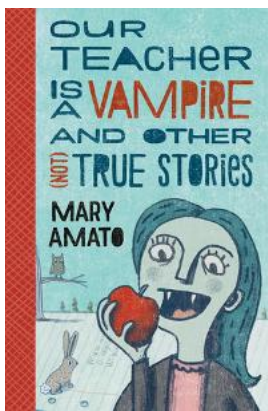
I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Name _____

Date _____



Our Teacher is a Vampire And Other Not True Stories by Mary Amato



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Mrs. Penrose has a secret, and Alexander H. Gory, Jr., thinks he knows just what it is. To spread the word, Alexander passes around his notebook, in which he details his proof that their mild-mannered teacher has become a blood-sucking creature of the night. The news spreads like wildfire, and soon the whole class is speculating. Will the librarian be her next victim? Can they protect themselves with garlic necklaces? But when Mrs. Penrose confiscates the notebook, she admits to the class that she does have a secret. She isn't turning into a bat, though—she's going to have a baby. To encourage her students to write, she lets them keep the notebook, which becomes a chronicle of jokes, stories, and—when Mrs. Penrose's baby comes earlier than anyone expected—their fears, frustrations, and hopes for her and her child. Told in the varying voices of an elementary class, with all their unique observations, quirks, and spelling mistakes, *Our Teacher Is a Vampire* is a celebration of collaboration. Through their shared storytelling, Mrs. Penrose's students support one another through difficult times, improve as writers, and become fast friends.

AR Reading Level: 4.1

Who Wrote It?

When author Mary Amato was your age she had a pet turtle who ran away and three older sisters who tried to convince her that she was a cow. She loved to read, but didn't believe she could become a writer because she thought that all books were written a long time ago and that all the people who wrote them were dead. She wasn't very bright. It took her a long time to become a writer. It still takes her a long time to write each book because she makes a lots of mistakes. The amazing letters she gets from kids about her books encourage her to keep trying. Her favorite color is purple and her favorite food is dark chocolate. She loves very sharp pencils, high-quality black pens, pocket-sized writer's notebooks without lines, and the wondrous energy of children



and teens. She thinks it is hilarious when principals introduce her by saying, 'Today, we get to meet a real, live author!' She is delighted not to be a fake, dead author. That would not be as fun.

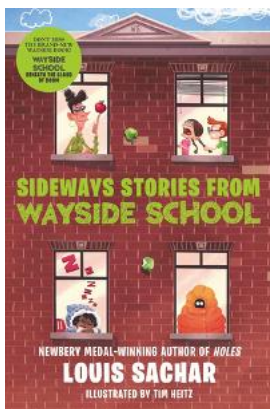
Lexile Level: 620

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.



Name _____

Date _____

Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar



Read Aloud Video

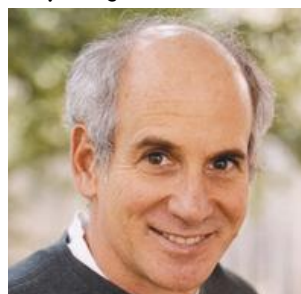
Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Accidentally built sideways and standing thirty stories high (the builder said he was very sorry for the mistake), Wayside School has some of the wackiest classes in town, especially on the thirtieth floor. That's where you'll meet Bebe, the fastest draw in art class; John, who only reads upside down; Myron, the best class president ever; and Sammy, the new kid—he's a real rat. More than fifteen million readers have laughed at the clever and hilarious stories of Wayside School. So what are you waiting for? Come visit Wayside School! Kids 7 to 13 will zoom through these chapter books—laughing their way through the fast, funny, silly but relatable stories.

Who Wrote It?

Louis was born in New York in 1954, but only lived there until 3rd grade. Then he moved to California and lived near the orange groves. He liked school as a kid and did pretty well, but it wasn't until high school that he fell in love with reading. During college he volunteered at a school to earn additional credits. It was his experiences at that school that inspired the book Sideways Stories from Wayside School. Before he was a full time writer, Louis had a few other jobs including: door-to-door cleaning salesman, lawyer and a job at a sweater warehouse. Louis has this to say about his writing process, 'I write every morning, usually for no more than two hours a day. I never talk about a book until it is finished. I spent two years on my latest novel, and nobody, not even my wife, or daughter or my editor knew anything about it until it was finished.



Then they were the first to read it.' Louis now lives in Austin, TX with his wife (who is a school counselor turned zookeeper!) and enjoys playing cards (a game called Bridge) in his free time.

AR Reading Level: 3.3

Lexile Level: 530L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

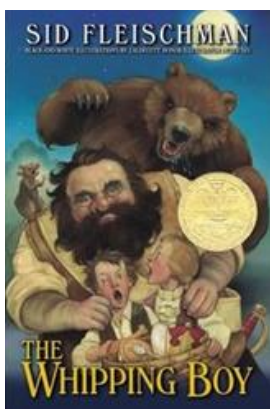
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

Name _____

Date _____



The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

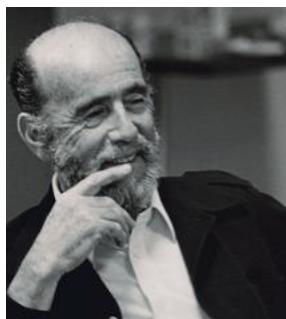
A Prince and a Pauper . . . Prince Brat and his whipping boy inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws. The two boys have nothing in common and even less reason to like each other. But when they find themselves taken hostage after running away, they are left with no choice but to trust each other. "A rollicking tale of adventure and mistaken identity . . . Robust scenes and characters are vividly evoked."—Kirkus Reviews

This briskly told tale of high adventure, taut with suspense and rich with colorful characters, was named an ALA Notable Book. Sid Fleischman's celebrated novel features brief, action-packed chapters and includes black-and-white illustrations by Caldecott Honor artist Peter Sís. "An 18th century tale about the escapades of a resourceful orphan and a spoiled young prince. . . Full of adventure, suspense, humor, and lively characters."—The New York Times

Newbery Award Winner!

Who Wrote It?

Born in Brooklyn, he grew up in San Diego during the Great Depression and decided in the fifth grade to become a magician. He practiced so diligently with cards, coins, and the occasional rabbit that shortly after high school he was traveling the country as a performing magician. Magic's suspense and surprises would stamp his future books. After serving in World War II with the U.S. Naval Reserve, he finished college and worked as a reporter on the San Diego Daily Journal. When the paper folded in 1950, he turned to writing fiction. At first he wrote screenplays for movies, one of which even starred the famous John Wayne and Lauren Bacall.



His children led him into writing for the young. His ideas came from history and folklore. Sid passed away in 2010. You can learn more about Sid here:
<http://www.sidfleischman.com/>

AR Reading Level: 3.9

Lexile Level: 570L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

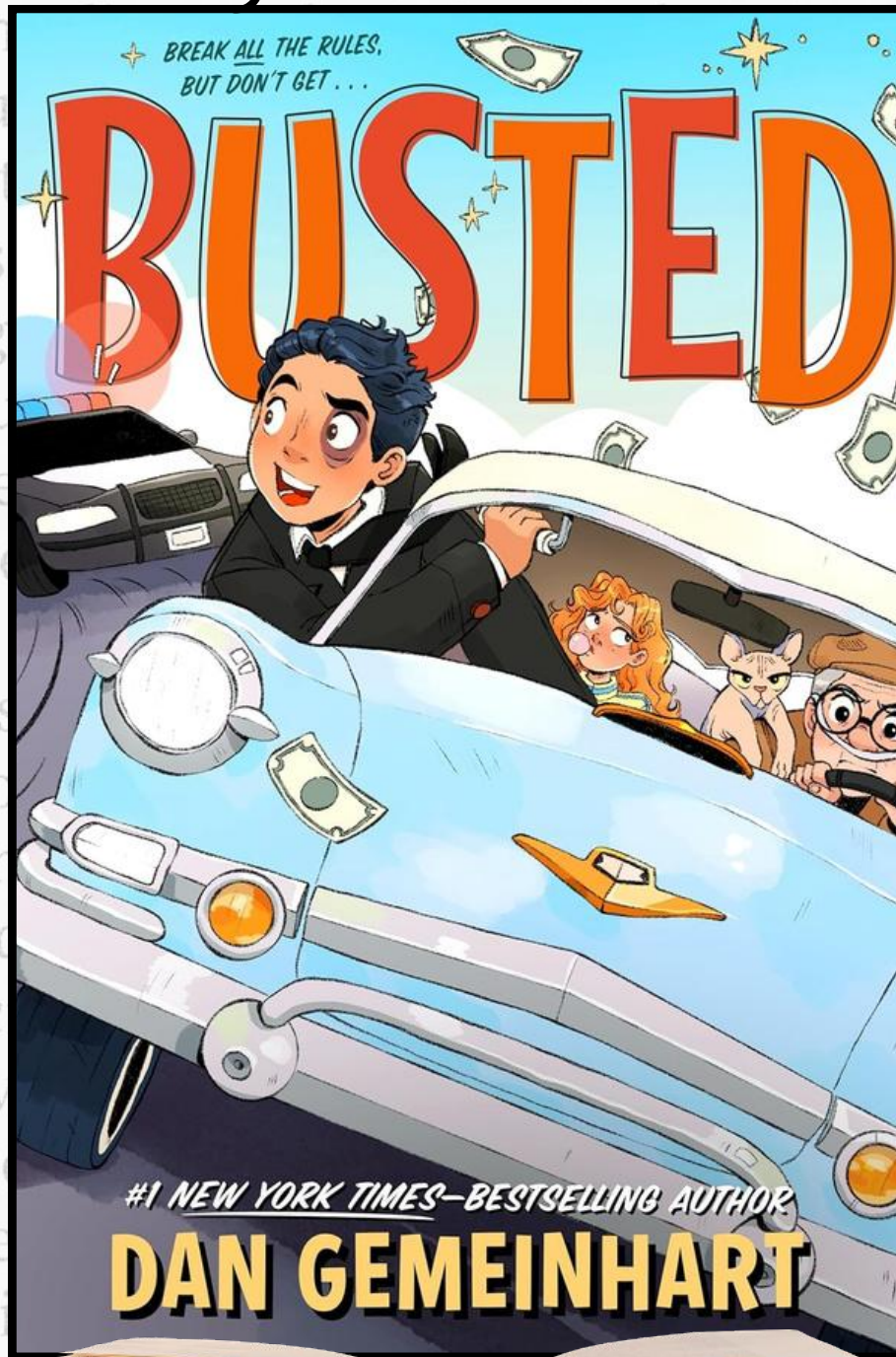
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BUSTED

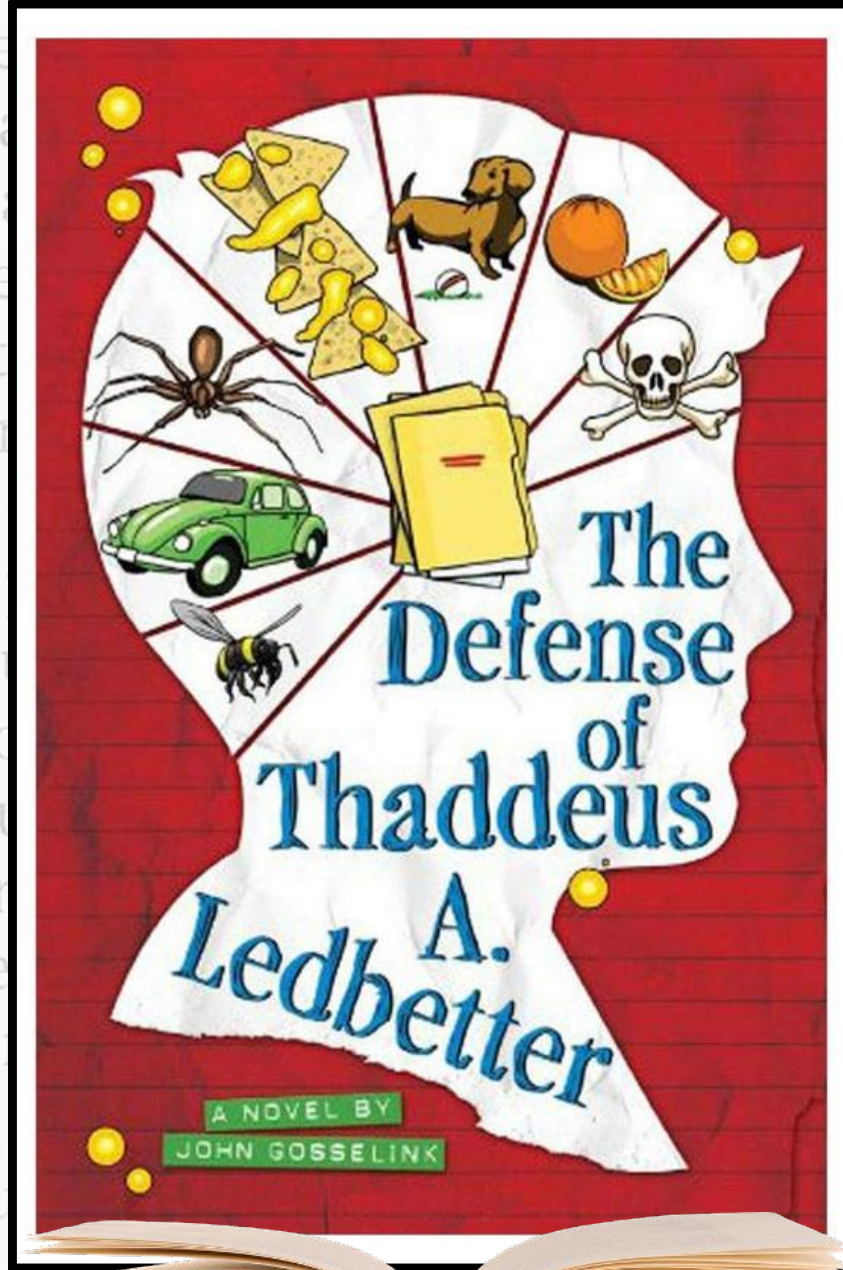
By Dan Gemeinhart



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THE DEFENSE OF THADDEUS A. LEDBETTER

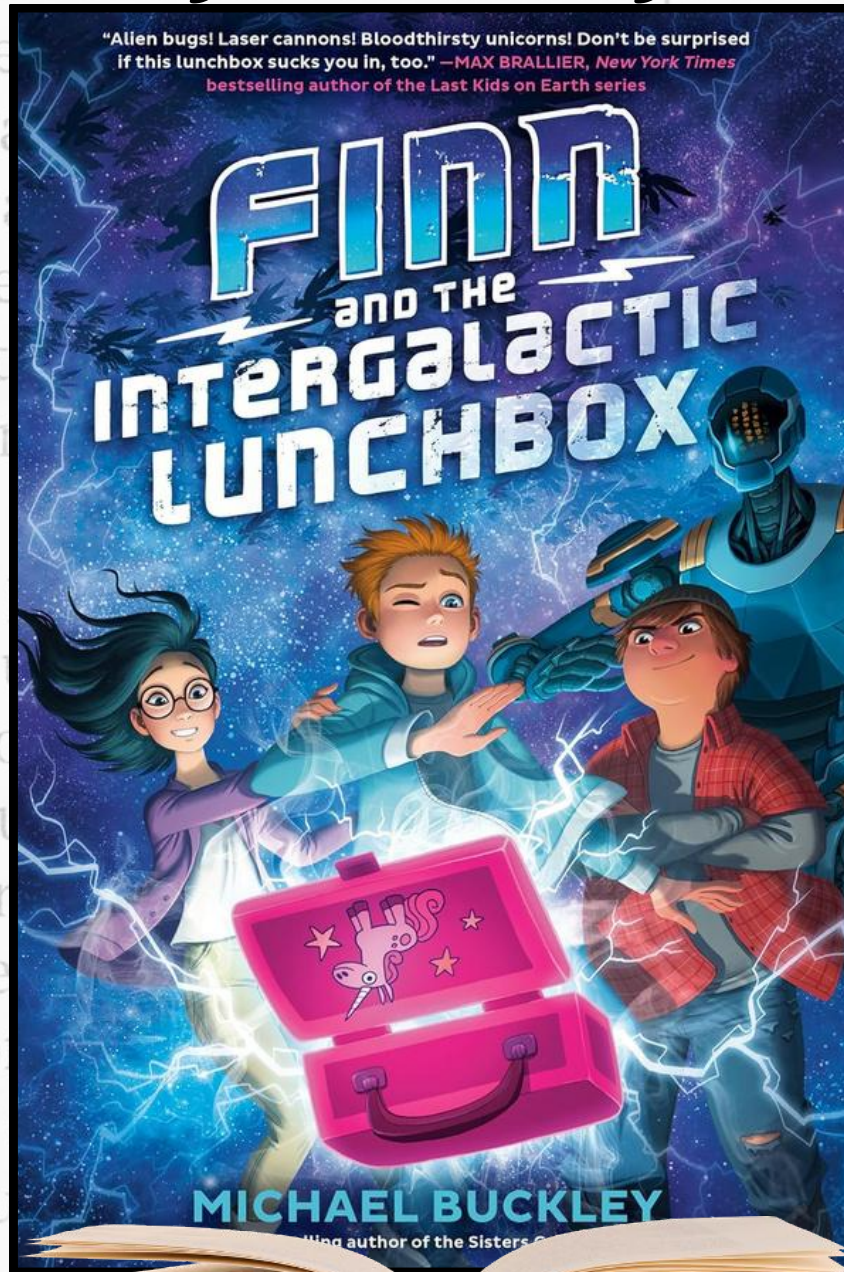
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FINN AND THE INTERGALACTIC LUNCHBOX

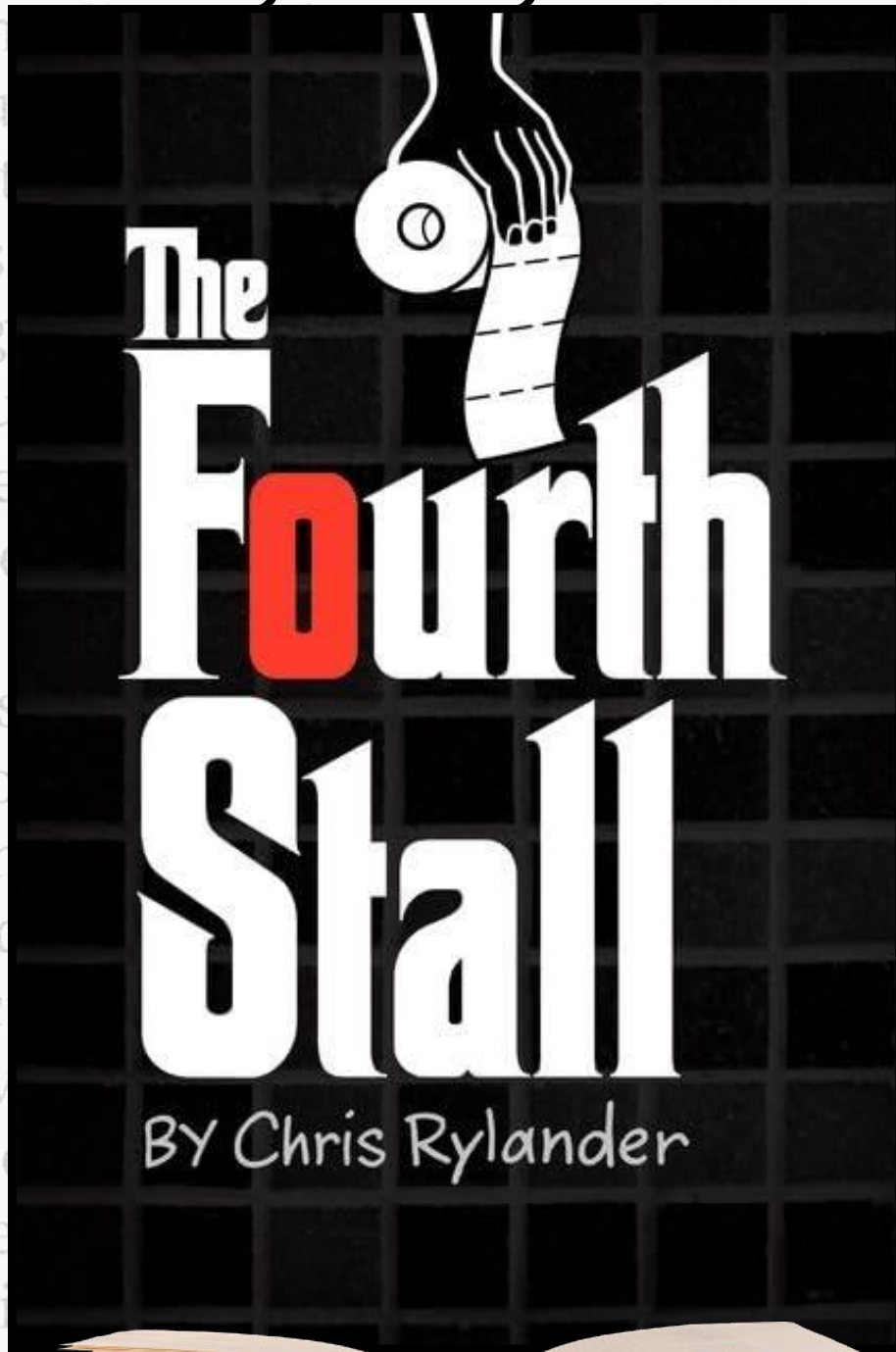
by Michael Buckley



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THE FOURTH STALL

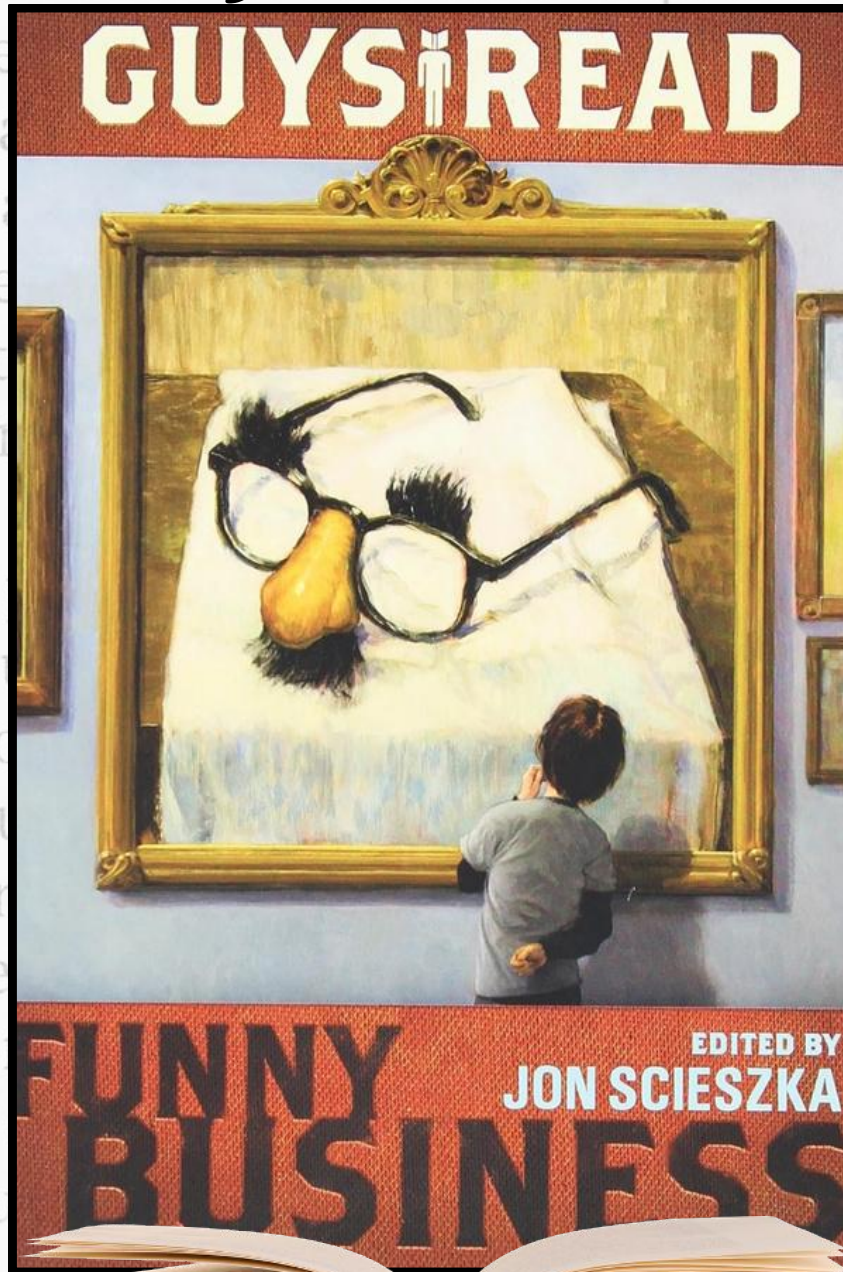
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GUYS READ: FUNNY BUSINESS

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LITTLE BLOG ON THE PRAIRIE

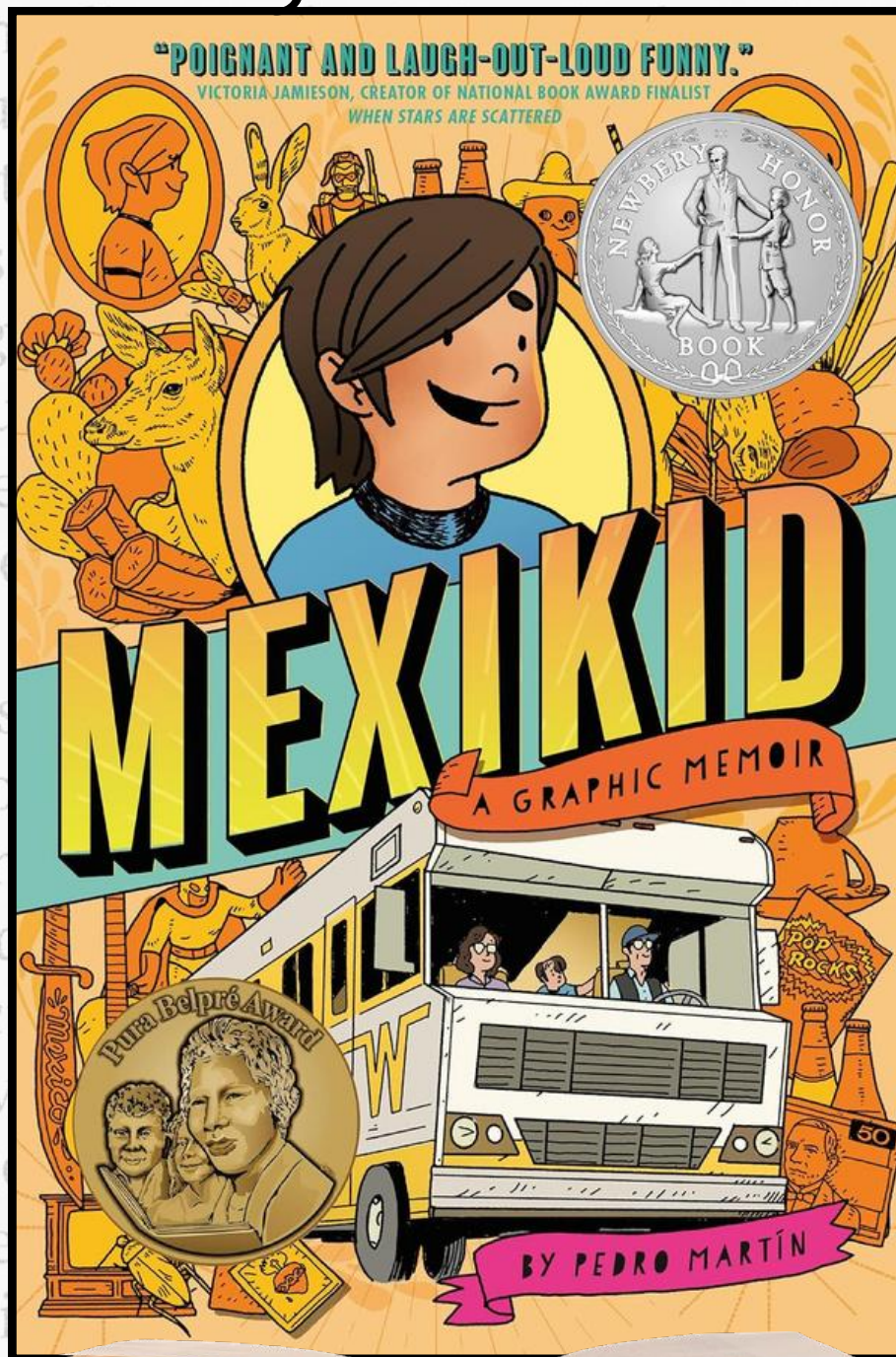
by Cathleen Davitt Bell



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By Pedro Martin

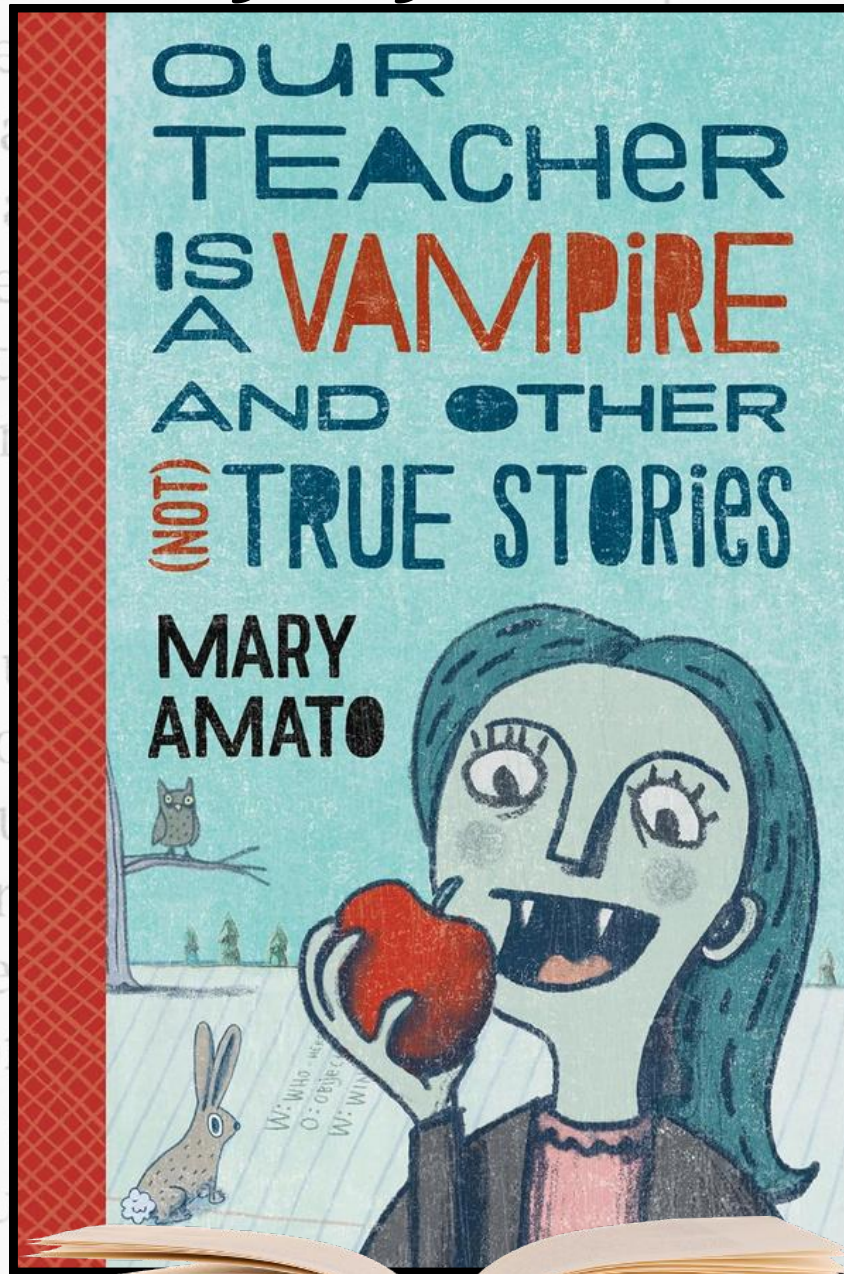
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FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

OUR TEACHER IS A VAMPIRE AND OTHER (NOT) TRUE STORIES

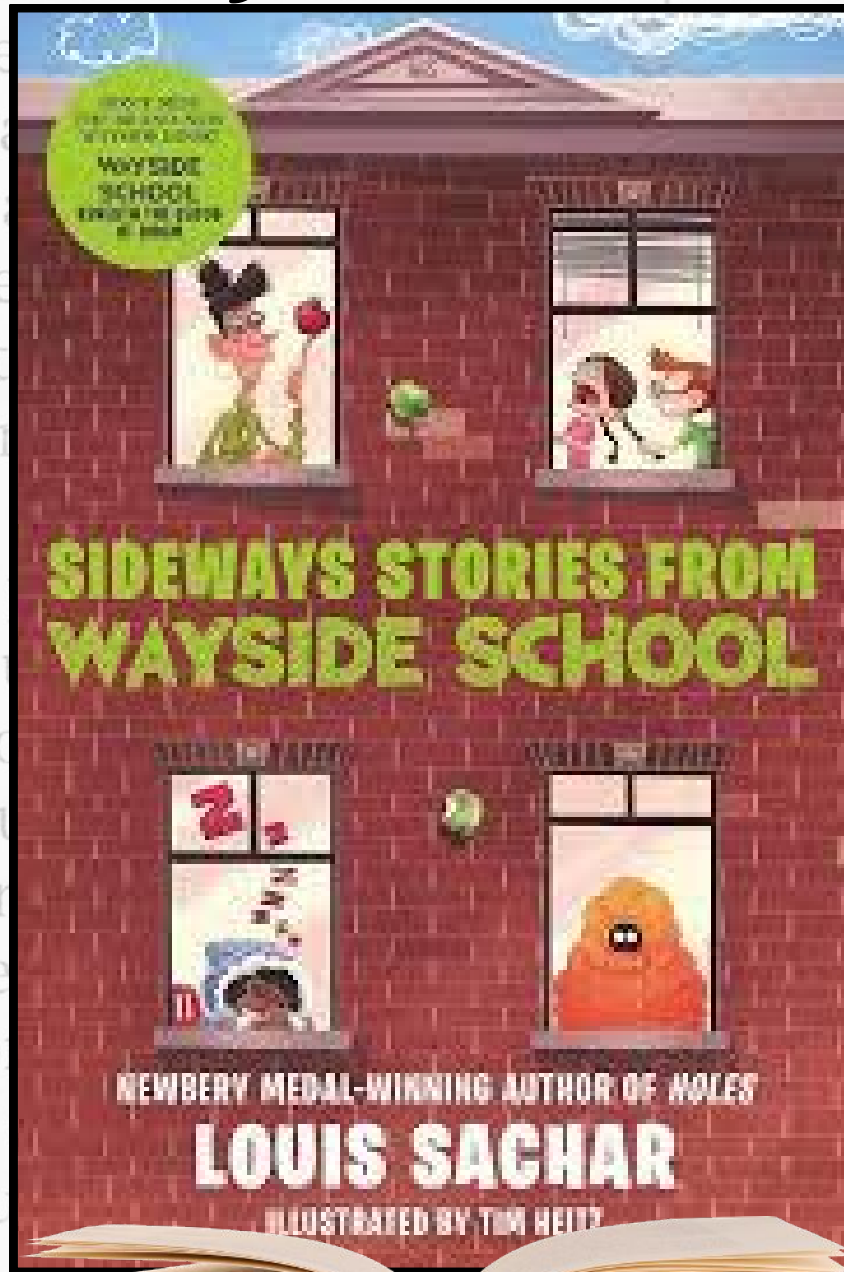
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SIDEWAYS STORIES FROM WAYSIDE SCHOOL

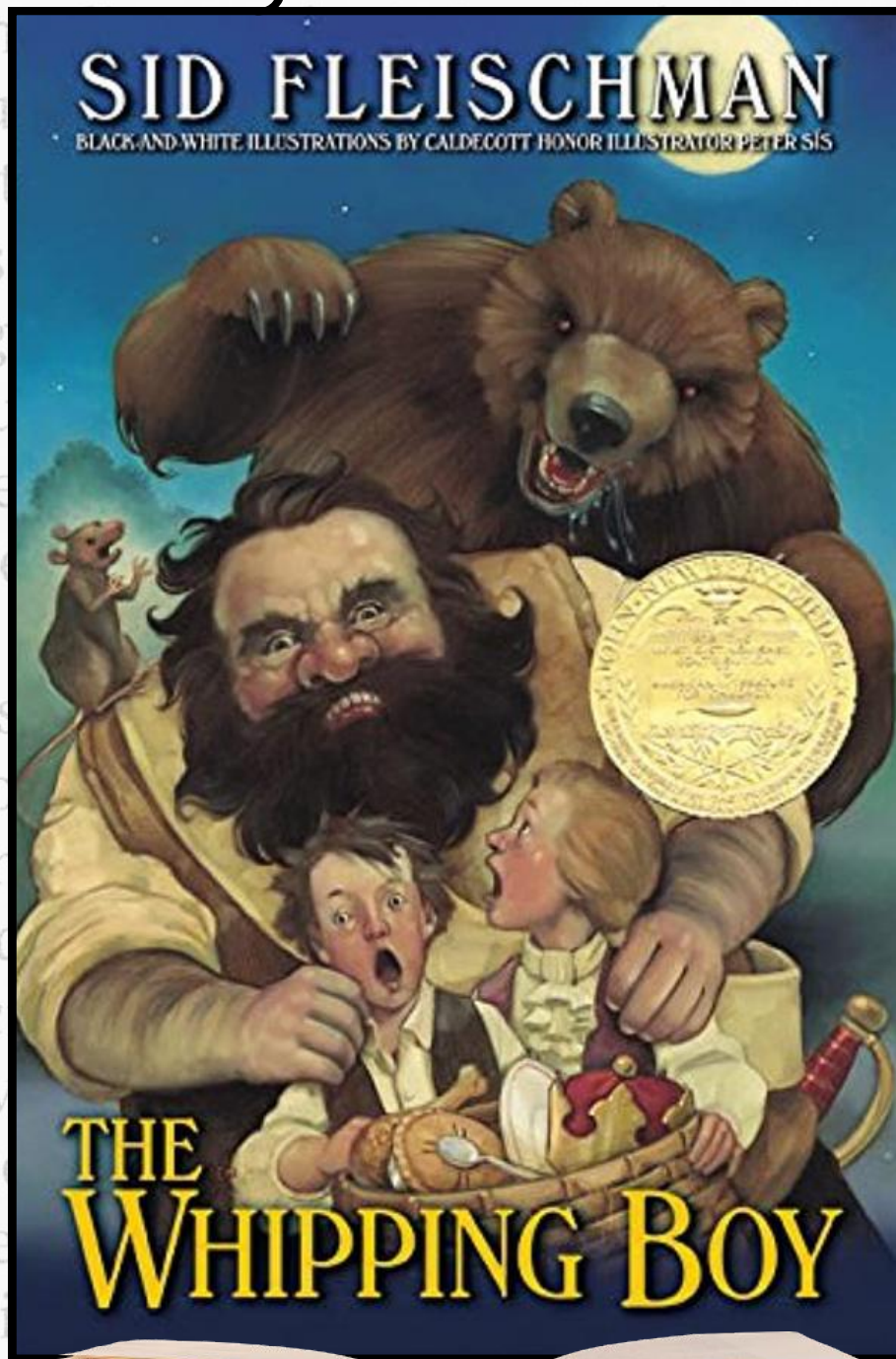
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THE WHIPPING BOY

By Sid Fleischman



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