Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days
by Jeff Kinney

Teacher’s Edition
About JLG Guides

Junior Library Guild selects the best new hardcover children’s and YA books being published in the U.S. and makes them available to libraries and schools, often before the books are available from anyone else. Timeliness and value mark the mission of JLG: to be the librarian's partner. But how can JLG help librarians be partners with classroom teachers?

**With JLG Guides.**

JLG Guides are activity and reading guides written by people with experience in both children’s and educational publishing—in fact, many of them are former librarians or teachers. The JLG Guides are made up of activity guides for younger readers (grades K–3) and reading guides for older readers (grades 4–12), with some overlap occurring in grades 3 and 4. All guides are written with national and state standards as guidelines. Activity guides focus on providing activities that support specific reading standards; reading guides support various standards (reading, language arts, social studies, science, etc.), depending on the genre and topic of the book itself.

JLG Guides can be used both for whole class instruction and for individual students. Pages are reproducible for classroom use only, and a teacher’s edition accompanies most JLG Guides.

Research indicates that using authentic literature in the classroom helps improve students’ interest level and reading skills. You can trust JLG to provide the very best in new-release books, and now to enhance those selections by giving your school the tools to use those books in the classroom.

And in case you think we forgot the librarians, be sure to check out the Library Applications page, shown on the table of contents in each guide.

From all of us at Junior Library Guild, we wish you and your students good reading and great learning . . . with JLG Selections and JLG Guides.
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days

By Jeff Kinney

JLG Guide created by School Street Media
for Junior Library Guild

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What a summer! Middle-grader Greg Heffley returns with more adventures in this fourth volume of the best-selling series. In the latest diary of middle-schooler Greg Heffley, he records his attempts to spend his summer vacation sensibly indoors playing video games and watching television, despite his mother's other ideas.

JLG Reviewers Say:

- Greg's take on life is hilarious—just as funny as in the previous books in the series.
- Kids will see themselves in Greg—having seemingly clueless and unreasonable parents; not wanting to work hard; being stuck at home during the summer instead of on vacation—but they will laugh at his setbacks and frustrations.
- The irreverent approach feels like one kid speaking to another, unmediated by adults.
- The cartoons elaborate on and sometimes contradict the text—adding to the humor and meaning.
- Will be immensely popular with readers of previous books; new readers will immediately search out the earlier books.

Jeff Kinney says on his Web site (www.wimpykid.com), “I wanted to write a story about all the funny parts of growing up and none of the serious parts. I had a pretty ordinary childhood, but lots of humorous stuff happened along the way.” He adds, “My goal was to write a book that made people laugh. There were certain books I read as a kid that really stood the test of time. I wanted to write that kind of book.”

Mr. Kinney grew up in Washington, D.C. but moved to New England in 1995. He lives in southern Massachusetts with his wife, Julie, and their two sons, Will and Grant. When he’s not writing, Mr. Kinney works as an online game developer and designer.
Prereading Activities

Summer Fun
Greg Heffley is already bored with summer, but we can have some fun by finding out the answers to some summer trivia questions. Find answers by asking people, going to the library, checking the Internet, or other sources you can find. Score 10 points for each correct answer!

1. What does the phrase “dog days of summer” mean?
2. Who invented the popsicle?
3. What happened in 1816 that caused “the year without a summer”?
4. What is the summer solstice and on what day does it happen?
5. In Australia, summer occurs in which three months?
6. What summer toy found at beaches and pools was invented in 1938 in California?
7. Complete this quote by Lawrence J. Peter: “The noblest of all dogs is the ____________; it feeds the hand that bites it.”
8. Where will the 2012 Summer Olympics be held?
9. From where did the name “Frisbee” come?
10. What vegetable made up of 92% water is a part of seed-spitting contests at picnics?

Answers:
1. They are the hottest days of summer, from early July to early September. This is the time when the “Dog Star” Sirius is the brightest star in the night sky.
2. In 1905, an 11-year-old boy named Frank Epperson invented the first Popsicle, which he called the Epsicle.
3. The volcano Tambora erupted, sending so much ash into the atmosphere that the global temperatures fell and snow fell during the summer.
4. It is the day with the most daylight of the year, and it falls on June 20 or 21.
5. December, January, February.
6. The beach ball.
8. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
9. The Frisbee was originally designed as a tin pie plate in the 1870s by the Frisbee Pie Company.
10. Watermelon.
Prereading Activities

Building Background and Setting Purpose

This is the fourth Wimpy Kid book in the series. Answer the following questions before you start reading this book.

🌟 Which of the previous Wimpy Kid books have you read? Answers will vary.

☐ *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

☐ *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*

☐ *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw*

☐ none of the above

🌟 What made you decide to read this book?

Answers will vary.

🌟 Why do the Wimpy Kid books appeal to you?

Answers will vary.

🌟 What do you expect Greg to do over his summer?

Answers will vary.

🌟 On the first page, Greg says that he is more of an “indoor person.” Why does he want you to know that from the beginning?

He probably wants us to know that he’s not interested in the typical outdoor summer activities.
**As-You-Read Activity**

**Scavenger Hunt**

You are about to spend a summer with Greg Heffley. As you read the book, write down the page number where you first find an illustration of each of the following items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a jumbo caterpillar</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a muddy hand</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a beachball</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a snowman</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an angelfish</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a high-dive board</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a free bike</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a cash register</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a jar of money</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a first-place ribbon</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a gumball machine</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greg’s Likes and Dislikes

Throughout the book, you get to know what Greg likes and doesn't like. For each of the items below, color the smiley face if Greg likes it or color the frowny face if he dislikes it.

- going to the beauty shop: ☺ ☹
- swimming in the ocean: ☼ ☹
- sleeping in the basement: ☺ ☹
- reading tabloids: ☺ ☹
- Li’l Cutie cartoon: ☺ ☹
- massaging recliners: ☺ ☹
- going to the town pool: ☺ ☹
- “friend” birthday parties: ☺ ☹
- watermelons: ☺ ☹
- video game arcade: ☺ ☹
The Best and Worst of a Season

“It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.” So says Charles Dickens as he opens the novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*. Sometimes you have to take the bad with the good.

Choose one of the four seasons: spring, summer, winter, or fall. Then complete the following chart, listing what is best and what is worst about that season.

Season: _____________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Best Stuff</th>
<th>The Worst Stuff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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Writing Application

Use the information in the chart above to write a compare/contrast paragraph about the season you chose. The chart is your prewriting step. Follow the rest of the writing steps until you have a final, well-written paragraph.
Fill in the Blanks

Comprehension Skills
Read each of the following statements about the book and fill in the blank with the answer that best completes the sentence.

1. Greg’s mom wants him to spend more time ___________________. (outdoors)
2. Greg doesn’t like to go to the town ___________________. (pool)
3. The family won’t get to go to the ___________________ this summer. (beach)
4. Greg and his dad both think ___________________ is the worst comic ever. (Li’l Cutie)
5. Greg’s mom hides ___________________ in the sand for Manny to find. (seashells)
6. Greg likes reading ___________________ at the beauty salon. (tabloids)
7. Greg and Rowley found a ___________________ movie in Rodrick’s room. (horror)
8. After watching it, Greg is afraid that a ___________________ is after him. (muddy hand)
9. His mom decides to start a ___________________ club for the boys. (reading)
10. Instead of books the boys like, she wants them to read ___________________. (classics)
11. Mr. Jefferson gave Greg and Rowley a bill for their ___________________. (fruit smoothies)
12. The guys decide to start a ___________________ service. (lawn)
13. Greg mowed around all the ___________________ in Mrs. Canfield’s yard. (dog poop)
14. ___________________ ended up finishing the job for Mrs. Canfield. (Mr. Heffley)
15. Greg decides he’d rather have a ___________________ party for his birthday. (family)
16. What Greg really wants this year is a ___________________. (dog)
17. The only thing he has asked for this year, though, is a ___________________. (recliner)
18. All of Greg’s birthday money went to pay off ___________________. (Mr. Jefferson)
19. Greg got a ladybug ___________________ for his birthday. (cell phone)
20. Greg and Rodrick each bought a ________________ at the pet store. (fish)

21. On Saturday, Mr. Heffley drove the family to the _________________. (water park)

22. They didn’t get to stay because the park closed due to _________________. (lightning)

23. When they got back home, they found they’d left Mom at a _________________. (gas station)

24. When they got home, Greg discovered his ________________ was missing. (fish)

25. On Father’s Day, they went to visit _________________. (Grandpa)

26. Dad’s dog, Nutty, didn’t really go to the butterfly farm; he was ________________ by Grandpa. (run over)

27. Greg’s dad went out and bought a _________________. (dog)

28. They named him _________________. (Sweetie)

29. Unfortunately, Sweetie always sleeps in ________________ bed. (Greg’s)

30. The only person the dog likes is _________________. (Mom)
Fill in the Blanks

Comprehension Skills
Read each of the following statements about the book and fill in the blank with the answer that best completes the sentence.

**JULY**

1. Greg made up his own comic, called ____________________. (Hey, People!)
2. On the Fourth of July, the family went to the ____________________. (town pool)
3. Rodrick told Greg a story that made Greg afraid of eating ____________________.
   (watermelon)
4. The fireworks didn’t work because they were ____________________.
   (left out in the rain)
5. Greg changed his mind about the town pool because of ____________________.
   (Heather Hills)
6. Greg imagines the creepy ____________________ showing up at his and Heather’s wedding.
   (muddy hand)
7. Greg decided he needed to find his own source of ____________________.
   (transportation)
8. He found a ____________________ out by the curb.
   (bike)
9. Greg had to rescue Manny from the ____________________.
   (locker room)
10. Greg’s romance ended when a kid ____________________ behind Heather’s chair.
    (threw up)
Fill in the Blanks

Comprehension Skills
Read each of the following statements about the book and fill in the blank with the answer that best completes the sentence.

AUGUST

1. The Jeffersons invited Greg to go to the ________________ with them. (beach)
2. He might finally get to ride on the _________________. (Cranium Shaker)
3. The Jeffersons were staying in a ________________ five miles from the beach. (log cabin)
4. They had no ________________ or ________________. (TV, computer)
5. They played a game called _________________. (I Love You Because)
6. Greg and Rowley had to share one ________________. (bed)
7. Greg sneaked to send a message on Mr. Jefferson’s ________________. (laptop)
8. Greg spent twenty dollars trying to win a _________________. (stuffed caterpillar)
9. Rowley’s dad bought Rowley one for ________________ bucks. (ten)
10. The girl from Rodrick’s keychain picture was a _________________. (cardboard cutout)
11. Riding the Cranium Shaker was the most ________________ Greg had ever felt. (nauseous)
12. Greg asks to borrow a ________________ for the arcade. (dollar)
13. Greg still had the highest score on the ________________ game. (Thunder Volt)
14. But the next highest scorer wrote “_______________” instead of his name. (is an idiot)
15. So, instead of a game, Greg decided to play a ________________ with the money. (trick)
16. Greg was sent back home because he hurt Rowley with a _________________. (rubber band)
17. Greg’s mom wasn’t mad, because she thought the incident was just ___________________.
   (horse play)
18. Rodrick told Greg that his dad was so mad, he was going to _____________________. (get
    rid of Greg)
19. Greg panicked and used his ____________________ to find out where he was going with
    Dad. (ladybug cell phone)
20. Instead of going to a baseball game, Mr. Heffley and Greg just went _________________.
   (home)
21. Sweetie ended up going to live with _____________________. (Grandma)
22. Greg and Rowley camped out in from of a _____________________. (video store)
23. Greg thought it would be funny to scare Rowley by pretending to be the _________________.
   (muddy hand)
24. Rowley smashed Greg’s hand with a _____________________. (mallet)
25. Because his had was injured, Greg couldn’t beat Rowley at playing _________________.
   (Twisted Wizard)
26. Things returned to normal with Greg and his dad when they read the new _________________.
   (L’il Cutie comic)
27. Greg’s memories of the summer are not at all like his mom’s _________________.
   showed. (photo album)
Wrap-up

Making Connections
1. Choose one of Greg’s experiences from this book and tell how you had a similar experience.

   Answers will vary.

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

2. Greg and Rowley sometimes get along well and other times don’t get along at all. Is this normal for a friendship? Why or why not?

   Answers will vary.

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

3. Of the two families, the Heffleys and the Jeffersons, which one is more like yours? Explain your answer.

   Answers will vary.

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

4. Having a pet is a big responsibility. Have you ever gotten a pet and found that it wasn’t as much fun as you thought it would be? Tell what happened.

   Answers will vary.

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________
Library Applications

Middle-Grade Graphic Novels
Create a display in the library featuring middle-grade graphic novels, especially some of the following. Encourage students who like *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books to read some of these other books.

- *Binky the Space Cat* by Ashley Spires
- *Backpack Stories* by Kevin O’Malley
- *The 3-2-3 Detective Agency* series by Fiona Robinson
- *The Secret Science Alliance* series by Eleanor Davis
- *Sascha Smart, Private Detective* series by Simon Cheshire
- *Kaline Klattermaster’s Tree House* by Haven Kimmel
- *Ramp Rats: A Graphic Guide Adventure* by Liam O’Donnell
- *Soccer Sabotage: A Graphic Guide Adventure* by Liam O’Donnell

You can find an extensive list of graphic novels and middle-grade fiction at: www.juniorlibraryguild.com

Diary of a __________ Kid Book Share
Have students use a composition book to create their own version of an illustrated diary about their summer vacation. Encourage them to create a cover for the book. Then have the students share a part of their diaries by reading them to other younger classes (be sure the material is appropriate beforehand). Finally, display the students’ diaries alongside the Wimpy Kid series on a table in the library.
Suggestions for Further Reading

Other Books by Jeff Kinney

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Do-It-Yourself Book

Other Middle-Grade Fiction Books

## Correlations to National Standards
### For Grades 3–5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Standard Number</th>
<th>Standard Objective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Languages Arts: English</td>
<td>NL–ENG.K–12.1</td>
<td>Reading for Perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Languages Arts: English</td>
<td>NL–ENG.K–12.2</td>
<td>Reading for Understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Languages Arts: English</td>
<td>NL–ENG.K–12.3</td>
<td>Evaluation Strategies</td>
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<td>Languages Arts: English</td>
<td>NL–ENG.K–12.4</td>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages Arts: English</td>
<td>NL–ENG.K–12.5</td>
<td>Communication Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>NL–ENG.K–12.6</td>
<td>Applying Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages Arts: English</td>
<td>NL–ENG.K–12.8</td>
<td>Developing Research Skills</td>
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