

ENRICHMENT GUIDE & SOCIAL STORY

DIARY

60  
Minute  
VERSION

of a  
Wimpy Kid

THE MUSICAL



Kids deserve the best.

*This production's Pay What You Choose Performance has been sponsored by Children's Wisconsin, First Stage's Inclusion & Accessibility Partner.*



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THEATER



## DEAR FIRST STAGE FRIENDS,

Middle School, ugh. It's the worst. Greg is determined NOT to be at the bottom of the popularity chart. He'll leave that to his weird neighbor Fregley, or, maybe Greg's best friend, Rowley Jefferson. But it's not going to be Greg... no way. Will Greg's plans lead him to sacrifice his one true friend? Can anyone avoid the dreaded Cheese Touch? Grab a hall pass, and don't be late for an adventure familiar to anyone who survived middle school with this hilarious and heartfelt musical.

Enjoy the show,



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# PLOT SUMMARY

Greg Heffley is starting his first day of middle school, and Greg shares that he is writing about his life in a journal--not a diary!--for when he becomes famous. In Greg's first class, he's hoping to finally get to sit with the cool kids in the back, but his teacher has other plans. All because this teacher remembers his troublesome, punk-rock older brother Rodrick, Greg is forced to sit in the front between two kids who are anything but cool. Fortunately, in his next class, he sees that the seating chart is alphabetical and he gets to sit next to his friend Chirag Gupta. Him and Chirag are always playing pranks on each other.

At lunch, Greg discovers that everything has changed since elementary school: some of the nerdiest kids are now the most popular. Greg wonders where he is in the new popularity contest. In gym class, he finds out that Fregley, a socially awkward and sometimes gross kid, is in last place of the popularity contest. The only thing that can make a kid less cool than Fregley is getting The Cheese Touch from The Cheese, an old, disgusting piece of cheese that has been forgotten on the basketball courts.

After school, Greg's best friend Rowley, who is far behind in the popularity contest, enthusiastically asks Greg to come over to his house to play. Greg is worried about becoming uncool, so much so that he refuses to even call Rowley his best friend out of fear that Rowley will stick to him like glue. Greg corrects Rowley and agrees to go over to his house after school to hang out. At Rowley's house, Rowley shows Greg all about his new obsession with this

European pop singer Joshie who Greg thinks is for six year olds. Greg creates a plan to become the coolest kid at school by ending up in the yearbook's Class Favorites section.

The following day, Greg fails to win the Best Hair or Best Smile categories. At the end of class, the vice principal makes an announcement that student government elections are taking place. Greg decides to run for treasurer as it's a guaranteed way to get featured in the yearbook, but he's stunned to find out that Patty Farrell is running against him. She has had it in for Greg ever since he poured glitter glue down her back in the second grade. Patty shows that she is so much better than Greg she gets straight A's, bakes cupcakes for everyone, and performs a full song and dance with her friends. Greg gets kicked out of the running when he gets caught spreading nasty rumors about Patty.

A few weeks go by and Greg's popularity sinks further down. One day, Greg and Rowley head over to Chirag's house to play board games. Chirag pulls out a game for them to play and Greg discovers that all of the money in the board game is Mom Bucks: the money his mom gives him for doing chores. In his excitement over becoming independently wealthy, Greg lets it slip that Rowley is his best friend and Chirag is shocked. Greg can already feel his popularity going down the drain.

After his accidental profession that Rowley is his best friend, Greg begins to have nightmares

# PLOT SUMMARY

of European pop star Joshie, Rowley, and his parents declaring that Greg is their new best friend in a big pop song. Greg snaps out of his dream just in time for the start of the second semester. Greg has renewed hope that he'll win a Class Favorite category in the yearbook after he uses his Mom Bucks to buy a trendy jacket he found online. Unfortunately, his chances are ruined when he sees Rowley is wearing the exact same jacket.

While sitting in class, the vice principal announces that the school paper is looking for a new cartoonist. Greg and Rowley get together after school to brainstorm some comic strip ideas. Greg comes up with an idea about a kid getting into silly and unfortunate circumstances with the punchline always being the kid crying out "Zoo-wee mama!" with crossed eyes. Greg isn't thrilled with this idea, but Rowley loves it. Greg lets him write the "Zoo-Wee Mama" comics and Greg creates a new idea about a character who isn't the brightest: "Creighton the Cretin". Rowley doesn't like this idea and Greg snaps at him and says that he is no longer Rowley's bestie. Hurt by what Greg said, Rowley leaves.

The next day, Greg submits his comic and he becomes the new cartoonist! Greg imagines everyone celebrating him as he goes to get a copy of the newspaper. Tragedy strikes when Greg discovers his comic has been changed to "Creighton the Curious Student", a comic about a smart kid who encourages the readers to do better in school. Everyone starts making fun of Greg for being a teacher's pet and he quits his job as the newspaper's cartoonist.

After school, he finds out that Rowley didn't invite him over for a sleepover like he always does, and invited over Chirag instead. Greg decides he's going to prove doesn't need Rowley by having a sleepover with Fregley. His sleepover turns into a big nightmare: Fregley asks him to smell his scabs and pick his blisters, Fregley's mom is creepy and won't let them play video games, and Fregley eats all of Greg's jellybeans and chases Greg to have a tickle fight. Greg runs and hides from Fregley in the bathroom. While he's hiding, Greg realizes how challenging being in middle school is and that he misses Rowley.

The next day, Greg discovers that Rowley has become the newspaper's cartoonist and the "Zoo-Wee Mama" comics have become a huge hit at school. On the basketball courts, Greg accuses Rowley of stealing the comic and they get into a big argument. A group of eighth graders stop the fight to bully Greg and Rowley. Greg watches in horrified disgust as the bullies make Rowley eat The Cheese. Everyone crowds around after the bullies leave and find that Rowley is standing right where The Cheese used to be. Before anyone can say Rowley ate The Cheese, Greg lies for Rowley and declares that he threw away The Cheese. Everyone now believes Greg has The Cheese Touch and his popularity sinks all the way to the bottom. That doesn't matter to him, though, because his luck has finally turned around and he has his best friend Rowley back.

# PRE-SHOW QUESTIONS



1. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* was originally a book series before it was turned into several movies and now a musical. Have you ever read the books or seen the movies? How do you think the musical is going to be different from the books and movies? The same?
2. The main character, Greg Heffley, is really worried about being famous and the center of attention throughout the story. Is it important to you to become famous? Why or why not? What would you do to become the center of attention?
3. Greg tries to become the most popular kid at school by winning a Class Favorite category in the school yearbook-like Best Dressed, Class Clown, Most Talented. What Class Favorite Category would you try to win? What would you do to be selected as the winner?



# ZOO-WEE-MAMA! I WANT TO BE A CARTOONIST

## ACTIVITY

Greg sees that one of his best tickets to fame is becoming the school newspaper's new cartoonist. He claims that, other than video games, cartoons are what he was born to do. Let's try becoming cartoonists, too! Using the blank comic strip on the next page, create your own comic. Feel free to use one of the story arc ideas for inspiration. You can also print out multiple copies of the blank comic strip to make your comic even longer!

Some ideas for your comic's story arcs could be...

### **Beginning**

Knock, knock/Who's there?

Introduction

Problem

Set up for joke

### **Middle**

Knock, knock joke/Knock,  
knock joke who?

Set up for joke

Solution

Punchline

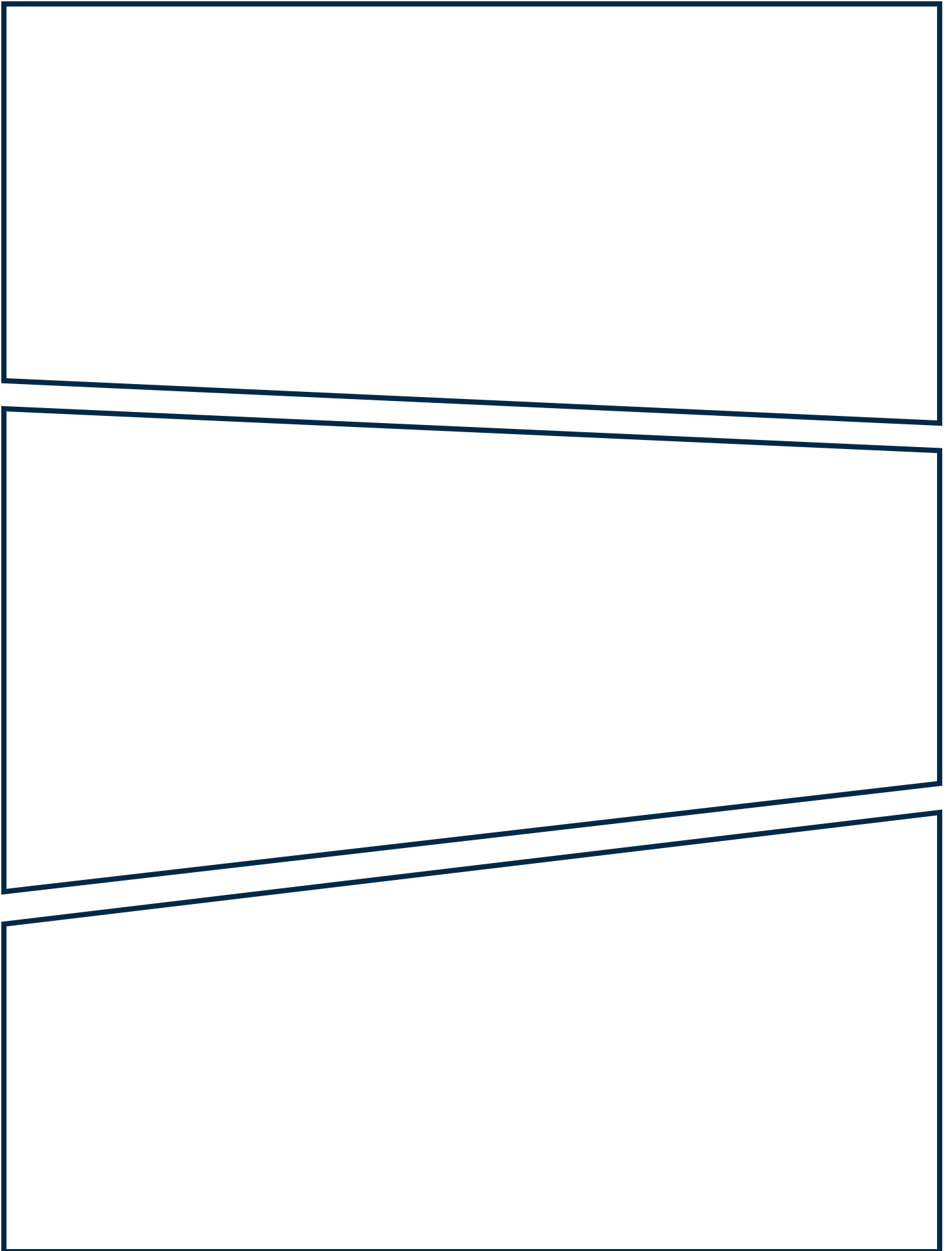
### **End**

Knock, knock joke punchline!

Punchline

Result

Reaction



# WHERE DO YOU BELONG?

## ACTIVITY

**"If I had a lot of mom bucks, I'd be struttin'.  
All you teachers can't tell me nut'tin'.  
I'd be drivin' all around in an Astin Martin,  
Got a diamond bowl for me to fart in,  
Eatin' all my meals a la carte, 'n'  
A suit of solid gold, wearin' aviator,  
Shoes made 'a' alligators,  
Step off, haters, cause I'm fancy."**

**– Greg Heffley**

As soon as Chirag starts handing out the fake money to play a board game with Greg and Rowley, Greg's jaw drops. The fake money for the game is the exact same kind of money his mom gives him when he does chores. Greg has never seen so many Mom Bucks in one place. In fact, there's 100,000 Mom Bucks!! The trio of friends begins to brainstorm all of the ways they could spend their new fortune.

While Greg uses his riches to buy a trendy jacket he found online, there are many more possible ways to spend the money. If you came across 100,000 Mom Bucks, what would you spend it on? For this activity, your challenge is to dream up how you will spend ALL of the Mom Bucks-try and get as close to zero leftover Mom Bucks as possible! Use the chart on the next page to help keep track of your spending.

Note: One Mom Buck is the same as one penny (\$0.01 or 1 cent). That means 100,000 Mom Bucks is \$1,000!!



<b>THING YOU'RE BUYING</b>	<b>COST</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	

# BETTER THAN YOU: RUNNING FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## ACTIVITY

**“I see you signed up to run for Treasurer, Greg Heffley. Well. I look forward to running a spirited campaign. May the best Treasurer win!”**

**– Patty Farrell**

Greg believes that running for Treasurer of the Student Government will be the easiest way for him to reach stardome. There are many ways to encourage other students to vote for you—like giving away baked goods, showing off how smart you are, and singing a whole musical number with your best friends behind you. One of the easiest ways to get your name out there is by creating posters to hang up around your school! In this activity, you are going to pretend to run for your school’s Student Government and create a poster that is easy for your fellow classmates to see who you are and why they should vote for you.

### **MATERIALS:**

- Paper (This can be blank printer paper, construction paper, or even a big poster paper!)
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Coloring materials (markers, colored pencils, crayons)

### *Optional:*

- Tape
- Ruler
- Glue
- Colorful construction paper

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Decide what position you want in the student government. Every position is different and requires a different set of skills. Take a look at the list below to help guide your decision:
2. Decide on some important things that you want to improve in your school. These are things that will tell the other students what you hope to change when you join the student government. Some things you could focus on are: improving school lunches, redecorating the school, improving how teachers communicate with their students, more free time.

# BETTER THAN YOU: RUNNING FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## ACTIVITY

- Optional: create a slogan. A slogan is a short phrase that is easy to remember that also gives a quick idea of who you are.
- Design your poster! We find it helpful to sketch out your ideas on some scrap paper before you start working on your actual poster. As you're designing, consider:

How easy is it to read?

Can you read it from far away?

Is it eye catching?

Does it tell the viewer who you are and what you stand for?

Have a trusted friend look over your poster to see what they think.

Here are some examples of some Student Government Posters created by the members of First Stage's Education Team!



- Create your poster! Feel free to get creative with how you create your poster. You can use different colors, fun letters, or even make it pop off the page with cool textures or 3D art!
- Share your poster when it's all finished with your friends, family, and classmates. You can even share it with us at First Stage by sending a picture to us at <a href="mailto:education@firststage.org">education@firststage.org</a>. If you decide to run for Student Government, feel free to ask your principal if you can hang it up in your school!

# TECH TALK: STAGE MANAGEMENT WITH KELLY SCHWARTZ

Every show is filled to the brim with different lights, sound effects, moving furniture and set pieces, a handful of handheld props, and many, *many*, actors. In order for everything to happen all at the right time and in the correct way, a show needs someone to call the shots. This person is the stage manager! For *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, we reached out to First Stage's Company Stage Manager Kelly Schwartz to get to know more about what she does.

## How long have you been working with First Stage?

This is my first season!

## What are some memorable shows you've worked on (First Stage and beyond)?

Getting to work on *Dream, Quickie! Dream!* was memorable both because it was a new play and I got to meet Donald Driver! He is the nicest human in the world and really embodies what First Stage is all about so it was a delight to share his life story with the city of Milwaukee.

The *Lightning Thief* has been memorable in many ways! A rock musical is so fun and challenging to work on. The lights and sounds are so specific that it is a fun challenge to call the show every day. It was also my first time working with Jeff Frank, the artistic director. It was fascinating watching how inspired he was throughout the rehearsal process and beyond. Seeing his passion for the show and for First Stage has been so inspiring.

I had the honor of working on *Ride the Cyclone* for McCarter Theatre Center at Princeton. I credit that show for making me the stage manager I am today. There were so many elements to it that included flying an actor and the use of a turntable, that I was truly challenged as a stage manager to really hone my skills. It was such a special experience and I was blessed to be at the helm.

## What is a stage manager?

This was said to me as a production assistant straight out of college: "Stage managers are like air traffic controllers for theater, sitting at the technical nerve centers of productions." This has stuck with me and I refer to it often when teaching aspiring stage managers because it is so true. Stage managers are the sole communicator to all of a theater's departments. We have to be fluid from artistic to production and beyond. We are always aware of everyone's needs and we do our best to accommodate them. The role of stage manager transitions/shifts as the show process unfolds. In rehearsals, we are the right hand person for the director/creative team. We take down all the blocking notations for the show and keep track of schedules. During tech, we take on the responsibility of fulfilling the designers' needs and we begin to handle all the technical aspects of the show. Once the show opens, we are solely responsible for maintaining the director's vision for the show and we are in charge of making sure the show runs smoothly every time. We work with lighting and sound board ops and a backstage crew to make it all happen!

# TECH TALK: STAGE MANAGEMENT WITH KELLY SCHWARTZ

## **What got you into stage management?**

Honestly, I wanted to get out of an audition junior year of college so I volunteered to be the assistant stage manager for my best friend who was stage managing. I was hooked from then on! I got to work closely with the theatre department chair on a couple of productions as well as the production manager for a regional theatre so I really hit the ground running and quickly realized that I had the perfect temperament/skill set to be a stage manager.

## **What is the most important part of your job? If you didn't do this, what would happen to the rest of the show?**

How can I choose only one?! The most important part of my job is COMMUNICATION. I have to be in constant communication with every aspect/department of the theatre company. If I didn't do this, the show literally wouldn't happen. I have to talk to my board ops to get the sound and light cues off on time. I have to talk to my assistant stage manager to make sure actors are in their places and props are being handled properly. I have to communicate with the wardrobe team to make sure costume changes are okay. I have to chat with the front of house manager to make sure the audience is seated and ready to go. Every aspect of my job requires me to communicate with my team.

## **What has been the most helpful piece of advice you have been given for your job?**

To LISTEN. As a stage manager, my gut instinct is to immediately find a solution. But that's not always what is needed/helpful in the moment. Listening is truly a stage manager's greatest asset.

## **If you had to be in a talent show, what talent would you show off?**

My acting skills! I would say the majority of stage managers were once performers. People seem to forget that or think that we are shy and don't like the spotlight. So I would love to perform a classical monologue and really shock some people.

## **What would you spend 100,000 mom bucks on?**

Oh my goodness, the possibilities are endless! All the candy from the candy jar, 2 hours of screen time, a back rub, 30 minutes of alone time, and having a friend over for movie night!

## **What would be your student government campaign slogan?**

I totally stole this from a google search... "Vote for the girl with the smile who will go the extra mile". Those who know me know that I always have a ready smile and I will do anything for the team!

# TECH TALK: STAGE MANAGEMENT WITH KELLY SCHWARTZ

Now that we've learned more about Kelly and what she does as the stage manager for *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, you can try out some of the things a stage manager does by organizing a talent show! In the book *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*, Greg enters the Winter Talent Show at his school. Talent shows require much more than a bunch of talented performers. It also takes a ton of backstage help, a director, an Emcee, performers, ushers, and a stage manager to make sure it all happens!

Use the directions below and Kelly's expert advice to help guide you as you organize your talent show. Feel free to get your friends, family, and classmates to help!

1. Figure out where you want your talent show to take place. If you want to do a talent show with your family, this could be a room in your home, a relative's home, or even at a park. If you want to do a show at your school, you will want to talk with your school's principal to find the right space to have your talent show. Then, decide when you want your show.
2. Find some talented people to be in the talent show! If you're doing your talent show at your school, it might be helpful to put up a sign-up sheet in a place where a lot of students might look and to have an announcement be made.

## TIPS FROM KELLY

### *How do you recommend communicating directions to people?*

I am a big fan of face to face communication. I always want my intentions/meaning to be clear so talking directly with someone is my best bet. I do recommend a good follow-up email to any conversation. It is good to have everything in writing and opens the door for any questions/concerns.

3. Find someone to be the Emcee of the event. An Emcee is the main announcer who introduces each performer and helps connect all of the performances together. This person is usually well-known and is very important to the people in the show. This can even be you!
4. Once you know who is going to be in the show, you will have to create the order for who performs when. Try to make sure you have a variety of different kinds of performers to help make the talent show interesting.

# TECH TALK: STAGE MANAGEMENT WITH KELLY SCHWARTZ

5. The Emcee is going to need a script to follow to help make their introductions for each performer more exciting and predictable. Using the order of performances you just made, write a script that tells the audience who is in each act, what they are doing, and maybe an interesting fact about their performance. Feel free to create cool or funny segues between acts to help tie them together.
6. How the stage looks is also an important part of any talent show. Decide how you will want the stage to look for each performer—some acts might require the stage to look a certain way using furniture and lighting. Consider: do you want the curtain to close between acts? Do you want the lights to change for each act? Ask your performers if they need anything!

## TIPS FROM KELLY

### ***Does the stage manager have a team backstage to help them during the performance? What do they do?***

YES! It depends on the needs of the show but at First Stage, I typically have one assistant stage manager that handles all the props the actors use. They will also make sure actors are entering when they are supposed to. They are my eyes and ears backstage. I also have a wardrobe supervisor and wardrobe assistant that take care of all the costumes. They preset all the costumes for the actors and even help with the super-fast costume changes. They will also help with mics and hairstyles.

### ***How does the stage manager communicate with the people backstage?***

Via headsets with microphones so we can talk/listen to each other throughout the show.

7. Find people to work backstage at the talent show. If you are turning on and off the lights, closing the curtains, and/or changing the furniture on the stage, it can be helpful to have people backstage whose only job is to make sure these changes happen. It is also helpful to have people backstage whose job it is to make sure the performers are backstage and ready for their performance.



# TECH TALK: STAGE MANAGEMENT WITH KELLY SCHWARTZ

- Optional: Sell your tickets! You don't have to charge anyone for the tickets, but having people come to you for tickets can help you to know how many people are going to be coming. Talent shows are also a great way to raise money for charities and organizations. Find an organization you care about and donate all of the ticket sales to this organization!

## TIPS FROM KELLY

### *Why is it important to start rehearsal and performances on time?*

So many reasons! The big one is we have to be respectful of everyone's time and schedules. For example, students who come to see the show are restricted by their span of day and bus schedules so we need to start on time to make sure everyone can enjoy the entire show!

- While all of the performers should be practicing their acts on their own time, it's important to get everyone together to run through the entire show. Find a day to have everyone get together to practice running through the order of the talent show. You can even schedule a day to have everyone see the other performers' acts. Performers love supporting each other! These rehearsals are also important for the backstage workers so that they have a chance to practice changing the stage for each performer. Make sure to let everyone know when these rehearsals are happening in advance so they can arrive on time and ready to work!

## TIPS FROM KELLY

### *Where is the stage manager usually during a performance and what do they do?*

Stage managers like to call a show commonly from two different spots - from a booth at the back of the audience or from stage left/right via monitors. It depends on the show's needs backstage. They call all the technical element cues. This can consist of lights, sound, projections, fly rails, turn tables, etc. They also will sometimes cue on actors for tricky entrances.

- Last but not least: have your talent show! Make sure to take pictures or record videos so that you can show off all of the talent and the amazing work you did to put together your talent show.

# POST SHOW QUESTIONS

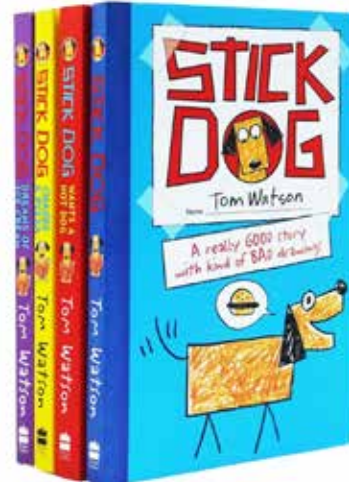
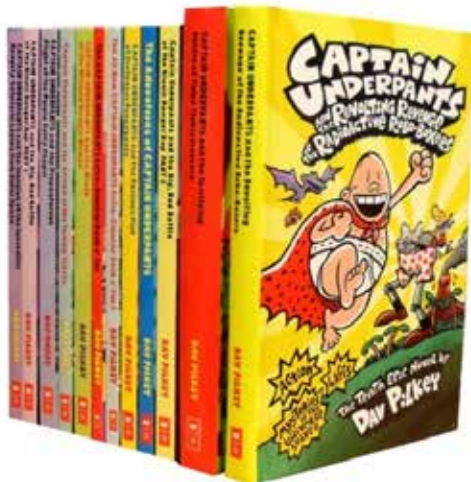
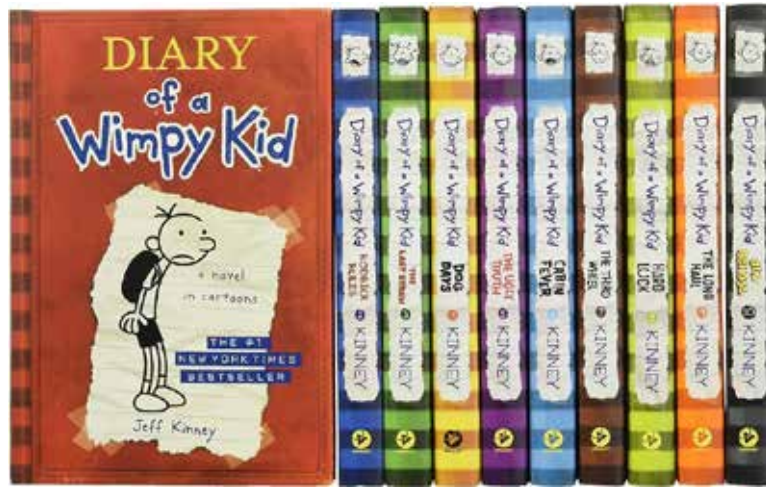


1. At the end of the story, Greg decides to do the right thing to protect his best friend Rowley – even if it means everyone thinks he has the cheese touch. Think of a time where you had to make a tough decision to do the right thing. What decision did you have to make? Why was it a tough decision? What happened as a result?
  
2. Greg brainstorms many ideas to solve his popularity problem. What solutions did he come up with? Were they good solutions? Why or why not? What would you have done instead?
  
3. In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, Joshie is the biggest pop star and his songs always have a great message to inspire his listeners. What celebrities do you look up to? Why do you like them? What do they do that inspires you?

# WHO SAID IT?

1. Cruisin 'round the block in my Bugatti  
Lin-Manuel Miranda ridin' shottie
2. Hola, Greg! Heh, heh! That means "hi!" I'm speaking Español, which is Spanish... for Spanish!
3. Drop the mic
4. Cause one day, when I'm flush with fame and glory  
The whole wide world will wanna know my story
5. I'm pretty sure a famous musician knows more about saving lives than you do, Greg.
6. Does this scab smell weird to you
7. You're just peanut butter and jealous
8. Was that bragging? I can't help it, I'm a stone-cold winner.
9. I will take out the trash  
A-when my trash is full.  
And I will wash my hands,  
'Cause I'm an animal.

# RECOMMENDED READING





# GOING TO A SHOW AT THE TODD WEHR THEATER

**SOCIAL STORY**

# I am going to see a First Stage show at the Todd Wehr Theater.



I am going to see the show with

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**Watching a play is like watching TV or a movie, except people are on stage in front of us.**



They are called actors. They can see and hear me too. I can't turn the channel or turn the volume up and down.



# A play is made up of many interesting things.



Costumes



Scenery



Sound



Lighting

When we arrive at the theater, we will probably have to climb some stairs. There are stairs outside the building, and inside the building.



We may need to wait in line to scan our tickets.



When we are waiting, I can stay with my family or teacher.

## An usher will help us find our seats.

We will enter the theater and find our seats.



There are bathrooms in the lobby. If I need to, I can use the bathroom before we go to our seats.

**Someone will show us where to sit.**



The audience area is for all of us.



The stage is for the actors only.



## **When I am in the theater waiting for the show to start:**

1. I can talk to my family or friends.
2. I can take a short break in the lobby.



## There will be a lot of people in theater and it may get noisy.

If it gets too loud:

1. I can bring headphones if I want.
2. I can put my hands over my ears.
3. I can leave the room and take a short break in the lobby.



I can come back when I am ready.

## During the show:

1. I can watch and listen to the actors quietly.
2. I can applaud if I like something.
3. I can hold things in my hand that make me feel comfortable.



## If I need to talk:

1. I can talk quietly to my family.
2. I can write down what I want to say.
3. I can leave the room.



## **After the show there will be a “talkback.”**

**The talkback is a chance for me to ask questions.**

1. I will raise my hand to show that I want to ask a question.
2. I will wait for the leader to call on me to ask my question.
3. I don't have to ask a question if I don't want.



**I can ask different kinds of questions:**

1. I can ask questions about the show.
2. I can ask questions about the scenery, costumes, lights, or sound.

**After the show is finished,  
I will leave the theater with my family.**





***Diary of A Wimpy Kid*** is told from the perspective of Greg Heffley. An eleven-year-old who desires his middle school experience to be better than his elementary school experience. Greg quickly realizes middle school has its own challenges: establishing himself, popularity, and maintaining his relationship with his best friend Rowley are at the top of Greg's list.



# MEET THE "CHEESE" CAST

These are the actors you will see at the  
Sensory Friendly Performance on  
Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 3:30PM.

# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60  
Minute  
VERSION



This is Ryan. They play **Greg Heffley**. Greg is eleven years old and holds a diary in his hand.



DIARY  
of a  
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This is William. They play **Rodrick Heffley**. Rodrick is Greg's older brother and lead singer of a rock band.



# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

60  
Minute  
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## THE MUSICAL



This is Benjamin. They play **Manny Heffley**.  
Manny is Greg's Younger Brother.

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This is Gwenivere. They play **Rowley Jefferson**.  
Rowley is Greg's best friend.

# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

60  
Minute  
VERSION

## THE MUSICAL



This is Samika. They play **Chirag Gulpta**.  
Chirag is a Middle school classmate.



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This is Caroline. They play **Patty Farwell**.  
Patty is a Middle school classmate.

# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

60  
Minute  
VERSION

## THE MUSICAL



This is Eric. They play **Charlie Davis**.  
Charlie is a Middle School Classmate.

# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60  
Minute  
VERSION



This is Karen. They play **Mom**.  
They also play Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Ira, and Fregley's Mom.



# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60  
Minute  
VERSION



This is Todd. They play **Dad**.  
They also play Mr. Huff and Mr. Underwood.

# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60  
Minute  
VERSION



This is Aria.  
They play **Yvette**.



This is Layla.  
They play **Pauline**.



This is Paxton.  
They play **Claire**.



This is Zoe.  
They play **Fregley**.

They are all middle school classmates.



# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60  
Minute  
VERSION



This is Grayson.

They play **Chris Hossey**.



This is Noah.

They play **Lionel James**.



This is Layton.

They play **Bryce**.

They are all middle school classmates.

# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

60  
Minute  
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## THE MUSICAL



This is Elliot and Blue.  
They play **8th Graders**.



# MEET THE "MIDDLE" CAST




# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60  
Minute  
VERSION



This is Harper. They play **Greg Heffley**. Greg is eleven years old and holds a diary in his hand.



DIARY   
of a  
Wimpy Kid  
THE MUSICAL



This is Alex. They play **Rodrick Heffley**. Rodrick is Greg's older brother and lead singer of a rock band.

DIARY 60 Minute VERSION  
of a  
**Wimpy Kid**  
**THE MUSICAL**



This is Beckett. They play **Manny Heffley**.  
Manny is Greg's Younger Brother.

# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

60  
Minute  
VERSION

## THE MUSICAL



This is Marko. They play **Rowley Jefferson**.  
Rowley is Greg's best friend.



DIARY 60 Minute VERSION  
of a  
**Wimpy Kid**  
**THE MUSICAL**



This is Mohul. They play **Chirag Gulpta**.  
Chirag is a Middle school classmate.

DIARY  
of a  
Wimpy Kid  
THE MUSICAL

60  
Minute  
VERSION



This is Jenna. They play **Patty Farwell**.  
Patty is a Middle school classmate.



# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

60  
Minute  
VERSION

## THE MUSICAL



This is Julius. They play **Charlie Davis**.  
Charlie is a Middle School Classmate.

# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60  
Minute  
VERSION



This is Karen. They play **Mom**.  
They also play Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Ira, and Fregley's Mom.

# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

60  
Minute  
VERSION

## THE MUSICAL



This is Todd. They play **Dad**.  
They also play Mr. Huff and Mr. Underwood.



# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60  
Minute  
VERSION



This is Cecelia.  
They play **Yvette**.



This is Hattie.  
They play **Pauline**.



This is Maggie.  
They play **Claire**.



This is Lainey.  
They play **Fregley**.

They are all middle school classmates.

# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL

60  
Minute  
VERSION



This is Liam.

They play **Chris Hossey**.



This is Mason.

They play **Lionel James**.



This is Kian.

They play **Bryce**.

They are all middle school classmates.



# DIARY of a Wimpy Kid

60  
Minute  
VERSION

## THE MUSICAL



This is Lio and Lucy.  
They play **8th Graders**.

# WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

(Notice the words **underlined and bolded**. These are the times the actors and sound might get loud. You may want to cover your ears.)

## PROLOGUE

Off Stage we hear voices chanting Diary! Diary! Diary! Diary! Diary of A Wimpy Kid!! Greg Heffley an eleven-year-old holding a book engraved with the word "Diary" runs on stage requesting the chanters to "wait and stop!" Greg shares the Journal he is holding in his hand is not a diary and will not be used to document his feelings. It is a journal that will be used to document important things."

**A cartoon version of Greg's life begins to animate around him as he begins singing "The Middle of It All." The song is interrupted by Greg's mom saying, "come on, everyone."**

## HEFFLEY'S HOME (KITCHEN): WHERE IS RODRICK?

The scene transitions to Heffley's home. It's a big day, Summer is over, and a new school year is beginning. Greg and his siblings are getting ready for the first day of school. Greg's mom is gathering the siblings together for a first day back to school family photo.

"Where is Rodrick? Ask Dad. "Rodrick, a surly teenager who looks like a junior roadie for a heavy metal band, appears behind Dad." "Let's get this over with," says Rodrick. Dad notices that Rodrick is wearing eyeliner, but Rodrick denies the obvious. Greg shares with the audience the challenges of being the middle child (being teased by his older brother and the expectation to take care of his younger siblings). "You suck!" whispers Rodrick in Greg's ear as they stand next to each other for the first day back to school family photo.

## MINIVAN RIDE TO SCHOOL

After taking the photo, they pack into the minivan and travel to school. Dad is driving the minivan and asking Greg to sit up straight. Simultaneously, Rodrick is whispering in Greg's ear "can you say loser," Greg? I can." "Rodrick don't tease your brother. Greg, please mop up Manny's drool, and do not forget your

diary," says Mom. "Journal," responds Greg. Greg is determined to refer to his diary as a journal.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ARRIVAL OUTSIDE & HALLWAY

They arrive at the school. Greg hops out and approaches the school entrance as the others drive off.

**Students are chanting "middle school! It's middle school!" The middle school students join Greg in singing "The Middle of It All". They appear in the school hallway, where the students and teachers bustle among the lockers. The song is interrupted by one of the eighth graders noticing Greg's diary and asking "what is that? A diary?!"**

"Everyone freezes and watches two eighth graders grab Greg's diary and start playing keep away with it." No, it's a journal," says Greg. The two eighth graders tease Greg about his diary which falls on the ground during the game of keep away. The eighth graders high-five as everyone laughs and walks away. Greg collects his diary from the ground. "This is why I needed one with the word "journal," but I got to keep writing in it," say, Greg to encourage himself.

## FUTURE PRESS CONFERENCE: DAY DREAMING

Greg daydreams about the day when he is famous, and everyone knows his story. "Suddenly, the hallway becomes a press conference of the future and students become reporters. Greg stands at the podium fielding as they ask questions. Greg holds up his hand, instantly silencing them all." Greg shares that he cannot answer all their questions because he is very famous and too busy. However, he will give them his Journal. As a result, there is a gasp from the reports as Greg continues his speech saying, "my journal, take it and learn." As the reporters lean in to grab the journal, Greg pulls it back again and tells the reporters "They must never adapt the journal into a musical." **The bell rings and Greg's press conference daydream instantly disappears, and we are back in the middle school classroom.**

# WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

## MR. HUFF'S CLASSROOM

Students are scrambling to find their desks. Greg notices two classes mates (Chris Hosey & Lionel James) from elementary school. Greg makes the decision to sit in the back away from Chris and Lionel. Greg finds a seat in the back row where all the cool kids sit. The teacher, Mr. Huff (who remembers Greg's brother Rodrick from a previous class), approaches Greg and leads him to the front of the class, forcing him to sit between Chris and Lionel. **The bell rings and the class scatters into Mrs. Clayton's classroom.**

## MRS. CLAYTON'S CLASSROOM

In this class the seating is in alphabetical order. This is positive for Greg because it means he will be seated near Chirag Gupta, the smartest kid in school. Greg shares with the audience it was always a pleasure to copy off Chirag Gupta. "Did you know that if your hand is bigger than your face it's a sign of low intelligence," asked Chirag. "Really," responded Greg. Greg holds his hand up to his face to check. Chirag causes Greg to hit himself. **Other kids laugh and the lunch bell rings. Lunchtime is where the quest for seating continues.**

## LUNCH TIME: SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Students carry trays, lunch boxes, and search for seats. A bunch of popular girls are at one table. A bunch of dorks at another table. Bryce Anderson, a wealthy, fashionable, and cute butted sixth grader, enters carrying a lunch tray. When the students in the lunchroom notice Bryce they all ask Bryce to sit with them. Greg wants to know how Bryce became so popular. Charlie explains that Bryce is popular because he's got clothes, money, and a cute butt. "That is all women care about these days," says Charlie Davis. "Hi, ladies," says Bryce as the girls dreamily sigh (ahhh).

## POPULARITY METER SCALE

"If Bryce Anderson popularity meter scale is one, then where does that leave the rest of us, ask Greg?" **The audience hears "Bing!"** Bryce flips his tray to reveal

his "popularity meter scale of one." **The audience hears "Bing! Bing! Bing!"** Everyone in the cafeteria freezes and tilts their trays and lunch boxes to reveal their popularity meter scale from one to 200. Greg asked Charlie about getting braces next week. Charlie responds by revealing his popularity meter scale of 73. **The audience hears a sad "Bing!"** Greg wonders where he fits on the popular meter scale. **A coach whistle blows, and everyone runs off stage.** The students transition to gym class.

## MR. UNDERWOOD'S GYM CLASS

Students line up in the gym as their coach, Mr. Underwood, barks orders. "Toe the line, people! Side by side! Let's go!" says, Mr. Underwood. "If Bryce is at the top of the popularity meter scale, just how low does this thing go!" Greg wonders. Fregley says hi to Greg. Fregley has a popularity meter scale of 201. "Do you want to see my secret freckle?" asked Fregley. No, thank you," says Greg.

Mr. Underwood presents the kids with a bag of basketballs. "Alright, people, grab a ball and hit the courts outside. Hustle, hustle! Let's go! Says Mr. Underwood. "Two eighth graders push Greg and the little kids out of the way, grab the basketballs, and run off." "Greg and Charlie find themselves alone on one of the outdoor courts."

## CHEESE TOUCH

"Spying something unspeakably horrible on the ground, they move closer to investigate. "What is this?" ask Charlie. "Looks like a piece of old cheese that fell out of somebody's lunch," says Greg. **Greg makes his way over to it, but suddenly Claire yells "Stop, boy!"** **Greg and Charlie whip around to see a gang of students staring at them grimly. Claire, the leader, issues a dire warning: "Back away from that cheese..., says Claire. "Why?" asked Greg. Claire sings about the impact the cheese touch has on their popularity meter scale. If a person touches the cheese, they will never be popular again. Greg runs off, terrified.**

# WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

## SCHOOL HALLWAY & POPULARITY NUMBERS

Greg reenters the school hallway clutching his diary (journal). Students are wandering the halls. Greg encourages himself not to give up on the first day of school. He wonders how he can figure out his ranking and keep his popularity meter scale from tanking. Greg is approached by Riley who greets him in Spanish. Rowley moved into Greg's neighborhood a couple years ago. Rowley shows Greg his poncho he got during his family vacation in the South of America. **"The audience hear another "Bing!" revealing Rowley's popularity meter scale of 157.** "Wanna come over and play?" asked Rowley. "Hang out?" Sure, I can "hang out"! Let's hang out!" says Greg. Greg does not like that Rowley used the word "play." They are in middle school now. They do not play together, they hang out. "Rowley skips off.

Several kids begin to swirl around Greg, taunting him, nightmarishly. **The audience hears a "Bing!" revealing Greg's popularity meter scale of 100.** "The students sing about how Greg is stuck in the middle. **The audience hears more "Bings!" One by one the kids tilt their trays, lunch boxes, and books to reveal their popularity meter scale.**

## ROWLEY'S HOUSE

**Greg arrives at Rowley's house and rings the bell.**

Rowley's answers the door sharing knock, knock jokes from the book of jokes. "Rowley leads Greg inside and they settle down in Rowley's room to play video games and share their thoughts and ideas with one another."

Greg reveals to the audience that Rowley is his best friend, but he keeps this to himself because he does not want Rowley to become too clingy. Rowley shows Greg his new Joshie poster, a pop singer who is a huge star in Europe. **"While Rowley bounces around his room, Greg sits down and plays a video game." Rowley sings the song "Joshie Says/Video Game."**

"There's got to be some way we can boost our popularity meter scale at school," says Greg. Rowley tells Greg to stop thinking about the popularity meter

scale. **As a result of Rowley's response, Greg and Rowley's began to bicker back and forth about Joshie. "Will you Shut up about Joshie. I am trying to save our lives, here" says Greg. They continue to argue. "You don't even know Joshie," says Greg. "So, I know other musicians," says Rowley. Like whom? asked Greg. "Your brother Rodrick," says Rowley. "Rodrick is not a famous musician," says Greg. "He's in a band... Everybody thinks he's a rock star, says Rodrick. "They only think that because it said so in his yearbook says, Greg.**

"Greg has a lightbulb moment, drops his game controller. Hit with an incredible idea." "Rowley... that's it," says Greg. The key to them increasing their popularity meter scale is succeeding in something that can be included in the yearbook.

## HEFFLEY'S HOME

"Greg shares with the audience his goal to win the best hair favorite category, but it turns out someone put maple syrup in his shampoo. With no time to prepare for anything, Greg decides to try to win the cutest smile category. However, his smile looked like he was in pain. "Do you need a nurse," asked Mrs. Clayton. No, I'm fine, said Greg.

Mrs. Clayton asked the students to put their books under their desk and prepare for a pop quiz. Greg was hopeful that he would pass the quiz because his seat was next to the U. S, map on the class wall. However, Patty Farwell raised her hand and reminded Mrs. Clayton that she forgot to cover up the map in the back of the room, then she flashed a smile at Greg. Mrs. Clayton covers the map. Greg reveals to the audience that Patty Farrell has had it in for him ever since he poured glue down her back in the second grade. **Suddenly, through the school intercom, we hear Vice Principal Roy's voice informing the students government elections will take place this week and sign-up sheets are outside the cafeteria." "The school bell rings and the students scatter."**



# WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

## CAFETERIA

Greg arrives at the sign-up sheet. He begins to fill it out. "Student government is just a big popularity contest, Rowley. And everyone wants to be class president, says Greg." Greg plans to sign up for a position that nobody wants to gain instant popularity. "I see you sign up for treasurer... Well, I look forward to running a spirited campaign. May the best Treasurer win," says Patty Farrell. "Campaign? What does that mean, ask Rowley. "That means this is war," says Greg.

**"The school bell rings and students scatter for lunch. Greg leaps onto a cafeteria table to address them. Greg sings the song "Better than You." Patty and her gang of girls appear on the lunch table and join the song "Better than You." "Patty and the girls' wheel in trays of gourmet cupcakes." "Rowley is holding one of Patty's cupcakes. Greg yanks it away from him." The song "Better than You" continued. Suddenly, we hear Patty Farrell saying "There he is Mrs. Clayton! That's the brute who's been spreading awful rumors about me! Mrs. Clayton gives Greg detention for a week and strides off. Patty instantly turns off the waterworks.**

## CHIRAG'S HOUSE

Greg, Rowley, and Chirag sit on the ground, gathered around a board game. Greg shares with the audience he was barred from politics, his popularity meter scale is plummeting, and he has lost video game privileges at home. Chirag starts handing out \$200 dollars of fake money for the board game they are playing. Greg stares at his fake money and realizes the bills are the exact kind of bills his mother gives them for doing chores. Greg's mother exchanges the fake money for real money. This possibility of them being able to turn this fake money into real cash gave them the profound realization they could become filthy rich.

Now Greg, Rowley, and Chirag feel as though they are independently wealthy. **They begin dancing around the room like they are wealthy rappers.**

**As their fantasies come to life all around them, their adoring fans appear. They sing "All About the Mom's Bucks." "We did it, Rowley! Popularity is within our reach! I'm finally wealthy! says Greg. "Rowley runs off ecstatic. Greg Heffley is my best friend says Rowley."**

## THE CONCERT

**The audience hears pulsing music. Suddenly, an announcer announced the pop singer Joshie. The audience hear sounds of screaming children. Then, Joshie hits the stage giving the crowd a big thumbs up." Joshie and the background dancers sing the song "Animal Heart."**

## GREG'S BEDROOM

Greg wakes up in bed. Greg is having crazy dreams since he heard Rowley refer to him as his best friend. "Rowley appears dressed like the pop star Joshie." "Hey best friend says, Rowley. "What are you doing in my room? asked Greg. "Rowley asked Greg to dance. "Joshie and the background singers appear singing "Animal Heart." **"What's going on?" asked Greg. "Joshie, background dancers, and Rowley are joined in singing "Animal Heart" gradually by everyone else creating a flash mob."**

## SCHOOL HALLWAY

**The school bell rings, and Greg snaps out of his Joshie nightmare, he walks down the hallway as students mill about.** Greg shares with the audience that it's the beginning of the second school semester and he plans to cash in his mom bucks for real cash and buy himself a trendy jacket.

Greg pulls out and puts on a brightly colored jacket from his locker. He is hoping that the Jacket will place him in the school yearbook category for best dressed. "Rowley skips in wearing the exact same jacket. "Rowley, what in the name of heck are you doing?!" ask Greg. "Isn't it awesome! Now we are the best dressed kids in

# WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

the whole school," says Rowley. Two eighth graders walk by and call Greg and Rowley double dorks. They high-five and exit. Greg takes off his jacket and throws it into a nearby trash can. Greg shares his frustration about Rowley copying him.

**Through the school intercom Vice Principal Roy announces that the school paper is looking for a cartoonist and anyone interested in being considered must submit a sample comic strip to Mrs. Ira. Greg takes a sudden interest in this opportunity. "It is like he heard the voice of an angel."**

Students exit and Greg makes his way home followed by Rowley. Greg shares that other than playing video games, comics is what he was born to do. Rowley agrees. They make their way to Greg's house and gather around the kitchen table with notebooks and pencils. They both reflect and make suggestions about what they can sketch. Greg sketches something while the cartoon kids bring the drawings to life on stage. He creates a variety of drawings that will be activated on stage. In the process Greg comes up with the catch phrase "Zoo-wee Mamaaa!" Rowley feels catch phrase "Zoo wee Mamaaa! is so funny. However, Greg decides to go with another idea of a character he calls "Creighton the Cretin." **Cartoon Jingle Singers sing a theme song for Creighton the Creighton.** Rowley is not amused by this character. He wants to know when Creighton the Cretin will say "Zoo-wee Mamaaa!" "Creighton the Cretin does not say Zoo-wee Mamaaa, because it is a different cartoon, says Greg. Greg and Rowley have some creative differences. Therefore, Greg suggested he and Rowley should stop doing stuff together. Rowley gathers his "Zoo-wee Mama cartoons together and exits.

## MRS. CLAYTON'S CLASSROOM

**The school bell rings, and Greg takes his seat among the other students.** The classroom is decorated for Valentine's Day. Greg shares that a week has passed since he turned in his comic drawings. Greg is hopeful that his popularity meter scale is holding in

the mid 80's. **Mrs. Clayton pulls down the USA map and the audience hear "Bing!" Greg's popularity meter scale of 86 appears above his head.**

**Through the school intercom system, we hear Vice Principal Roy announcing the new cartoonist for the school newspaper is Greg Heffley. "Every student looks at Greg, whose mouth hangs open in shock and amazement. The school bell rings. The students exit to their next class, grabbing copies of the school newspaper as they go."**

## SCHOOL HALLWAY

**Another group of students sing "Valentine" and dance around with valentine hearts and candygrams.** Greg is teased by one of the eighth graders for being the teacher's pet. Greg opens his locker to reveal his new popularity meter scale of 15. Another student walks by and adds another number to Greg's number, turning his 15 into 158. Greg does not understand what is happening. Mrs. Ira walks by and congratulates Greg to the school newspaper and shares she made a few edits to his comic strip as she exits.

## AFTER SCHOOL

Greg needs cheering up, so he heads to Rowley's to play video games to relieve some stress. Greg approached Rowley, but Rowley walked past Greg, and over to Chirag, who entered with a duffel bag. Rowley and Chirag are having a sleepover without Greg. So, Greg grabs his duffel bag and heads over to Fregley's house.

## FREGLEY'S HOUSE

**Greg heads over to Fregley's and rings the doorbell.** Fregley answers the door holding out his elbow. "Does this scab smell weird to you?" ask Fregley.

**Fregley sings "That Will Be Fun."** Greg wants to leave Fregley's house, but he knows Rowley is playing with Chirag and watching him. Greg is determined to stay at Fregley's house despite the fact he is scared and not

# WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PLAY?

enjoying himself. Fregley introduces Greg to his mom.

**Fregley's mom join him in singing "That Will Be Fun."**

**Greg decides to leave but Fregley grabs Greg's bag, peaks in, and pulls out a bag of jellybeans leftover from valentine's day. Fregley eats the jellybeans. Fregley shares he is not allowed to eat sugar because sugar makes him hyperactive. Fregley begins to chase Greg around his bedroom. Greg runs from Fregley's bedroom and manages to lock himself in Fregley's bathroom.**

## FREGLEY'S BATHROOM

While in the bathroom, Greg writes in his diary about how he tried to make a great impression, but only made a mess. He shares how he wanted everyone to like him and now they like him even less. **Greg sings "Dear Diary."**

**Rowley joins in the song "Dear Diary." Greg sings from Fregley's bathroom and Rowley sings from Chirag's home. Both are singing about the importance of their friendship and how much they miss each other.**

## SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Several students are reading the school newspaper. Greg walks through the cafeteria. Greg shares with the audience that he quit his job as the school cartoonist and does not care who replaces him. **Chris Hosey hands Greg a newspaper, Greg opens it, as the students sing, he finds out that Chris used his catch phrase "Zoo-Wee Mamaaa," and everybody is loving it. Greg is angry and frustrated that Rowley's is taking the credit for a phrase they created together.**

## BASKETBALL COURTS: AFTER SCHOOL

**Greg sees Rowley walking home. "Why are you pretending you came up with "Zoo-wee Mama" all by yourself?" asked Greg. "I didn't," says Rowley. Nearby, Chirag sees an argument forming. "You said you didn't want to do anything with me anymore,**

**and the catch phrase "Zoo-wee Mamaaaa" was all mine, said Rowley. "Here's what's going to happen: tomorrow morning, you're going to tell Mrs. Ira to put my name on the strip as co-creator, says Greg. Greg and Rowley start leaping and prancing around in a circle, not sure how to hold their fist. "Look out its eighth graders yells Patty Farrells and the students quickly run away.**

The eighth graders enter and surround Greg and Rowley. Greg and Rowley try to run but the eighth graders grab them. The eighth graders take Rowley over to the cheese. They block our view of what's happening. **The audience here the voice over saying "if you should ever touch the cheese, well then... you never will be popular again!!!**

Suddenly, everything freezes as Greg addresses the audience. As the eighth graders run off, they reveal Rowley standing frozen in horror, trembling wildly. The mob of students returned and asked what happened to the cheese. Greg quickly stepped forward and confessed to getting rid of the cheese. Greg protects Rowley from the consequences of the cheese touch. Both Greg and Rowley smiled at each other. Their friendship is restored.

## EPILOGUE

Greg wanders into the school cafeteria. Students read and sign each other's yearbook. Greg reveals to the audience that his popularity meter score has plummeted. Greg grabs a tray and tilts it to reveal his popularity meter scale of 199.

Did you hear? Greg touched the cheese. "Now he's got the cheese touch," says some students. Greg shares with the audience that he is okay with having the cheese touch because it has its perks: bullies do not bother him, and he does not have any problems finding a seat for lunch. Although some students scramble away from him in fear, Rowley sits and eats lunch with him every day. The best perk is their restored friendship. Hanging out and being best friends with Rowley again.

**THE END**