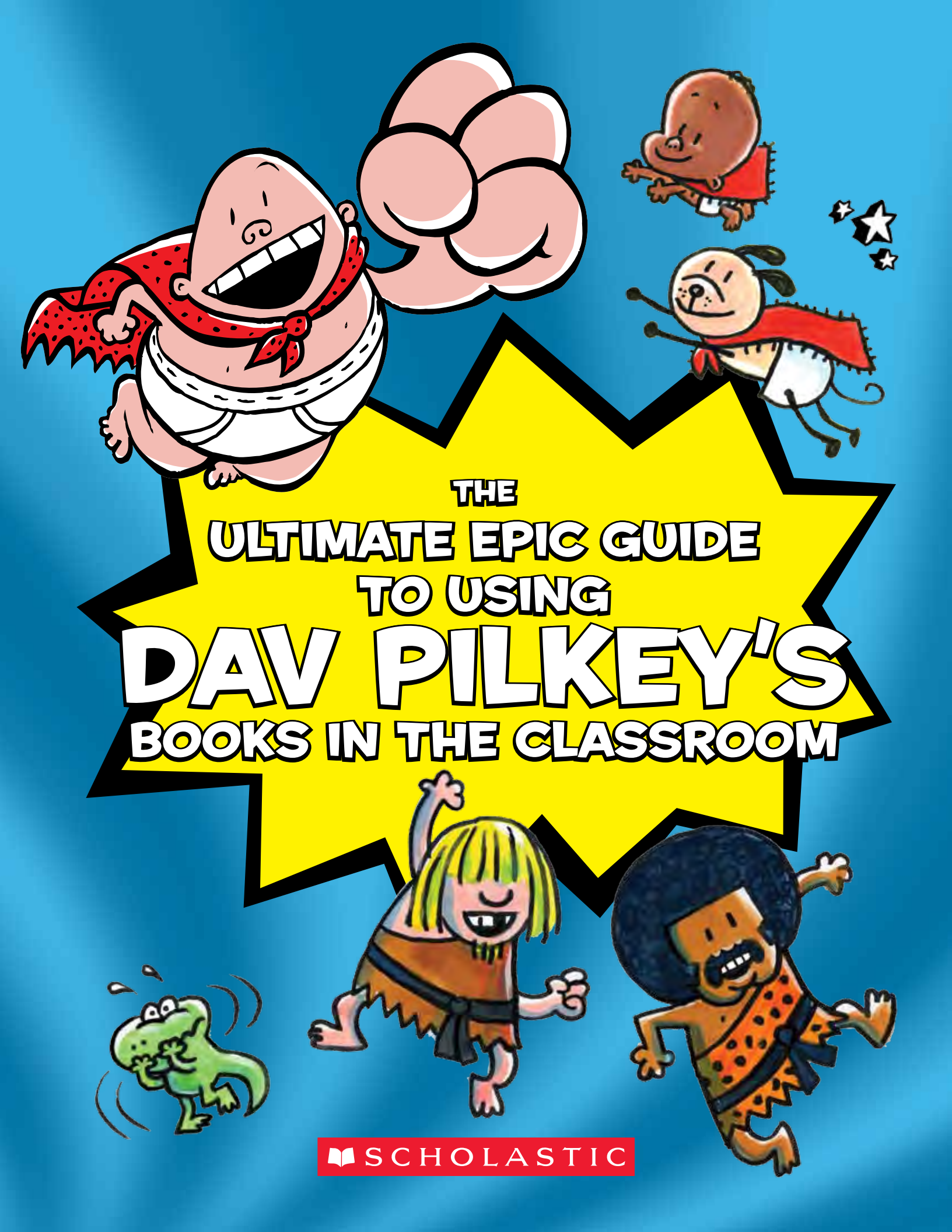
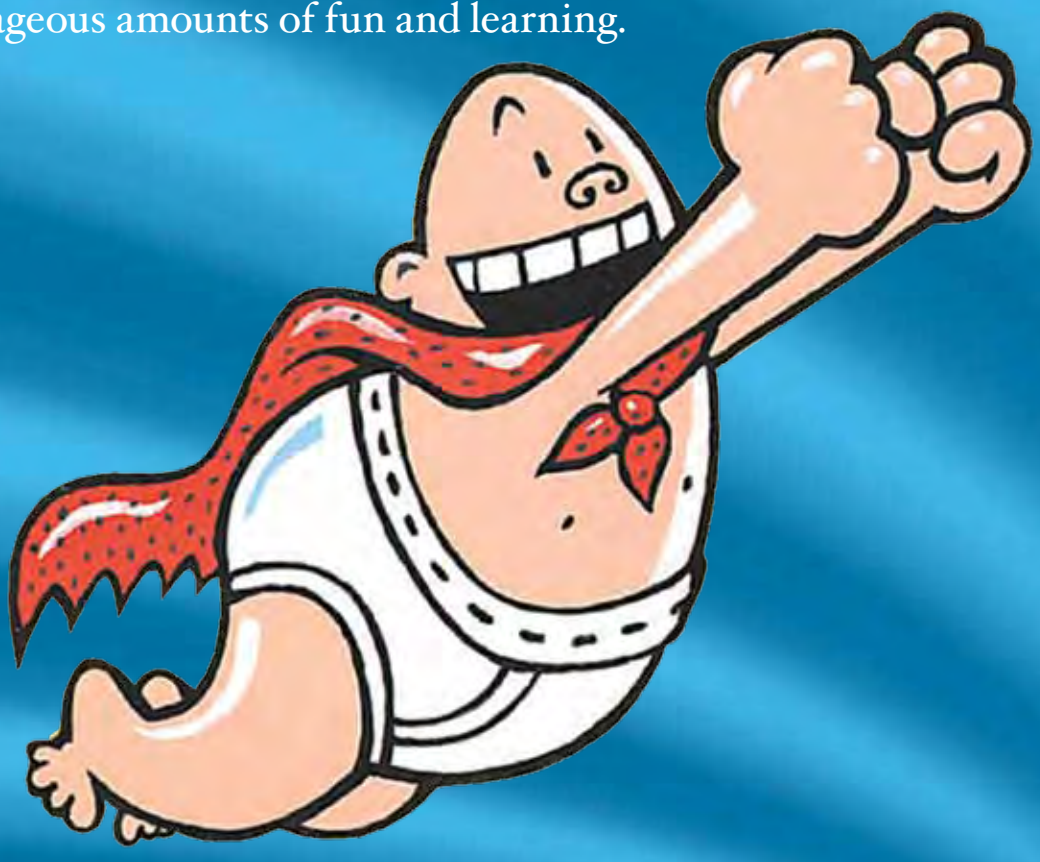

THE
ULTIMATE EPIC GUIDE
TO USING
DAV PILKEY'S
BOOKS IN THE CLASSROOM
SCHOLASTIC

WARNING!

Dav Pilkey's books have been known to be devoured by children aged seven to one hundred years old. Even the most reluctant readers just can't seem to get enough of that wedgie-wielding superhero, Captain Underpants! And then there are those riveting graphic novels by George Beard and Harold Hutchins, *The Adventures of Ook and Gluk, Kung-Fu Cavemen from the Future*; *The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby*; and its sequel, *Super Diaper Baby 2: The Invasion of the Potty Snatchers*.

This guide is designed for teachers who have desperately tried to pry Dav Pilkey's books from the hands of students during math, social studies, and science lessons. It is based on the radical concept that, hey, maybe the students who love these books so much might actually be learning something from them! Included you will find ideas for use in the classroom that will enrich your curriculum and create outrageous amounts of fun and learning.



"Encourage kids to be creative without worrying about being perfect."

Dear Teachers,

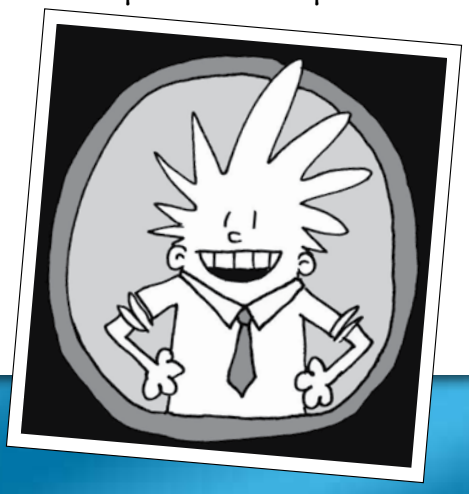
When I was a kid, I loved to draw and make up stories. I didn't worry about drawing things perfectly or spelling things correctly. I just wanted to get my ideas and stories on paper. I loved the freedom that came with creating stories just for fun.

Once I got published, I spent years traveling to different schools and talking with kids about my books. During these school visits, I was surprised to learn that most kids didn't consider themselves to be artists or writers. Most kids thought they had to be able to draw Garfield perfectly to be an artist. They had also convinced themselves that they needed to spell perfectly in order to be writers. Everywhere I went, I met kids who were stifled creatively because of their fears of imperfection.

My goal at these school visits was to encourage kids to be creative without worrying about being perfect. I showed kids examples of Impressionists who drew houses upside down, painted freely, and broke all the rules. Much to the dismay of the teachers in the room, I also gave examples of famous writers and poets who didn't use conventional spelling, grammar, and punctuation. I think the kids I spoke with were inspired by these examples, but I wanted to reach more kids, all over the world.

That's how Captain Underpants came along. I designed each book to contain two or three "mini-comics" which were created by the stories' protagonists, George Beard and Harold Hutchins. George and Harold's simple, silly, and wildly imperfect mini-comics turned out to be one of the most popular parts of each book. My hope was that George and Harold's "imperfect examples" would give kids permission to invent their own stories without concern for perfectionism, and so far, it seems to have worked. Every year, I get hundreds of original comics and stories mailed to me from kids. These kids didn't make their comics because of a school assignment. None of these stories were proofread or graded or marked up with a red pen. These stories were all made for one reason—for fun!

And isn't that what creativity is all about?



PART 1: A GENERAL GUIDE TO USING DAV PILKEY'S BOOKS IN THE CLASSROOM

Dav Pilkey's books are jam packed with sidesplitting humor and fast paced action. His characters come alive and engage the reader from beginning to end. Use your students' enthusiasm for Pilkey's books to enrich your language arts curriculum.

EXPLORING CHARACTER TRAITS

George Beard and Harold Hutchins, two outrageously mischievous, creative, comic book writing fourth graders from the hilarious Captain Underpants series, are certain to inspire your students to want to become authors and illustrators of their own comic book adventures.

Encourage your students to create an original superhero. Explore the qualities that define a superhero. Work with your students to brainstorm a list of character traits they feel would be essential for a superhero to possess. You may want to start them off with a few examples, such as, *brave, confident*, *daring, imaginative, strong*, etc. Post your list and have students add to it as they discover new word choices.

Once your list has been established, encourage your students to write a story about their superhero. Suggest that the superhero act in ways that demonstrate the character traits he/she may possess. Have your students create an illustration of their superhero to go along with their stories.

USING DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE

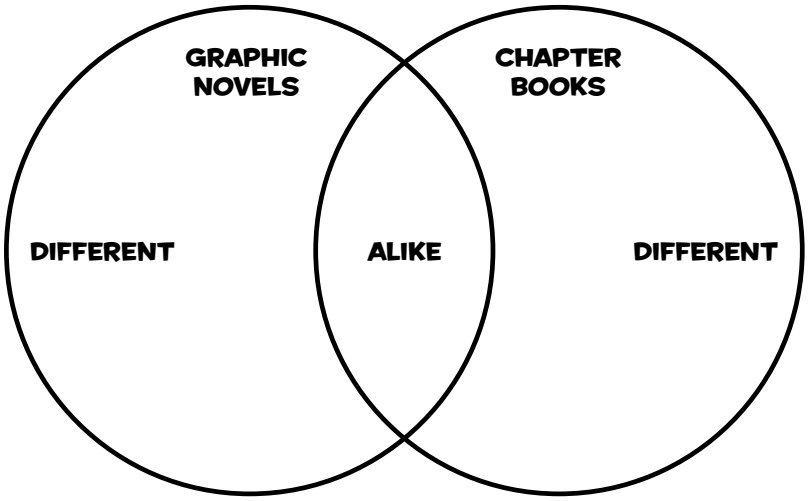
Action and adventure are essential elements of Dav Pilkey's books. They provide the teacher and the student with a wonderful opportunity to explore the use of powerful verbs and descriptive language.

Have your students work cooperatively to find and list the verbs found in pre selected sections of Dav Pilkey's books. They will see that their lists will soon begin to contain words such as *demanded, shouted*, *screamed, whimpered, cried,* and *laughed*. Discuss how these words help Pilkey's stories come alive and how important word choice is to good writing. Ask your students to write a conversation between two characters using these vivid verbs.

Demonstrate the correct use of punctuation when writing dialogue: quotation marks, commas, periods, question marks, and exclamation marks.

INTRODUCING GRAPHIC NOVELS

Introduce your students to the format of graphic novels, which are stories written and illustrated in the style of comic books. Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast graphic novels with chapter books. What do your students notice that these formats have in common? What are some of the differences? Generate a conversation regarding the elements of graphic novels. For example, the pictures and narrative tell a sequential story. Quotation marks are not necessary because the dialogue appears in speech bubbles.



Challenge your students to create an original comic strip. Remind them that it is easier to write the dialogue first and *then* enclose it in a speech bubble!

WRITING A FRIENDLY LETTER

Help improve your students' persuasive letter writing skills by having them write to their favorite Dav Pilkey character! Who will they choose? Will it be Captain Underpants, George, Harold, or maybe even mean Mr. Krupp?!

Begin by reviewing the five parts of a friendly letter: the heading, greeting, body, closing, and signature. Then have your students try to persuade their favorite character to come visit their school. Encourage your students to be clear about the benefits of visiting the school from the character's point of view.

For example, a student may appeal to George and Harold by stating that the principal of their school is fair and open minded (unlike mean old Mr. Krupp), and that he/she enjoys creative children. Therefore, visiting their school would be a pleasant and enjoyable experience for George and Harold.

INFUSING SPELLING INSTRUCTION

While George and Harold are clearly creative, they could certainly use some help with their spelling. Borrow time from formal spelling instruction by integrating spelling training with writing. Challenge your students to use their weekly spelling lists to find and correct the errors found in George and Harold's comics.

PART 2: A GUIDE TO USING *THE ADVENTURES OF OOK AND GLUK, KUNG-FU CAVEMEN FROM THE FUTURE* IN THE CLASSROOM

Prepare to travel back in time with Dav Pilkey's endearing, plucky, kung fu cavemen, Ook and Gluk! Use their hilarious adventures as a springboard for bringing science, environmental awareness, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts to life in your classroom.

Ook and Gluk live in prehistoric times...along with a couple of *dinosaurs*! Your students are sure to question this scientific anomaly. Did dinosaurs and humans live during the same time period? *The Adventures of Ook and Gluk, Kung-Fu Cavemen from the Future* will provide students with a variety of opportunities for scientific inquiry starting right at the beginning with the "Scientific Disclaimer," followed by the "Scientific Disclaimer Disclaimer," and continuing with questions about whether time travel could ever be possible.

EXPLORING THE MESOZOIC ERA

Engage students in a discussion about dinosaurs and the Mesozoic Era, also known as the "Age of the Dinosaurs." Guide students to understand how life on Earth was during this period. Provide them with examples, such as: the climate was warmer, seasons were mild, there were no polar ice caps, and the continents were pushed together to form Pangaea. Work with your students to conduct the following experiment, which will explore the formation of continents and geographical landforms on our planet.

Take a hard boiled egg and crack its shell. Ask your students if it reminds them of anything. Lead them to see that the egg could be a tiny model of planet Earth. The shell is Earth's crust, divided into plates. Within the shell lies the mantle. Move the shell around and show the students how the "mantle" seems to buckle in other places. Remind them that this is happening on Earth now. This is what causes the formation of mountains, creates earthquakes, and makes changes on the ocean floor.

CONDUCTING DINOSAUR RESEARCH

Lily, the tiny, ferocious, upchucking dinosaur, is certain to capture the hearts of your students. But exactly what kind of dinosaur is Lily? Is she a Tyrannosaurus rex, an Albertosaurus, or possibly a Velociraptor?

Invite your students to conduct research on these three dinosaurs. They should also be able to find information identifying which prehistoric period their dinosaur was alive. Have them discover if their dinosaur was an herbivore, a carnivore, or an omnivore. Can they find information about their dinosaur's enemies? Students should also research their dinosaur's appearance. What did it look like? Did it have any distinguishing characteristics that helped it adapt to its environment? Students can present their findings in a diorama to share with their classmates.

CREATING AN ECOSYSTEM

When Ook and Gluk are forced through the time portal to the year 2222 AD, they find themselves at the mercy of J. P. Goppernopper. Goppernopper is the C.E.O. of the world's most evil corporation. He uses his time portal to travel to Caveland, Ohio, in order to steal all the trees, oil, and water in the land. It is up to the heroic Ook and Gluk to save the day and Caveland's natural resources.

Engage students in a discussion about the importance and finite supply of the world's natural resources. Work together with your students to brainstorm possible ways to preserve them. Some examples may include shutting off lights when leaving a room, biking or walking to school instead of being driven, conserving water when brushing teeth, and planting trees in the community.

Encourage your students to try their hand at directly caring for their own little piece of the environment. Provide them with an opportunity to create an ecosystem. Each student will need the following items in order to construct his/her terrarium.

- 1 washed and empty 2 liter soda bottle
- About 3 cups of potting soil
- 4 to 6 bean seeds
- 1 teaspoon of grass seed
- Enough water to moisten the soil
- Optional: a small snail or worm

Instructions
(Step 1 must be done by an adult!)

1. Cut off the top of the soda bottle just before the neck tapers toward the cap.
2. Save the top and the cap for later use.
3. Place potting soil in the bottom of the soda bottle. Gently tap the base to settle the soil.
4. Push the bean seeds into the soil.
5. Sprinkle grass seed on top of the soil.
6. Lightly sprinkle water on the soil until it is damp, but not soaking wet.
7. Add a small snail or worm to your terrarium.
8. Gently fit the bottle part from Step 1 into the bottle part with the soil and seeds.
9. You may tape the two parts together if you wish.
10. Place the terrarium in a warm, sunny spot. It should not require water again!

SOLVING CONFLICTS PEACEFULLY

Master Wong teaches Ook and Gluk that the mind is a mighty warrior in the battle for truth and justice! He helps them discover that walking a path of peace requires patience, wisdom, and, okay, maybe a little bit of kung fu.

Have your students practice settling their differences peacefully. Create a list of key words that can be used in your classroom. These words will be instrumental in helping your students take responsibility for resolving conflicts peacefully. For example, consider posting phrases such as:

STOP	Stop your behavior.
SAY	State the problem.
LISTEN	Listen to the other person's point of view, then restate the problem from their point of view.
THINK	Brainstorm solutions to the problem.
CHOOSE	Choose a plan and put it into action.

Role playing activities will provide your students with the opportunities they need to practice these skills. You may wish to provide the following scenarios:

- You have arrived at the playground to play basketball with a group of your friends. You take a shot at the basket and miss. Someone starts to make fun of you. What would you say to that person?

- Your favorite eraser is missing from your desk. You notice a classmate appears to have one just like it. What would you do next?

- At recess your friend has told you that you cannot join in the game. How would you react?

It won't take long for your students to see that they too can walk the path of peace minus the kung fu!

PART 3: A GUIDE TO USING THE SUPER DIAPER BABY BOOKS IN THE CLASSROOM

QUICK! Grab hold of copies of Dav Pilkey's *The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby* and *Super Diaper Baby 2: The Invasion of the Potty Snatchers* before they go flying off your bookshelves... and get ready to be blown away by the world's most powerful, pint sized superhero! Dashing across the universe wearing a teeny diaper and a bright red cape comes Super Diaper Baby, accompanied by his fearless tail wagging sidekick, Diaper Dog! This crime fighting duo is sure to keep your students captivated with their hilarious action packed adventures. Each book is jam packed with scientific mishaps, out of this world problem solving, and riotous robots!

SOLIDS, LIQUIDS, AND GASES

Super Diaper Baby and Diaper Dog work hard to stop Dr. Dilbert Dinkle from taking over the world when his cat, Petey, accidentally liquefies him in *Super Diaper Baby 2*. Your students will likely wonder if it was magic that turned Dr. Dinkle into a big, evil, ice monster. Of course not! It was simply the physical change that occurs when a liquid is frozen. Try this yummy experiment with your students to help demonstrate how solids, liquids, and gases interact with one another.

You will need the following materials:

- Enough root beer for the entire class
- One scoop of vanilla ice cream for each student
- A classroom supply of tall plastic drinking cups
- An ice cream scoop
- A roll of paper towels, for spills

Instructions

1. Place one scoop of ice cream into the plastic cup.
2. Have your students predict what they think will happen if root beer is poured over the ice cream.
3. Record their predictions on chart paper.
4. Pour a ½ cup of root beer over the ice cream.
5. Try the experiment one more time. This time try adding the root beer to a drinking cup first, and then add the ice cream. Did your students notice any changes? (There is usually more foam when the experiment is conducted in this manner).

Review the students' predictions on the chart paper. Discuss the results of the experiment. Lead your students to identify that the ice cream (solid), when mixed with the root beer (liquid) produces a foamy top (carbon dioxide/gas).

REDUCE, RECYCLE, REUSE, ROBOTICS

Super Diaper Baby and Diaper Dog not only save the world from evil scientists and other bad guys, they must also find a way to stop their robots from wreaking havoc on the world. Defeating the Robo Ant 2000 in *Super Diaper Baby*, and the Robo Kitty 3000, the fearsome potty crunching robot created by Rip Van Tinkle in *Super Diaper Baby 2*, proves to be no problem for Dav Pilkey's tiny, but tough, superheroes. Engage your students in a discussion about robots. Encourage them to learn more about robots and what makes them tick!

Warning: Your classroom is about to be turned into a super duper science lab. Be sure to have plenty of cardboard tubes, cereal boxes, empty plastic soda bottles, masking tape, and plenty of other recyclables on hand to create a lab that will foster the utmost creativity in your young scientists.

SIMPLE ROBOT FACTS

- A robot is a man made machine that is able to perform work or other actions normally performed by humans, either automatically or with a remote control.
- Robots can do boring jobs or jobs that may be too dangerous for humans.
- Robots are used in factories.
- Robots can be used for exploration.
- Robots consist of three main parts: the controller (the brain of the robot), mechanical parts, and sensors
- Robots are tools we use to help get things accomplished.

Have your students use their scientific inquiry skills to design and create their own friendly robot. Pose the following questions to your students:

- What type of job or task will your robot perform?
- What type of person do you think will find your robot most useful?
- What kinds of problems might be solved as a result of your robot's work?
- Once your students have determined the purpose for their robots, they will be ready to design and assemble their creations. Encourage your students to sketch their designs on paper. They should make a list of materials they will need to create their robots. When they have finished sketching and making their lists, they can begin to assemble their robots.
- The creation of so many rockin' robots at one time may require more than just two adult hands for one class! This is an excellent opportunity to involve parent/guardian volunteers in the classroom.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Super Diaper Baby may only be able to scribble a few words here and there, because that's what babies do! But your students are more than ready to break out their favorite pencils and brag about their new inventions!

When your students have finished building their robots, have them write and illustrate an awesome advertisement describing the usefulness and special "mechanical" features that make

their robots unique. Be sure to display the advertisements throughout your school. Your students are sure to enjoy all the attention given to their one of a kind creations.

KINDNESS COUNTS

Sometimes the littlest people can perform in ways that make a BIG difference. In *Super Diaper Baby 2*, Super Diaper Baby demonstrates the importance of recognizing positive qualities in others. Why, just look at how he was able to encourage his dad to stand up to the evil ice monster! Use Super Diaper Baby's empathy for others to build your students' sense of worth. Try these fast moving, fun activities to help foster positive self esteem in your students.

Note: You will need enough Post it notes so that each student can be given at least four.

1. Generate a list of compliments that would be appropriate for your grade level. Focus on qualities that are mostly intrinsic, not extrinsic. List the qualities on chart paper for the class to view. Some qualities that may appear on the chart could be:
   - intelligent
   - kind
   - athletic
   - humorous
   - generous
2. List as many qualities as you can in a fifteen minute period.
3. Then give each student four Post it notes.
4. Instruct the students to walk around the classroom and place a blank Post it note on a friend's back. Remind students that everyone likes to be included, so each student should have at least two Post its on their back at the conclusion of the activity. Allow five minutes for students to travel around the classroom to place their Post it notes on their friends' backs.
5. Gather in a circle. Students should help one another remove the Post it notes. Students go around the circle offering compliments to one another based on the number of Post it notes collected. For example, if a student had three Post its on their back, their classmates will offer three compliments.

A BOOK OF COMPLIMENTS

An alternative to the **Kindness Counts** activity is a quick paper passing activity.

1. Each student will need a piece of paper with his/her name on top.
2. Students should sit in a circle with their papers and a pencil.
3. On the count of three, all papers are passed clockwise. Each student will write a compliment for the student whose paper they are holding. The papers are passed in this manner until the students once again have their own papers. At this point they may keep their papers, the teacher may keep them for a class book, or you can even present the papers to each student on their birthday! What a "complimentary" gift!

PART 4: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

There's a lot to talk about in Dav Pilkey's books! Ask students to contribute their ideas.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS BOOKS

Captain Underpants is a clever, fearless superhero. Together with George and Harold, he seems to be able to outwit even the most evil villains.

1. How does Captain Underpants use his superpowers for good?

2. George and Harold do not have superpowers, so how do they help save the day?

3. How would you describe Mr. Krupp? Is he a fair principal? Why or why not? What would make Mr. Krupp a better principal?

4. Who are the superheroes in your life? Why are they your superheroes? Which character traits do they possess?

5. Which character do you believe you are most like in the Captain Underpants books? What is it that makes you most like that character?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *THE ADVENTURES OF OOK AND GLUK*

Ook and Gluk discover that the future is not so bright in 2222 AD. Their new friend Master Wong helps them see how to save the day.

1. Master Wong encourages Ook and Gluk to walk the path of peace. How do you walk the path of peace? How can you help others walk the path of peace?

2. Do you think it is a good idea to be able to travel back and forth in time?

3. What kinds of problems did time travel cause for Chief Goppernopper and J. P. Goppernopper?

4. If you had a time machine, where would you have it take you?

5. What kinds of problems do you think you might encounter traveling through time?

6. Master Wong asks Ook and Gluk who they believe to be the greatest man. They answer that no one is the greatest man. Why do you think they gave that answer?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *SUPER DIAPER BABY*

1. Super Diaper Baby came by his superpowers accidentally. If you could have one superpower, what would it be? Why would you like to have that particular power? How would you use it?

2. Do you think it was fair for Mr. Krupp to tell Harold and George that they could no longer write books about Captain Underpants? Why or why not? Explain your answer.

3. Deputy Dangerous had a plan that did not quite work out the way he expected. Tell about a time when something you had planned didn't work out the way you expected. What kinds of problems were caused? How were they solved?

4. Danger Dog took the plunge and saved Super Diaper Baby from the evil Robo Ant 2000. What do you think caused him to save Super Diaper Baby?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *SUPER DIAPER BABY 2: THE INVASION OF THE POTTY SNATCHERS*

1. Super Diaper Baby and Diaper Dog help their friends with all kinds of things, from finding a doll to getting a ball off a roof. What kinds of things do you do to help others in your community?

2. Do you think robots are important in our world? Why or why not? If you could invent a robot to make your life easier, what would you have it do?

3. Super Diaper Baby's dad is his hero. Who are your heroes? Do you think a hero has to be someone who is famous? Explain your answer.

4. Super Diaper Baby and Diaper Dog are good buddies. If you could have any kind of pet, which would you choose? Why would you like to have this kind of pet? What would you and your pet do together?

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS SUPER WORD SEARCH

S L Y Y M E D W Y I X N E E T

U C Z M I E E I K W O F C G R

L B S G P Y L H Z R R M I R A

U W D R X U I V T O V R U O L

T E D V E Z R O I P P A J E A

W E A Z D K E P V N N T R G L

B M L L U N C H L A D I E S A

U R P I I D C A G E O S W K A

I O D B O Y U J R L P F O N A

Q N M M N T P X Y C N O P M A

C O M I C B O O K T W N T Q A

C S R E G O O B O B O R J T H

U K O M D G N I R O N P Y H Y

H A R O L D S Q K U I R J K S

L M J J H Z W Z E F T T S F W

COMBINE-O-TRON
COMIC BOOK
CRACKERS
GEORGE
HAROLD
HYPNO-RING
LUNCH LADIES
MELVIN
POWER JUICE
PURPLE POTTY
ROBO-BOOGERS
SULU
TRA-LA-LAAAAA
TURBO TOILET
WEDGIE

NOTE: THE HYPHENS AND SPACES IN THE CLUES DO NOT APPEAR IN THE ANSWERS IN THE WORD SEARCH BOX.

REPRODUCIBLE A

SCHOLASTIC™ Scholastic Inc. Art © 2010 by Dav Pilkey.
The contents of this guide may be photocopied and distributed for educational purposes, as long as it's free of charge.

SCHOLASTIC

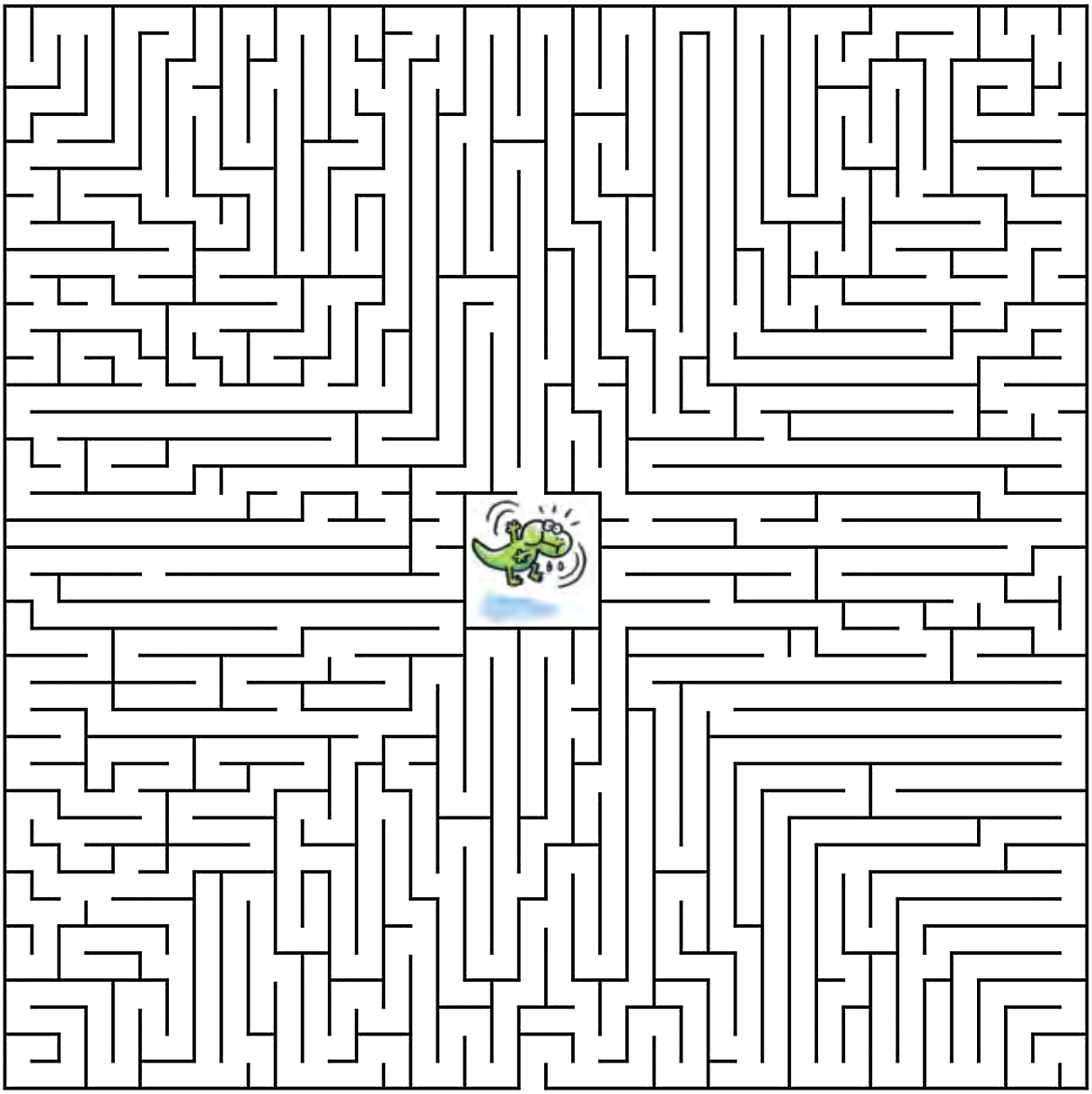
WWW.SCHOLASTIC.COM/CAPTAINUNDERPANTS

THE BLUE SKY PRESS

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

RACE TO REACH LILY

HELP OOK AND GLUK FIND LILY BEFORE CHIEF GOPPERNOPPER DOES!



START

REPRODUCIBLE B

SCHOLASTIC™ Scholastic Inc. Art © 2010 by Dav Pilkey.
The contents of this guide may be photocopied and distributed for educational purposes, as long as it's free of charge.

SCHOLASTIC

WWW.SCHOLASTIC.COM/CAPTAINUNDERPANTS

THE BLUE SKY PRESS

ILLUSTRATE A BIOGRAPHY

Learn more about Dav Pilkey by reading his illustrated biography on the following pages, and then have your students write their own biographies in graphic novel form!

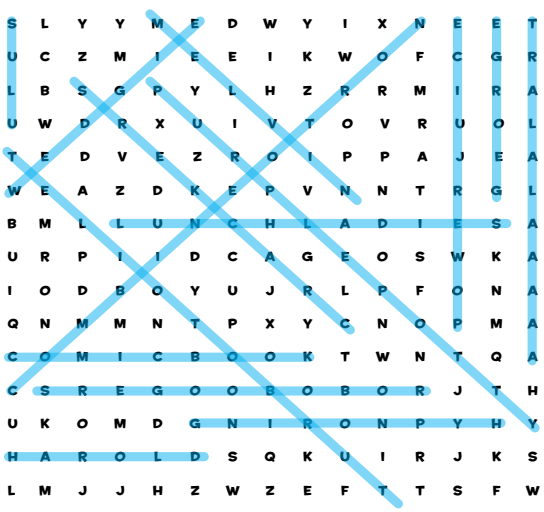
REPRODUCIBLE C

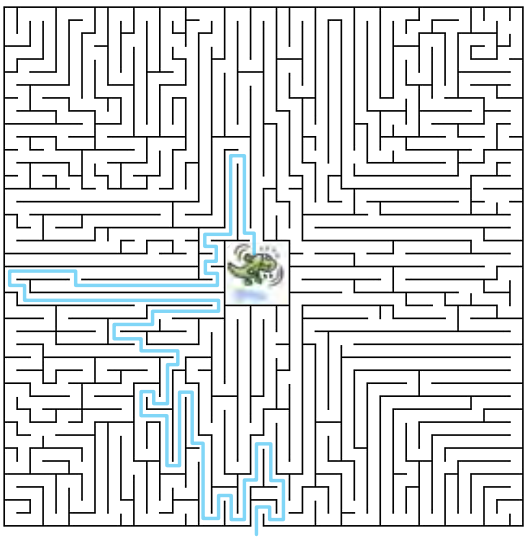
SCHOLASTIC™ Scholastic Inc. Art © 2010 by Dav Pilkey.
The contents of this guide may be photocopied and distributed for educational purposes, as long as it's free of charge.

REPRODUCIBLE D

SCHOLASTIC™ Scholastic Inc. Art © 2010 by Dav Pilkey.
The contents of this guide may be photocopied and distributed for educational purposes, as long as it's free of charge.

ANSWER KEY





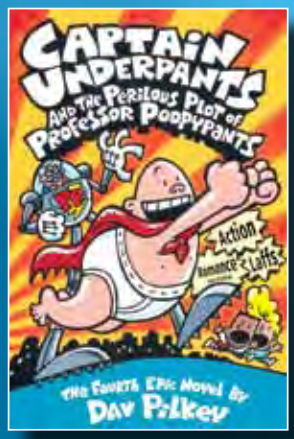
REPRODUCIBLE E

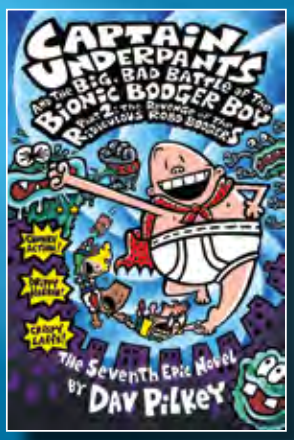
SCHOLASTIC™ Scholastic Inc. Art © 2010 by Dav Pilkey.
The contents of this guide may be photocopied and distributed for educational purposes, as long as it's free of charge.

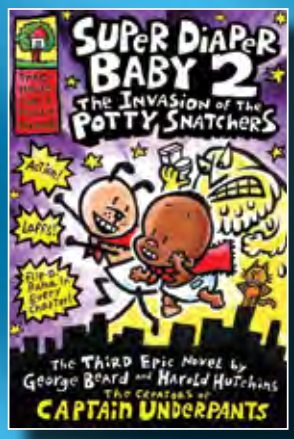
REPRODUCIBLE F

SCHOLASTIC™ Scholastic Inc. Art © 2010 by Dav Pilkey.
The contents of this guide may be photocopied and distributed for educational purposes, as long as it's free of charge.

READ ALL OF GEORGE AND HAROLD'S ADVENTURES BY DAV PILKEY







These books may be ordered from your local bookstore or usual supplier. Teachers and librarians may order from Scholastic, 2931 East McCarty Street, P.O. Box 7502, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Call toll-free 1-800-SCHOLASTIC. Fax orders toll-free to 1-800-560-6815. Email orders to: EGOPorders@scholastic.com.

THE BLUE SKY PRESS

SCHOLASTIC

Discussion guide written by Kathy Casey, Third Grade Teacher, H.B. Milnes School, Fairlawn, NJ, Teacher of the Year.

602995

WWW.SCHOLASTIC.COM/CAPTAINUNDERPANTS • WWW.PILKEY.COM

SCHOLASTIC™ Scholastic Inc. Art © 2011 by Dav Pilkey.