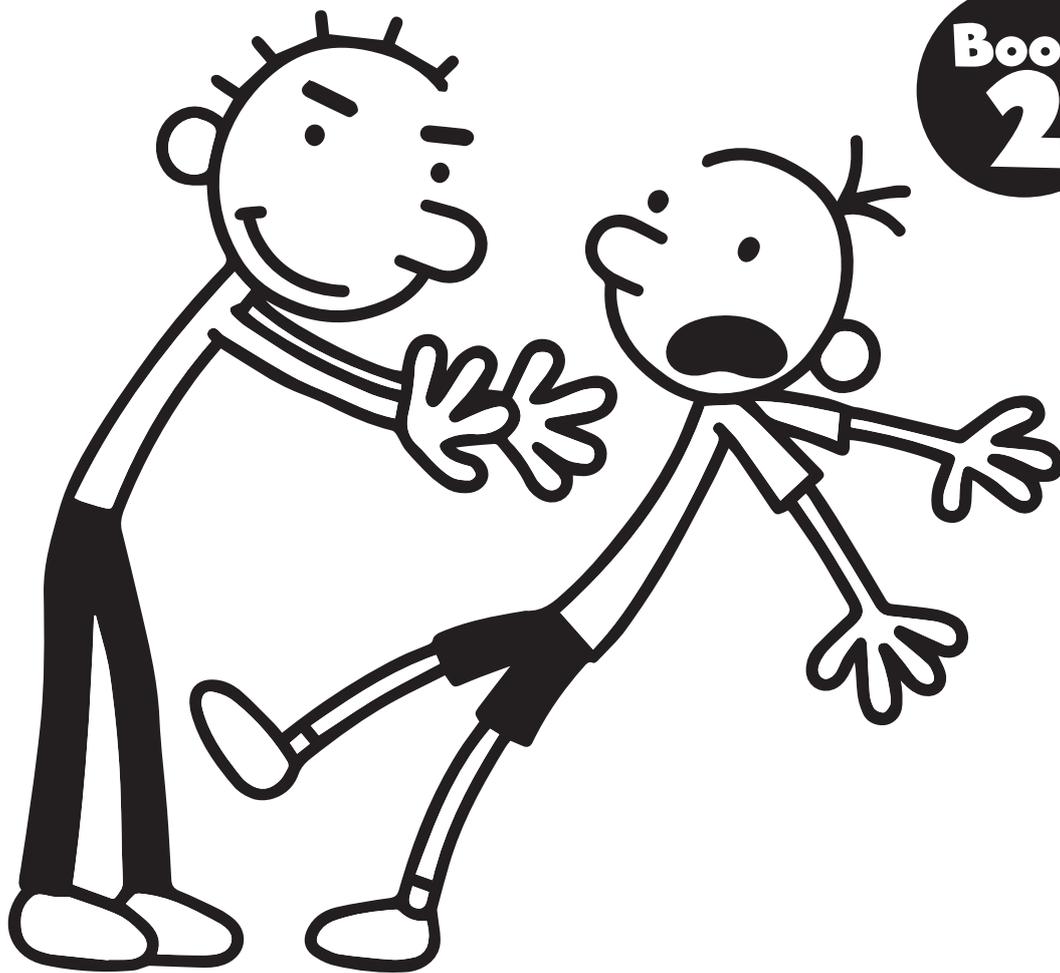


# Diary of a Wimpy Kid

## RODRICK RULES

Book  
**2**



## Discussion Guide

to accompany *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* by Jeff Kinney  
(978-0-141-32491-3, £6.99)

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# About the Diary of a Wimpy Kid and this guide.

Jeff Kinney's Diary of a Wimpy Kid series is one of the most popular series of children's books currently on the market. Alongside the books, published in the UK since 2007, there have also been three films, stationery ranges, calendars, board games, apparel and other merchandise. As of 2015, there were over 150 million Diary of a Wimpy Kid books in print worldwide.

The humorous nature of the books provides a familiar context through which universally recognisable childhood issues, both at home and at school, can be addressed without children feeling threatened or awkward. Consequently the books are enjoyed by children, parents and teachers alike. The fictional experiences of Greg Heffley, the main character, mirror events in children's own lives and they therefore find it very easy to relate to the antics in which Greg becomes involved.

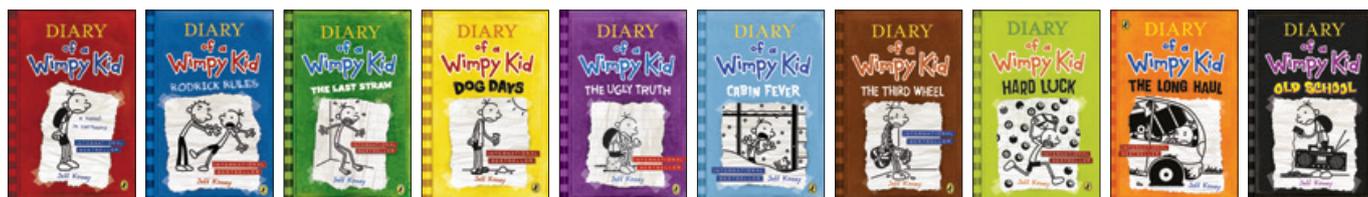
Jeff Kinney's cartoons, which reinforce the text, provide a visual reference, helping the children to understand what they are reading and adding to their enjoyment as they picture what Greg, his friends and family are up to. For many children, especially younger or more reluctant readers, the addition of the cartoons helps to make the books accessible and ensures greater engagement with these hilarious stories.

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid books make excellent starting points for discussion. These guides outline a host of ideas for discussions and other activities that can be used in the classroom, in a reading group or at home.

The activities within the guides are suitable for ages 7-11. They provide teaching ideas to help you deliver the literacy components of the primary curriculum as well as many additional ideas for PSE, Health and Wellbeing, Drama, Art and Technology. There are lots of ideas for discussion sessions, both to help the children further understand the texts they are reading and to probe more deeply into the problem areas with which the characters engage. The guides provide stimulating ideas which will encourage collaborative learning and real engagement with the books.

We hope you will find the ideas useful when planning for your students' activities as our aim is to ensure learning is fun!

## MILLIONS OF KIDS ARE READERS BECAUSE OF THESE BOOKS



**BOOK 10 COMING  
NOVEMBER 2015**

Find more resources at [wimpykidclub.co.uk/teachers](http://wimpykidclub.co.uk/teachers)

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# Diary of a Wimpy Kid

## RODRICK RULES

### Introduction

Greg Heffley's back in the second instalment of the hilarious Diary of a Wimpy Kid series and he's decided to carry on writing a diary - sorry, journal! But unfortunately his big brother, Rodrick, has found his journal and uncovered a big secret that Greg doesn't want anybody to know - and that can only spell trouble . . .

Greg's had a lousy summer on the swimming team and is actually looking forward to going back to school, especially as it means he can escape the chores Mom is making him do with Rodrick. His best friend, Rowley, went on a really exciting trip to South America, but, as usual, Greg doesn't want to hear about it until some girls show an interest in Rowley. Greg then tries everything he can to find out what Rowley and the girls talk about, including looking in Rowley's diary!

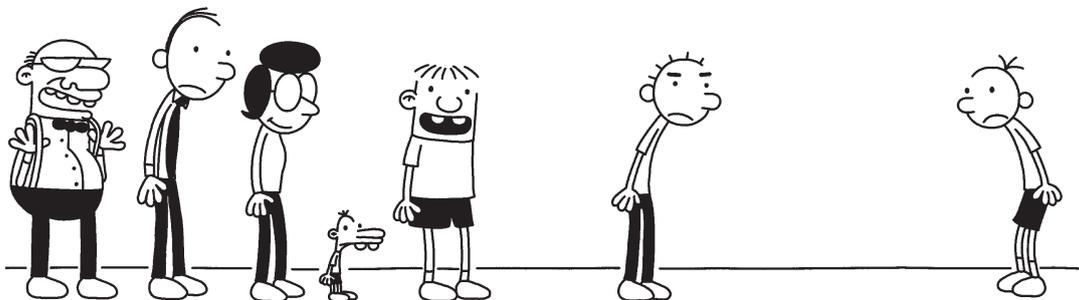
At school, there are more problems. His teacher forces him to get a pen-pal. He hopes for a girl, but when he is given a boy, Mamadou from France, and has to write letters to him, not even emails(!), the correspondence doesn't last for long.

Rodrick's band, Löded Diper, is still making music and is hoping to make it big. Can the Winter Talent Show help them? It certainly won't help Greg to fame and fortune as he ends up with an unlikely partner for the show.

In the meantime, Mom comes up with a great way to encourage Greg and Rodrick to do chores around the house: by earning money in the form of Mom Bucks. This obviously leads to lots of crazy ideas and hilarity from both Rodrick and Greg, who both work to exploit the scheme.

Then Mom and Dad spend a night away and leave Rodrick and Greg alone. But everything goes wrong. Rodrick holds a party and Greg gets locked in the basement and isn't released until the morning, having had to listen to the party all night. Much to his disgust, he still has to help clean up and hide the evidence from Mom and Dad.

As usual, in this book, Greg gets himself into all sorts of trouble and mischief, but will he ever be popular?



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# Diary of a Wimpy Kid

## RODRICK RULES

### Understanding the text

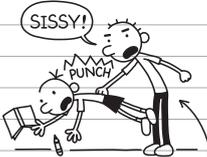
1. (Page 1) 'Now that Rodrick knows I have another journal, I better remember to keep this one locked up.' Do the children think Greg is right to keep his journal locked away? Why do they think Greg does this? Why do they think Rodrick would want to see Greg's journal?

SEPTEMBER

Monday

I guess Mom was pretty proud of herself for making me write in that journal last year, because now she went and bought me another one.

But remember how I said that if some jerk caught me carrying a book with "diary" on the cover, they were gonna get the wrong idea? Well, that's exactly what happened today.



(MY BROTHER RODRICK)

Now that Rodrick knows I have another journal, I better remember to keep this one locked up. Rodrick actually got hold of my LAST journal a few weeks back, and it was a disaster. But don't even get me started on THAT story.

1

2. (Page 13) 'My teacher is Mr Huff, and something tells me he had Rodrick as a student a few years back.' Why does Greg think Mr Huff taught Rodrick? Does this give us an idea of the kind of student Rodrick was?
3. (Page 22) 'Then she said me and Rodrick were going to have to settle our differences in a "civil manner".' Ask the children: what does it mean to settle your differences in a 'civil manner'? Why do they think that Mom wants Greg and Rodrick to do this?
4. (Page 113) Greg gets a pen pal named Mamadou and thinks it is dumb that they are not allowed to email. Why do the children think Greg and Mamadou have to write letters instead of emails? What benefits would this have for Greg and Mamadou? Would there be any negatives, aside from the cost of stamps?

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# Diary of a Wimpy Kid

## RODRICK RULES

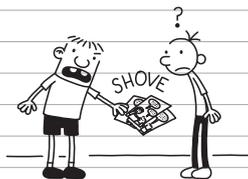
### Understanding the text

- (Page 144)** Greg has a history paper due that he hasn't started and ends up buying one of Rodrick's in exchange for Mom Bucks. Greg doesn't feel right about doing this. Ask the children why he might be feeling bad. Greg has lied about other things in the past so why does buying the paper from Rodrick seem worse to him?
- (Page 165)** 'I had to sit there and choke down every bite so Grandpa's feelings wouldn't be hurt.' Have the children ever had to do something they didn't like to spare someone's feelings? How did they deal with it? How did it make them feel?
- (Page 176)** The Winter Talent Show. Why do the children think that Rowley wasn't enthusiastic about Greg's idea for the Winter Talent Show? How do they think the idea made Rowley feel?

#### CREDITS

WRITER - GREG HEFFLEY  
DIRECTOR - GREG HEFFLEY  
DAD - GREG HEFFLEY  
MOM - HOLLY HILLS  
DOG-BOY - ROWLEY JEFFERSON

I showed Rowley the script, but he wasn't too enthusiastic about the idea.



You'd think Rowley would be grateful that I was gonna make him a big star. But, like Mom always says, there are some people you just can't please.

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## RODRICK RULES

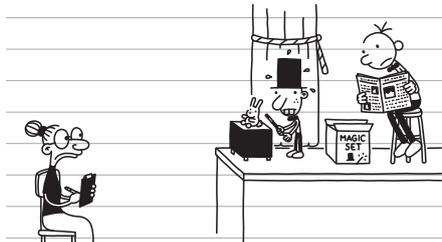
### Understanding the text

8. (Page 191) 'OK, so maybe I could have done a better job as Scotty's assistant. But I didn't blow it on PURPOSE. I just forgot to hand him his props once or twice.' Do the children believe Greg when he says he didn't do this on purpose? Why do they really think he did this?

Monday

Well, good news on the Talent Show. The tryouts were today, and me and Scotty didn't make it in.

OK, so maybe I could have done a better job as Scotty's assistant. But I didn't blow it on PURPOSE. I just forgot to hand him his props once or twice.



We were the ONLY ones who didn't make the cut, and that actually is kind of embarrassing.

I know we weren't exactly the best act trying out today, but we weren't the WORST, either. Some of the acts that got in were a lot lamer than our magic act.

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# Diary of a Wimpy Kid

## RODRICK RULES

### In-depth discussion points

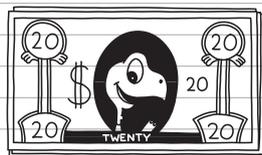
1. Greg has a 'secret' for the entire book that only Rodrick knows. Rodrick uses this to his advantage to make Greg do things for him. What would the children have done if they were in Greg's position? Rodrick ends up telling his friends Greg's secret and they tell their younger brothers and sisters, but as the secret travels the details become muddled and Greg ends up really popular as a result. Do the children think that's fair? Should Greg have corrected people and told them truthfully what happened?
2. (Pages 138-139) In this book Mom creates a system for Greg and Rodrick to earn money called Mom Bucks. The boys have to complete chores and do good deeds in order to earn some Mom Bucks and then they can trade them in for real money. However, while playing at Rowley's, Greg spots some play money in a board game that is exactly the same as Mom Bucks and decides to take it. Do the children think that Greg should have done this? Does it matter if the money is fake, or would the children still describe this as stealing? What are the possible consequences of Greg's actions? What could he have done instead?

I actually thought I did a pretty good job. But I guess Mrs Breckman must be an expert on mooses or something, because she made me go to the library and start the paper over from scratch.

And my NEXT paper isn't gonna be any easier. I have to write a poem about the 1900s for Mr Huff's class, and I don't know the first thing about History OR poetry. So I guess I'd better start hitting the books.

Monday

I was up at Rowley's playing board games yesterday, and the craziest thing happened. When Rowley was in the bathroom, I noticed that there was some play money sticking out of the box of one of the other games.

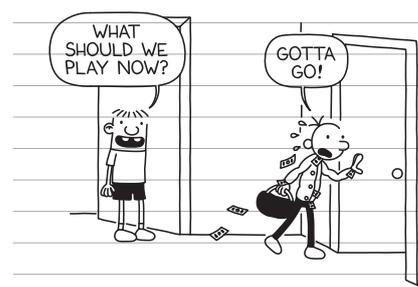


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I couldn't believe my eyes. Because the play money inside that game was the EXACT same kind of money Mom uses for Mom Bucks.

When I counted it up, there was something like \$100,000 in cash in that box.

It only took me about two seconds to figure out what to do next.



When I got home, I ran upstairs and stuffed the money under my mattress. I tossed and turned all night trying to figure out what to do with my new Mom Bucks.

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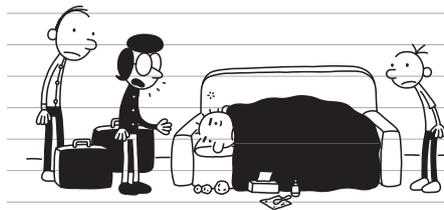
# Diary of a Wimpy Kid

## RODRICK RULES

### In-depth discussion points

3. (Page 94) 'So after Mom gave us a speech about "responsibility" and "trust" and all that, they took off.' Greg thinks Mom and Dad are worried that Rodrick will have a house party when they are gone. What other things might Mom and Dad be worried about? When Mom talks about responsibility, what do the children think she means? What are they responsible for at home? Do they have responsibilities anywhere else? What do they think it means to trust someone? Do the children think Mom and Dad truly trust Rodrick and Greg not to cause trouble?

Yesterday, Mom and Dad made a surprise announcement. They said they were going away for the night, and that me and Rodrick were in charge of the house.



That was some pretty big news, because Mom and Dad have NEVER left me and Rodrick on our own before.

I think they've always been afraid that if they go away, Rodrick is gonna have a huge party and trash the house.

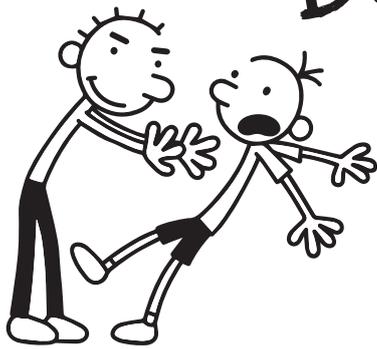
But with Rodrick knocked out with the flu, they must've seen their big chance. So after Mom gave us a speech about "responsibility" and "trust" and all that, they took off.

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# Diary of a Wimpy Kid



## RODRICK RULES

Main project

DESIGN A 'COOL'

TALENT-SHOW OUTFIT

### Objective:

Design a better outfit for Greg's magic act with Scotty Douglas.

### Curriculum areas:

Expressive arts, technology.

### Starting point:

Read about the Winter Talent Show in *Rodrick Rules* (see page 176).

Greg doesn't want to wear the sparkly sequin shirt that Scotty gives him. He's looking for something cooler. Can the class help?

### Main Activities

Some starting questions are:

1. Greg is looking for something cool to wear for the Winter Talent Show and suggests a leather jacket, but Scotty objects saying it's not 'magic' enough. Ask the children to think in pairs about outfits or costumes they may have seen magicians and their assistants wearing, and note down their thoughts and descriptions.
2. Encourage the whole class to talk through all the ideas and try to group them into outfits they think Greg would like and outfits they think he wouldn't like. (Use the worksheets to help with this.)
3. Ask the children to work in small groups to design one of the ideas. They must ensure they label the sketch, including what materials they might use, colours etc.
4. Children will need to be taught basic sewing skills, if they haven't already at this point, to complete the rest of the task. A variety of fabric will have to be gathered in as well, either bought from local charity shops or send a note home to parents, asking for any old but clean bits of fabric that are no longer needed.
5. The small groups will use their design and the fabrics to create a new cool outfit for Greg to wear in the talent show. They will need to think carefully about how to ensure it will fit (e.g. use someone in their group for their measurements).
6. When children have completed their outfits, they could have a fashion show for other classes to show off their cool costumes.

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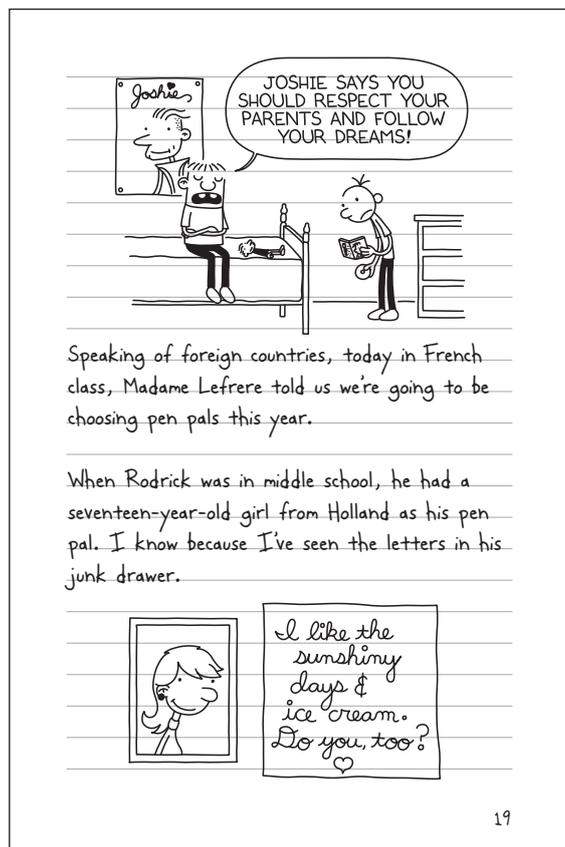
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## RODRICK RULES

### Other Project Ideas

- (Page 174)** Greg is initially very excited to try out for the Winter Talent Show, albeit to impress a girl. He writes his own original comedy skit. Ask the children in the class to come up with an act in groups or individually and host their own talent show.
- (Page 19)** Greg has to choose a pen pal this year in his French class and write letters to him. The children could start pen pals as well. Try to correspond with a school that is different from yours, e.g. a rural school if yours is based in a city. You could also try to correspond with a foreign school, particularly if the children are studying and learning a language like French.



- (Page 66)** Mom Bucks could be linked to school rewards. Mom sets up Mom Bucks so that the boys have a means to earn their own money by completing chores around the house. Discuss ways in which the children could incorporate this idea into their school day. Could they earn points for extended break times or a Friday treat? How would they earn their points? For example, they could help younger children or tidy the classroom.

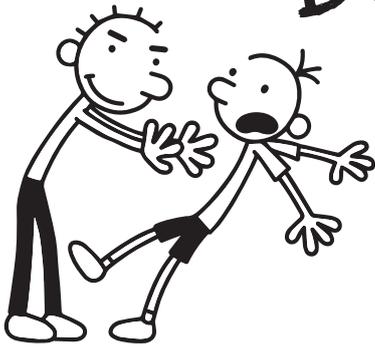
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# Diary of a Wimpy Kid



## RODRICK RULES

Outfit design

MAIN  
PROJECT  
WORKSHEET  
3.

A large, empty rectangular box intended for drawing or writing an outfit design.

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