

**ATTACK OF THE MUTANT UNDERWEAR
BY TOM BIRDSEYE**

**Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2006
Grades 3-5**

Submitted by Pabby Arnold, Children's Coordinator
East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Baton Rouge

Title: Attack of the Mutant Underwear

Author: Tom Birdseye

Publisher: Holiday House, 2003

Pages: 208

Summary

Fifth grader Cody is thrilled to move to a new school. After all, the only things he was leaving behind were humiliation and rejection. His "New Me Journal" is to chronicle a changed man – no more Mr. Mess-up and Hello Mr. Cool! However, the best laid plans of mice, men, and pre-teen boys are another thing altogether. Ahhhhhhhh! The day before school starts a girl sees Cody in his underwear through an open dressing room door. Although she is not the "see and tell" type, Cody has recurrent nightmares of being caught in his underwear—hence the title of the book. Throughout the school year Cody has his ups (rescuing a hamster, improving his grades, running for class president) and downs (sending a valentine, bungling the talent show, trying to toilet train the cat) all told in a comical first person voice.

Author's Biography

Tom Birdseye is that rare individual, an adult who truly remembers and is able to vocalize the embarrassments and tribulations of adolescence. To make it even better, he is amazed at the realization that he is a writer by profession. In school he was left-handed, a poor speller, and he never could come up with an idea for anything he had to write in school. "Fortunately, the right people came along at the right time and helped me see past the hurdles, emphasizing instead the joy of the work and the satisfaction to be had in trying to uncover the important truths that can come out of fiction. Now I carry a small notebook at all times and am always on the lookout for material I can use in a story: ordinary people that would make good characters, the funny, telling, or poignant glimpses of life that are triggered by what I see and hear, and the wonderfully wise things people will say at the most unexpected times." Tom lives in Oregon with his wife and fellow writer Debbie Holsclaw Birdseye and their 2 daughters. He loves visiting classrooms and libraries and talking with children about the writing process.

Other Titles Written by Tom Birdseye

Fiction

Airmail To The Moon
I'm Going To Be Famous
Just Call Me Stupid
Look Out, Jack! The Giant Is Back
Oh Yeah!
A Regular Flood Of Mishap
Tarantula Shoes
Tucker
Waiting For Baby

Folktales adapted and retold by Birdseye

Soap! Soap! Don't Forget The Soap! An Appalachian Folktale
A Song Of Stars: An Asian Legend

Nonfiction by Debbie Holsclaw Birdseye and Tom Birdseye

Under Our Skin: Kids Talk About Race
What I Believe: Kids Talk About Faith

Related Titles (Humorous School Stories)

Annie Pitts, Swamp Monster by Diane DeGroat
Bingo Brown's Guide to Romance by Betsy Byars
Boys in Control by Phyllis Naylor Reynolds
Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey
Doing Time Online by Jan Siebold
Dork on the Run by Carol Goreman
Double Fudge by Judy Blume
Everyone Else's Parents Said Yes by Paula Danziger
Frindle by Andrew Clements
The Girls' Revenge by Phyllis Naylor Reynolds
Guinea Pigs Don't Talk by Laurie Myers
Guy series by Sarah Weeks
How to be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days by Stephen Manes
How to Eat Fried Worms by Thomas Rockwell
Laugh Till You Cry by Emily Arnold Lowery
Live From the Fifth Grade by Colleen McKenna
Matilda by Roald Dahl
Niagara Falls, Or Does It? by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver (LYRC 2006)
No More Nasty by Amy MacDonald
Shoebag Returns by Mary James
A Traitor Among the Boys by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Classroom Connections

Tom Birdseye Web Site

<http://www.tombirdseye.com/index.htm>

Includes a section for Teachers and Librarians with related themes of his books.

Group discussions for the book could include:

- Have you ever had to change schools? What was it like? What was bad about it? What was good about it?
- Is there a kid in your school who does “uncool” things like Cody? What can you do to help him fit in better?
- Keep a journal for a month. Was it easy or hard to write about bad times?