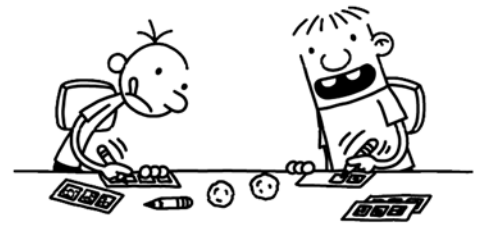


1. Make your OWN comic



In all of the Wimpy Kid books, Greg likes to draw comic strips – and his skills get him the title of official cartoonist for the school paper, though he doesn't last long in the job! Can you do any better? Use the boxes below to write your own short comic strip. Here are five tips to get you started.

- 1 Get your idea.** Try to imagine something funny that could happen at school or home. Choose your characters and give them names – two or three will be enough for a short strip like this. Think of a title that sums up the story.
- 2 Plan your story.** You've got four boxes, so work out what's going to happen in each one. Try sketching a rough draft first. Strips should have a proper start, where you introduce characters; and an end, which will be the punchline for your joke.
- 3 Keep it simple.** Greg's comics have easy line drawings and just a few speech bubbles. Don't make the boxes too crowded.
- 4 Get your own style.** Look at other comics for ideas, but then draw what and how you like.
- 5 Show it to your friends.** Finding out what people do and don't like about your comic strip will help you to improve.

My comic strip is called _____

1	2
3	4



2. Keep your OWN diary



If you've enjoyed reading Greg's diary, why not try writing one of your own? Diaries are fun to keep and a great way of recording your feelings. They will be fun to look back on in years to come, too. Start by treating yourself to a book that you will enjoy writing in – a simple empty notebook will do just fine – and follow our ten tips to get your diary going.

- 1 Be honest.** Your diary should reflect your own, unique personality. Write what you want to write – not what you think you should write!
- 2 Try to write every day.** Set aside a quiet time of day when you know you will get some spare moments to write in your diary. Just before bed can be a good time. But don't worry if you skip a day or two – just pick it up again without trying to catch up.
- 3 Keep it short and sweet.** Entries can be as long or short as you want. But you're more likely to continue with your journal if you keep them brief. On quiet days, a few lines are enough. You can write more when there's something exciting to report!
- 4 Write about everyday things.** Like what you've done at school, what books you've read and what you've had for tea. You might think this sort of stuff is boring, but you'll enjoy looking back on it later.
- 5 Ask yourself questions.** If you're stumped for something to write, try answering these questions. What have I enjoyed doing today? What have I found difficult? And how do I feel right now?
- 6 Draw and stick things in.** Follow Greg's example and mix up your writing with some sketches. Diaries are also great places to keep special mementoes, so glue in photographs, tickets, receipts or things you've cut out of newspapers or magazines – they all help to bring your writing alive.
- 7 Keep it safe.** If, like Greg, you're worried about other people reading your diary, store it where no-one will find it. You can buy hollow books that are perfect for hiding diaries in!
- 8 Look back on it.** Once you've been writing for a while, try looking back over some of your early entries. It's a great way of seeing how you and your writing style have changed and grown.
- 9 Write a blog too.** Putting your journal online is a good way of telling your friends and family what you've been up to, and it's easy to get started – just search online for blog software. But be careful – blogs can be read by anyone. So only start one if you're happy for your thoughts to be seen in public, and talk to your parents first.
- 10 Have fun!** Remember, there are no rules about keeping a diary, so just write what you want. Think of a diary as a friend you can talk to whenever you like.



3. Wimpify YOURSELF

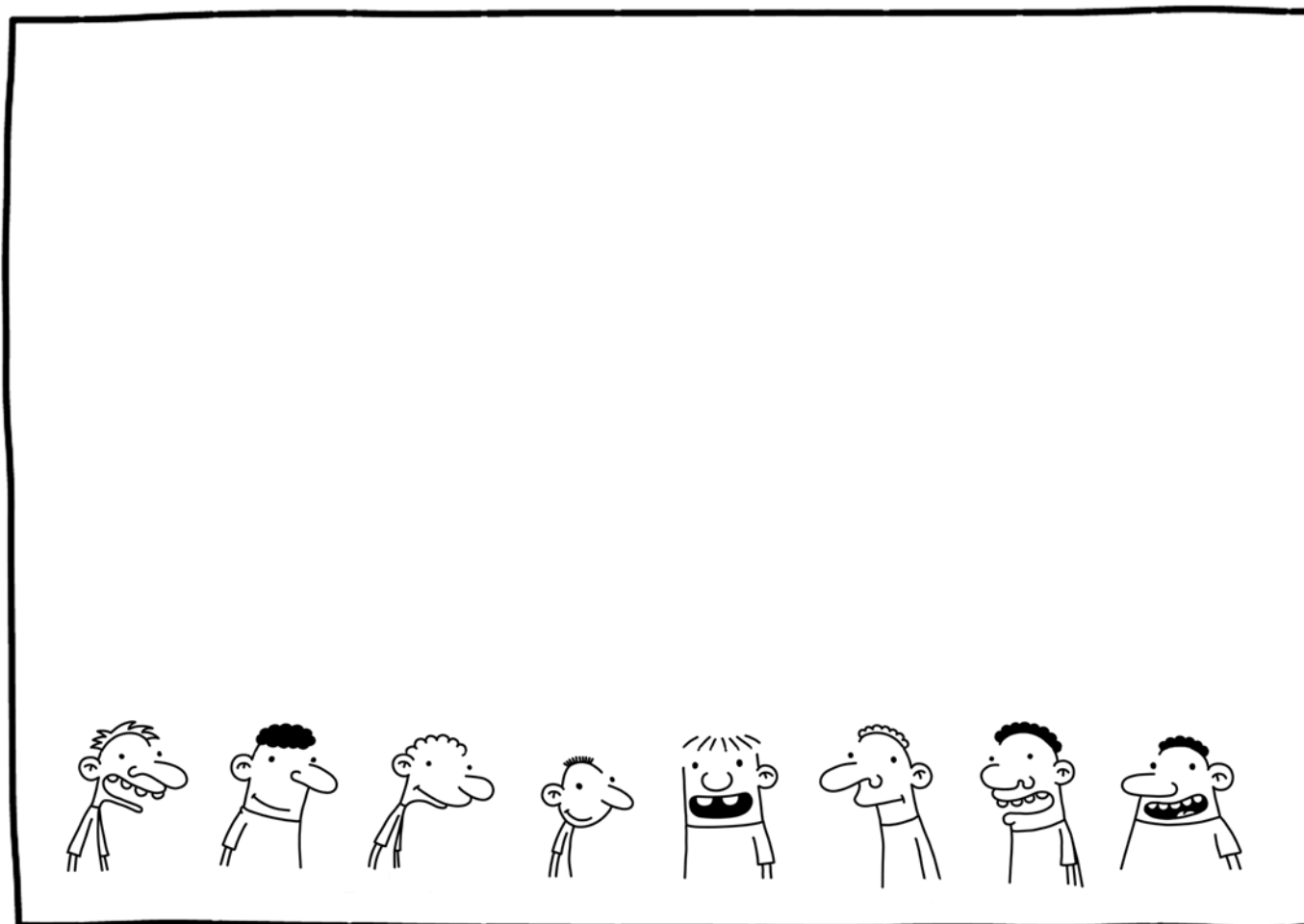


Put yourself into the Wimp Kid story by sketching your own character!

Start by practicing drawing like Jeff Kinney. You could use tracing paper to draw over one of the sketches and get used to the lines and style of the characters. Or put some paper alongside a book and try to copy a drawing as closely as possible. Remember some of the characteristics of the Wimp Kid drawings: simple, clean lines; big heads; thin arms and legs; and mouth expressions that show you how a character is feeling.

Now try drawing yourself! Set yourself up facing a mirror, or get a recent photo to base your sketch on. Think about the features that you want to highlight. You could try giving yourself a perfectly round head like Greg's, and adding in simple features from there, exaggerating any that you like. So if you've got short hair, just draw a few strands like Greg's, and if you're often smiling, add in a big happy mouth. You could try drawing your friends or family too! Don't forget you can also wimpify yourself online at the Wimp Kid Club website: www.wimpkidclub.co.uk.

My new Wimp Kid character is _____



4. JOIN the Diary of a Wimpy Kid “Reading is Fun” Club

If you have already read the Wimpy Kid books, you’ll already know that reading is terrific fun. But now here’s the chance to prove it - with the Wimpy Kid “Reading is Fun” Challenge!

Puffin Books and the Wimpy Kid Club invite you to take this special challenge to prove your commitment to the Wimpy cause. It’s a fun way to get to know the world of Greg Heffley even better, and to have lots of fun with your reading, writing and drawing along the way. Here’s a step-by-step guide to what you have to do to complete the Challenge and join the “Reading is Fun” Club.

- 1 READ** any three Wimpy Kid books. Use the guide in this pack to choose which ones to read - or enjoy the whole collection!
- 2 DOWNLOAD** the “Reading is Fun” activity sheet at www.wimpykidclub.co.uk and complete all these steps
- 3 CHOOSE** the best bits from your favourite book.
- 4 WRITE** a diary entry about the funniest thing that’s ever happened to you at school. See the tips in this pack for starting your own diary
- 5 DRAW** your own comic strip.
- 6 PASS IT ON** to three of your friends - or more if you like. Tell them how much fun the Wimpy Kid books are!
- 7 PRINT** your official Wimpified certificate at www.wimpykidclub.co.uk

Once you’ve followed these six steps, congratulations - you’re now a fully-fledged member of the “Reading is Fun” Club - one of the most popular clubs in the world!

The “Reading is Fun” Club is just one of the great things to do on the Wimpy Kid Club website. There’s also a brilliant Wimp Wars game, a fun guide to Greg Heffley’s neighbourhood, Wimpy Kid wallpapers, a downloadable fan pack and loads more. It’s also a great way to stay in touch with all the latest Wimpy Kid news, including details of new books from Jeff Kinney. Membership is free and it only takes seconds to register.



Join today at www.wimpykidclub.co.uk



6. How much do YOU know about Wimpy Kid?



So, you think you're a Wimpy Kid expert? Test your knowledge of Greg's world with these ten questions. Answers are at the foot of the page - but no cheating!

1 What is the name of Greg's younger brother?

2 And what is the name he uses for Greg because he can't say the word brother?

3 What does Greg's family call the play money that the children get for doing jobs around the house?

4 What is the name of Rodrick's band?

5 What is the food on the basketball court that the children at school are afraid of?

6 In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, what is the name of the comic that Greg and Rowley start?

7 In *Rodrick Rules*, what is the name of Greg's uncle who stays for Thanksgiving?

8 In *The Last Straw*, which girl Greg does give a Valentine's Day card to?

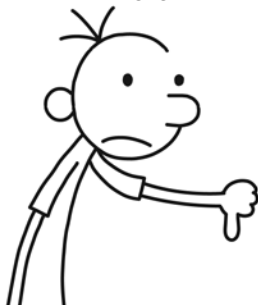
9 In *Dog Days*, what kind of service do Greg and Rowley set up to earn money?

10 Including the new Wimpy Kid title, *The Ugly Truth*, what colours are the covers of the five books so far?

My score: _____ out of 10

So how did you rate?

0-2 Moron 3-5 Rowley could do better 6-8 Totally awesome 9-10 Wimpy Kid mega-fan



Answers: 1 Manny 2 Bubby 3 Mom Bucks 4 Loaded Dipper 5 Cheese
6 Zoo-wee Mami! 7 Joe 8 Natasha 9 Gardening 10 Red, blue, green, yellow and purple



7. Write an ODE to Wimpy Kid

After you have read the Wimpy Kid books, try writing a poem about them! You could use it to explain what you liked about the stories and how you felt when you finished them. Or imagine you are Greg and are writing a poem about one of the things that have happened to him in the books. You have three verses of four lines each, and your poem doesn't have to rhyme - just write what you like!

If you are good at playing an instrument, you could try setting your poem to music and turning it into a Wimpy Kid song! If you need inspiration, try listening to the theme tune from the Wimpy Kid film. It's called "What Do You Want From Me?" by a band called Forever the Sickest Kids.

You can hear it on the film or look it up on the YouTube website.

This poem is called _____



A large rectangular box with a thick black border, containing ten horizontal lines for writing a poem.



8 MY secret Wimpy file

Greg Heffley tells his readers everything about him in the Wimpy Kid books. Now it's time to reveal some of YOUR secrets - by answering these ten questions. But whatever you do make sure you put it someplace safe after you finish it.

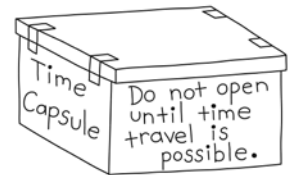
1 What is the most embarrassing thing that has ever happened to you at school?



2 Greg's injuries have included a Barbie shoe stuck up his nose. What is the daftest injury that you have ever had?



3 What three things would you put in a time capsule?



a _____ b _____ c _____

4 Greg has fallen asleep at school and in a bath. Where's the strangest place that you have ever slept?

5 What's the best practical joke you've ever played on anyone?

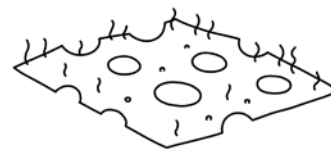




8 MY secret Wimpy file

/CONTINUED

6 Rowley had to eat the Cheese. What's the worst thing you've ever eaten?



7 If you were to start a band like Rodrick, what would you call it?



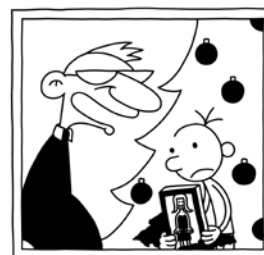
8 In the first Wimpy Kid book, Greg wants to run for school treasurer. If you could stand for office in your school, what three laws would you pass?

“ I hereby decree that no middle school student shalt have to take a shower after Phys Ed. ”

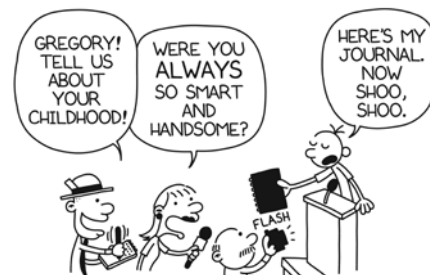


a _____ b _____ c _____

9 What is the worst Christmas or Birthday present you have ever received?



10 In 15 years time, Greg thinks he will be in a swimming pool at his mansion, counting his money. What do you think you will be doing?



9. Make it PURPLE

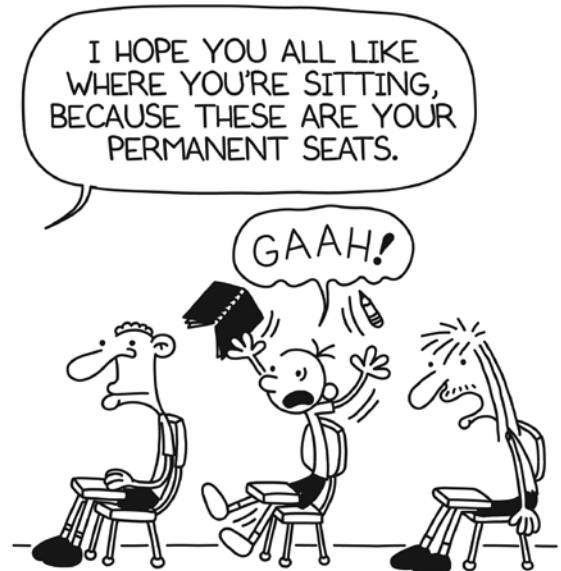
As all Wimpy Kid fans know, the colour of the covers of their books are important. The original *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* was red, while the next three covers were blue, green and yellow. Now, the new Wimpy Kid book - *The Ugly Truth* - is... purple! Why not mark the occasion by trying one or more of these purple-icious activities?

- 1 Wear purple.** OK, so your school might not want you to wear a purple shirt or hat on Wimpy Kid Wednesday! But you could always slip on a pair of purple socks, or throw on a purple outfit when you get home after school. The more purple the better.
- 2 Eat purple.** Can't think of any purple food to eat? Think again! Grapes, plums, aubergines, cabbage are all purple options - and all good for you too. Blackberries and blueberries are just about purple enough as well. Alternatively, ask your mum or dad to find some purple food colouring - it'll turn anything you eat the right colour!
- 3 Drink purple.** Blackcurrant squash is the ideal choice for Wimpy Kid Wednesday! Alternatively, try grape juice - or ask your mum or dad to help you make a berry smoothie.
- 4 Draw purple.** Get out your purple pens or pencils to complete one of the drawing activities in this pack - or just sketch out your favourite Wimpy Kid characters.
- 5 Read purple.** Search your school or local public library for another book with a purple cover. Take a lucky dip - you might end up loving the book you choose almost as much as the Wimpy Kid ones!
- 6 Create purple.** Mix together red and blue paint - and make purple! Vary the amount of the red and blue paint that you use to create different shades of purple.
- 7 Write a purple poem.** What does purple mean to you? Brainstorm your thoughts, and then put them together in a short poem with the title 'Purple'.
- 8 Make something purple.** Put together a special collage by collecting scraps of anything purple that you find. Pictures, scraps of paper, fabric, buttons, wool, tissue paper - anything!
- 9 Research purple.** What can you discover about the colour purple? Research it in your school or public library, and explore the history of the colour and its various uses. Try to produce ten fascinating purple facts to impress your friends.
- 10 Think purple.** How many things can you think of that are coloured purple? There are some clues on this sheet to get you started - but can you come up with ten more items?



10. DISCUSSION TOPICS

The Wimpy Kid books are primarily meant to entertain, but they do raise some interesting and important themes for discussion. Here are four ideas for leading a classroom dialogue around the books.



1 Starting a new school or year

Starting a new school year is a big step, no matter what age children are – and moving from primary to secondary school is one of the most challenging things young people will ever have to do. The Wimpy Kid books help by exploring some of the issues all students have to face with empathy and humour, but often Greg doesn't do the right thing, which offers lots of room for discussion. Talk to children about their own experiences. Have they recognised any of the situations that Greg and his fellow students encounter? How do the feelings of the characters compare to their own? The Wimpy Kid books are set in America – so what differences can children see in the education system there compared to here?



2 Bullying

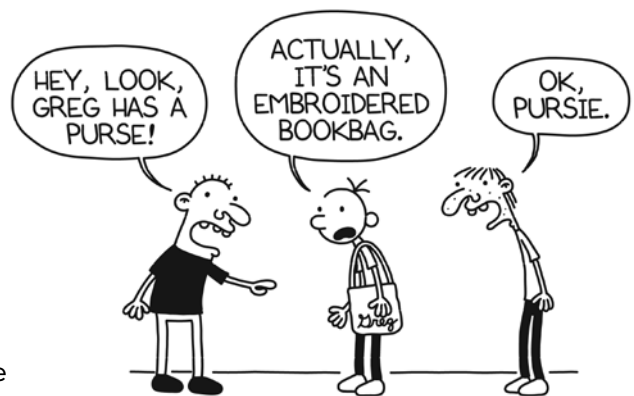
There are plenty of incidents of bullying in the Wimpy Kid books, and though they are handled with humour, there are serious messages involved. Discuss how Greg, Rowley and his friends deal with bullying. Ask children how they would deal with similar situations. How would they respond to bullies, and who would they ask for help? Use this opportunity to outline the school's policy on bullying and emphasise the seriousness of the issue.



10. DISCUSSION TOPICS /CONTINUED

3 Being yourself

Despite his appearance and misadventures, Greg is in many ways a very heroic character because he is always honest and true to himself. Reading the books, did the children find him heroic? How much did they identify with Greg? Were there elements of any other characters in the book that they recognised in themselves? Talk about the importance of being yourself and resisting pressure from your peers to do things you don't want to do. You could also discuss the benefits of writing a diary and reflecting on the things you have done; see the diary activity in this pack for more about this.



4 Comic strips and the links between text and drawing

The Wimpy Kid books are very popular with reluctant or hesitant readers, who often find that the blend of text and cartoons make them less daunting and more readable than conventional novels. Explore the reasons for this. Ask children whether they prefer the text or drawings. Could they read the story with just one or the other? Or are both essential to the books? How do the drawings add to and enhance the text? Do they make it easier to read the book? If so, why? What other examples of books with this blend of text and drawing can children think of? How is it similar and different to the graphic novel format? Encourage children to try producing their own drawings or comic strips using the activities in this pack.



The "Reading Is Fun" gang says "no" to video games.

Now Gregory can't stop reading!



Gregory plays a game of hide 'n' seek with a summer pal.

THE END.

