

Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid

Reviews

"Delightful full-page spot-art cartoons and playful language in large type bring the child's adventures to life. 'Things are definitely looking up, UP' with this bright addition to beginning chapter-book collections."

— *School Library Journal*

"Judy Moody's little brother, Stink . . . finally gets his turn. . . . Stink definitely measures up to his memorable sister."

— *Kirkus Reviews*

"The narrative is fun and laced with puns . . . and it's peppered with black-and-white illustrations, including comics reflecting Stink's triumphant fantasies."

— *Booklist*

"McDonald cleverly pits Stink's earnest and slightly geeky personality against his sister's more adamant one, and she introduces some characters we hope to see more of."

— *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

About the Book

Every morning Stink Moody, made famous in the ever-popular Judy Moody series, has his sister measure his height. One day the ruler reads less than usual, causing Stink to think that he is shrinking. In his first solo adventure, along with his worries about shrinking, Stink takes home the class pet but accidentally flushes it down the garbage disposal and also discovers that Presidents' Day means a lot more than time off from school.

Of "Comic" Proportions

In his solo debut, Stink's special style comes through loud and clear—enhanced by a series of comic strips drawn by Stink himself.

Have students write a summary of the book in comic strip form. Younger students can do this activity by focusing on one or two chapters or by depicting their favorite part of the book.

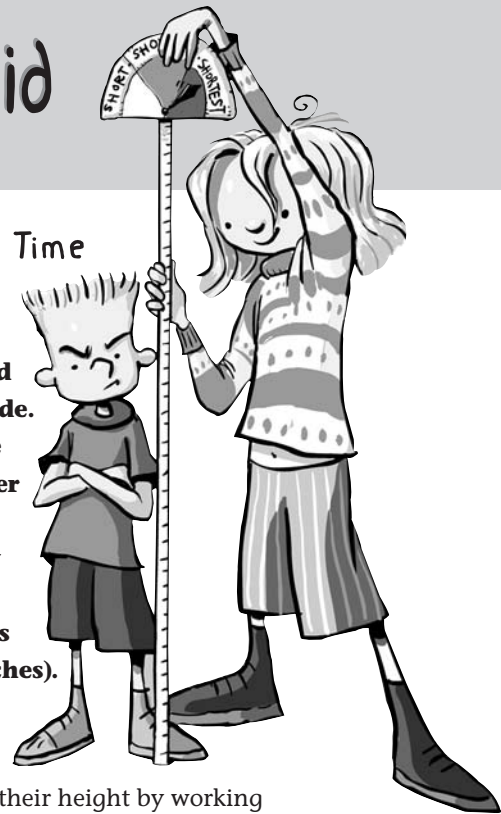


Growing Takes Time

Stink is short—the shortest member of the Moody family and the entire second grade. But Stink's spirits are lifted when his mother informs him that at birth he was actually longer (twenty-two inches) than Judy was at birth (nineteen inches).

Create a "Then/Now" bar graph for the class.

Have students measure their height by working in pairs. (For best results, have one child lie on the floor while the other draws a mark to note the head and feet. Then both children can use a yardstick to determine the height.) Then have students ask parents how long they were at birth. Create a two-colored bar graph to show the then and now results. Discuss the outcome with students and hang it in the classroom.



The State Quarter Program

Stink wants his favorite president, James Madison, to be represented on the state quarter of Virginia. The pre-existing design features the three ships that brought the first English settlers to Jamestown, Virginia.



Give students an overview of the state quarters program. (The program is a ten-year initiative, from 1999 to 2008, commemorating each of the fifty states. States are honored in the order in which they ratified the Constitution and joined the Union. State designs are submitted and selected via a process determined by the governor of each state. The U.S. Mint reviews the designs before each governor selects a final design.) Bring in a variety of quarters depicting various states and share them with the class. Challenge students to create their own state quarter and vote on their favorite.



Acrostic Name Poems

Stink's friend Sophie writes an acrostic poem about her favorite first lady, Dolley Madison.

Discuss acrostic poems, and challenge students to use their own names to write one. This is a good activity for introducing or reviewing punctuation, adjectives and adverbs, and descriptive writing.

Stink, shortest in his family.

Thinks frogs are cool.

Is nicknamed Stinkerbell by his bossy big sister.

Newton the Newt is Stink's class pet.

Knows a lot about James Madison.

Newton's Big Adventure: A Lesson in Creative Writing

After Newton accidentally gets "disposed" of, the students in Stink's class write stories about the adventures they think Newton might be having.

Have your students brainstorm what Newton might be doing and get their creative juices flowing by having them write their own adventure stories.



YOU'RE ONLY AS SHORT AS YOU FEEL!

Peace and Friendship: Bronze-worthy

After Stink writes a letter to the governor of Virginia, he receives a Bronze Peace and Friendship Medal.



Discuss with students what it means to be worthy of such a medal.

What are some qualities of a good friend?

What kinds of deeds or behaviors might promote peace?

Who in history or in today's world are role models for such a prize?

Have students design their own Peace and Friendship Medal and award it to someone in their community worthy of this honor (such as the principal, the school nurse, a coach, or a teacher or librarian).

For Discussion

Stink's teacher asks the class what Presidents' Day is and what it means.

What does it mean to you?

Why is it celebrated?

Can you think of any other ways to honor this day?

On page 58, Stink says that the garbage disposal is NOT part of Newton's life cycle.

What does Stink mean by that?

What is the life cycle of a newt or a toad?

Can you name other amphibians besides toads and newts?

Throughout the book, Stink is obsessed with measuring his height.

Have your students measure themselves at home and create a classroom chart of morning and evening heights.

What is the scientific reason Stink is shrinking during the day?

On pages 76–77, Stink describes the uses of a Venn diagram.

Use a Venn diagram to celebrate Newton by bringing in Fig Newtons and another type of filled cookie.

What are the differences and similarities between the two types of cookies?

