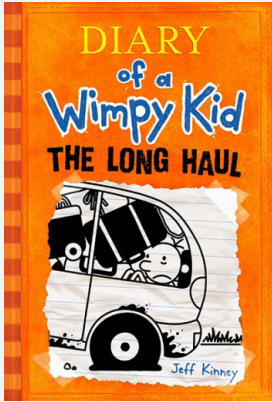


Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul



AUTHOR Jeff Kinney
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LA BOOKSHELF KV729
VOICETEXT Yes
LEXILE LEVEL 1000L
GRADE EQUIVALENT 5.4

OVERVIEW

A family road trip is supposed to be a lot of fun . . . unless, of course, you're the Heffleys. The journey starts off full of promise, then quickly takes several wrong turns. Gas station bathrooms, crazed seagulls, a fender bender, and a runaway pig—not exactly Greg Heffley's idea of a good time. But even the worst road trip can turn into an adventure—and this is one the Heffleys won't soon forget.

SUGGESTED GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

- Venn Diagram
- ABC Brainstorming
- Character Comparisons
- Character Worksheet
- Book Review

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Jeff Kinney is an online game developer, designer, the creator of Poptropica.com, and the #1 New York Times best-selling author and illustrator of the wildly popular Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. Born in Maryland in the 1970s, Jeff spent his childhood in the Washington, D.C., area and moved to New England in 1995. As a young reader, Jeff was inspired by the books of Judy Blume, Beverly Cleary, Piers Anthony, and J.R.R. Tolkien.

Jeff attended the University of Maryland in the early 1990s. It was there that he ran a comic strip called "Igdoof" in the campus newspaper and knew that he wanted to become a newspaper strip cartoonist. Although Jeff started writing down ideas for Diary of a Wimpy Kid in 1998, it wasn't until spring of 2007 that his book was published — and quickly became a New York Times bestseller, eventually reaching the number one spot. In 2010, Diary of a Wimpy Kid was made into a movie starring Zach Gordon as Greg Heffley.

In 2009, Jeff was named one of the 20 Artists & Entertainers in The TIME 100, the magazine's list of The World's Most Influential people. Jeff lives Plainville, Massachusetts with his wife and their two sons.

Visit Jeff online at wimpykid.com and gregheffley.blogspot.com. Taken from www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/jeff-kinney.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

Summer Vacation

Summer Vacation is a period of about 3 months during a traditional school year. During this time, there is no school for students. Students use this time off to engage in recreational, family, or additional scholastic activities.

Questions:

- Does your school go year-round or do you have summer vacation?
- During vacation time, what activities do you usually do?
- Which activities are part of your family tradition?

Family Vacation/Road Trip

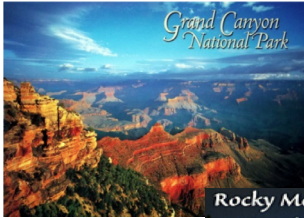
A family road trip is when members of the family travel together to a certain location. Everyone travels in usually one vehicle towards a specific destination.

Questions:

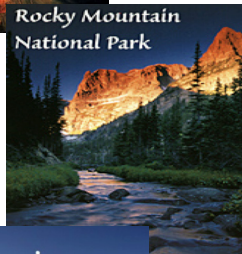
- Has your family ever been on a road trip? Where did you go? Describe both the good and challenging experiences you had on this trip?
- Describe your favorite experience you had while on a family trip? Why was it your favorite, and what did you learn from the experience?
- If you could go anywhere with your family, where would it be and why? (for those who have not traveled extensively, you may want to show them postcards of famous landmarks and have them decide which one to travel to)

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Examples:
Grand Canyon



Rocky Mountain National Park



California Beach



- If you had to send Flat Stanley to someone, who would you send it to? Where would be the places he “visits”, and what adventures would he have?
- The Underpants Bandits books have been banned from Greg’s school library. Write a letter to the PTA of the school telling them why the books should be in the library. Be as detailed as possible.
- The Heffley family visits many places. Pick one of the destinations they visit, and as Greg, write a letter to a friend describing who you see, **what** you do while there, **when** you visited there, **where** you go while visiting this place, **why** your family decides to go there, and **how** the trip was either a positive or negative experience.

VOCABULARY

- Authentic (*adj*): not false or copied; genuine; real
- Essentials (*noun*): a basic or necessary element or item
- Socialize (*verb*): to associate or mingle sociably with others
- Protest (*noun*): an expression or declaration of objection, disapproval, or dissent
- Skeptical (*adj*): showing doubt
- Ballistic (*adj*): extremely and usually suddenly excited, upset, or angry
- Enriching (*verb*): to add greater value or significance to
- Random (*adj*): unknown, unpredictable, or out of place
- Generation (*noun*): a group of individuals, most of whom are the same approximate age, having similar ideas, problems, or attitudes

WRITING PROMPTS

- Which character in the book is the most like you? Explain at least 3 ways in which you’re alike.
- Which character in the book is the least like you? Explain at least 3 ways in which you are different.
- Greg’s mother asks the family to only pack the “bare essentials” for their family trip. Besides clothes, what 5 items would you absolutely need for the trip, and why?

LITERARY DEVICES

Point of View

- Narrated in 1st person point of view through Greg Heffley

Setting

- The van that they take on the trip
- A bad motel with a dirty pool, cigarette burns in the rooms, and wet towels
- The Country Fair where Manny wins a pig
- A hotel where they must hide the pig due to a no pet policy
- The veterinary hospital where Greg has to be treated for the pig bite on his finger
- A restaurant where Greg has the best apple pie of his life
- Soak Central Waterpark where Rodrick embarrasses Greg
- Home after they get the pig back

Characters

- Greg Heffley (protagonist)
- Susan Heffley (Mom)
- Frank Heffley (Dad)
- Manny Heffley (younger brother)
- Rodrick Heffley (older brother)
- Beardo Family (antagonists)
- The Heffley’s pig

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COMMON CORE

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2
Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.5
Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fit together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.6
Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.7
Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text (e.g., graphic novel, multimedia presentation of fiction, folktale, myth, poem).