

Attack of the Fluffy Bunnies

by Andrea Beaty
illustrated by Dan Santat

A novel for ages 8-12

ISBN: 978-0810984165



About the book:

What would you do if evil, sugar-addicted, seven-foot-tall rabbits from another galaxy invaded your summer camp?

- A. Scream
- B. Hide your candy

Say, “There’s no such thing as evil, sugar-addicted, seven-foot-tall rabbits from another galaxy.”

If you are twins Kevin and Joules Rockman, you use what you have learned from watching the Late, Late, Late Creepy Show for Insomniacs to warn your fellow campers. And when that fails, you come up with a Plan A...then Plan B...and then Plan C. And whatever you do, you don’t act like Annoying Movie Character #1. Because Annoying Movie Character #1 is usually the first to “leave the movie,” which is a nice way of saying “kick the bucket,” which is a nice way of saying ...well....you know.

*Famous last words (words uttered by movie characters right before something really terrible happens). For a chart of other Famous Last Words, turn to page 21.

About the author:

Andrea Beaty spent an enormous amount of time reading as a kid. She also spent an enormous amount of time watching bad sci-fi movies. Because of this, she knows exactly what to do when faced with zombies, blobs, and creatures that live in black lagoons: RUN!!!! Andrea is the author of Cicada Summer, which School Library Journal called, the kind of satisfying read that Summer Reading is all about.” She blogs about funny books for kids at www.ThreeSillyChicks.com. Visit her online at www.AndreaBeaty.com

Author interview:

1. One wonders if perhaps authors occasionally partake in a bit too many jars of marshmallow fluff while writing books like this one. Could you affirm or dispel that myth for us?
2. How do you know if something is funny or not? Do you add in puns and humor as revision or do you, uhm, think like this whacky from the start?
3. What were some of your favorite books as a kid?

About the illustrator:

Dan Santat’s Guide of Geniuses won the Marion Vannett Ridgway Award for best debut author/illustrator. He has since illustrated numerous books and is the creator of the Disney animated series The Replacements. He lives with his wife and two children in Southern California. Visit him online at www.dantat.com

Pre-reading:

What would you expect out of a book with this title? What do readers need to keep in mind as they read whacky science fiction?

Questions to consider:

1. Who are the Fluffs exactly? Explain why you did or did not at first read the excerpt from Dr. Dewdy's book.
2. Would you like to attend camp Whatsitooya with Joules and Kevin? Describe it.
3. Compare and contrast Joules and Kevin. Who are you most like? Describe their parents while you're at it.
4. Which parts make you laugh out loud? Do you think everyone has the same sense of humor? Who do you know who would find this book hilarious (go ahead, it's ok, tell them).
5. How and why do the Fluffs get to earth? What consequences does this have for them as they approach earth? What happens to you as you approach school?
6. What do people suspect of Kevin after his first night at camp? Have you ever been accused of something you didn't do? How do you handle it?
7. Who are your favorite characters in the story? Why? What makes a good character? What makes a good villain?
8. Do you know anyone who speaks the gigglesnort dialect? List the steps to become proficient in this elegant language.
9. At Camp Whatsitooya a person can achieve, "personal growth and well-being through glitter." How else can this be achieved in your life? Loudest or smelliest bodily function olympics perhaps?
10. Explain what happens to the various counselors and campers at Whatsitooyou. How do they know when they've been compromised?
11. What would you do in Kevin and Joules place? Make a list of items that could come in helpful if you happen to get dumped off at this camp for next summer.
12. Make a list of episodes that might be featured on the Late, late, late Creepy Show for Insomniacs.
13. How do meals suddenly change at camp? What happens when you have too much sugar?
14. Create a chart like Kevin's What We Know chart (and don't forget the second column) and add details and important facts as they are revealed in the story. Or, you know, create one about how to survive middle school.
15. Are the Fluffs able to be defeated? How? Describe plans A, B, and C that are used to defeat them.
16. What show is used to hypnotize campers and turn their brains in to sweet mush? Brainstorm a list of at least five movies, television shows, or songs that could also work in a pinch.
17. What do you need to remember to look for as an adult? How should the search continue?
18. Explain what happens as the trio of kids tries to execute their plan. Finally, what do they do?
19. Can you think of any other famous last words?
20. What was your favorite part of the book? Which illustrations were your favorites? Why? What can you learn and apply to your own writing or drawing?

Projects:

Reading:

Important characters	Description	How they end up

Writing:

Make a chart of famous opening lines or scenes that match the format (and playfulness) of the one for last words on p.21

Create an advertisement inspired by the ones between chapters 23 and 24. What makes an excellent advertisement? How do you revise it?

or (again)

Create a Kevin inspired list of Things to Avoid. Leave your mother out of it.

Math:

Uhm, it's a summer book. Count your legos if you must. Or, you know some mathematical formula for exploring space in a safe and relaxing method.

Science:

Research the nutritional qualities available in a jar of Marshmallow fluff. How much of this should your average human consume? Your average Fluff? Develop a recipe that Fluffs would be proud to consume (and humans who love to rot their teeth and expand their waistlines, just sayin').

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