

CLICK HERE (TO FIND OUT HOW I SURVIVED SEVENTH GRADE)

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2008 Grades 6-8

Submitted by Allison L. Snell, Graduate Student, LSU School of Library & Information Science, (Professor: Dr. Margie Thomas); and Dorothy L. Grimsley, Instructor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Click Here (to Find out How I Survived Seventh Grade) by Denise Vega. Little, Brown and Company, 2005. 215 pages.

Summary

Erin Swift and her best friend, Jilly, have been inseparable since kindergarten. When Erin and Jilly begin attending Molly Brown Middle School, they are assigned to separate tracks. Erin feels like she cannot survive 7th grade without Jilly. However, she finds her niche in the Intranet Club where she helps to design the school's new web site and makes new friends. Nevertheless, she is crushed when the boy that she secretly likes becomes infatuated with Jilly. All along she has been writing her feelings in her private blog. Things get really bad when her blog is accidentally posted on the school's web site for everyone to read. Eventually, she discovers a lot about herself, the meaning of friendship, taking responsibility—and the value of a Tootsie Pop. Erin's journey of self-discovery leads to laughter and tears in this well-written tale about a girl embarking on a new life in middle school.

Read an excerpt:

http://www.hachettebookgroupusa.com/books/46/0316985597/chapter_excerpt22778.html

Awards and “Best Book” Lists

New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age, 2006
VOYA Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers, 2005

Author's Biography

“Probably the most important thing you need to know about me, especially if you ever want to invite me over for dinner, is that I can't stand cheese. Blech. Yuck. No, thank you.”

-Denise Vega, Hachette Book Group USA

Denise Vega lives in Colorado with her husband and her three children. She always wanted to be a writer and wrote magazine articles and textbooks until 1998 when she was able to devote herself to writing for children and young adults. *Click Here* is her first published fiction work, and she is currently working on several projects. Denise Vega's website <http://www.denisevega.com/home.html> includes information about the author and her works.

Other Titles by Denise Vega

Learning the Internet for Kids: A Voyage of Internet Treasures (Learning Series)
Word Processing for Kids (Learning Series) with Ryan Sather

Related Titles

Best Friends for Never (The Clique, No. 2) by Lisl Harrison.
The Cat Ate My Gym Suit by Paula Danziger.
Claudia, Queen of Seventh Grade by Ann M. Martin.
How My Private Personal Journal Became a Bestseller by Julia DeVillers.
I am the Wallpaper by Mark Peter Hughes.

My Life in the Seventh Grade by Mark Geller.
The Secret Blog of Raisin Rodriguez by Judy Goldschmidt.
Sixth-Grade Glommers, Norks, and Me by Lisa Papademitriou.

Classroom Connections

Online Discussion Aids & Lesson Plans

Denise Vega's Readers' Guide & Discussion Questions

<http://www.denisevega.com/ClickHereDiscQs.pdf>

The author's thoughtful questions related to the themes in *Click Here* will be useful for class discussion.

Read Write Think. International Reading Association

Book Report Alternative: A Character's Letter to the Editor by Traci Gardner

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=930

Each student writes a letter to the editor from the perspective of a character using analytical skills. This lesson would fit well with the characters of *Click Here*.

Book Report Alternative: Comic Strips and Cartoon Squares by Traci Gardner

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=195

This is a good exercise for having students visualize the events in the story. It encourages creativity and utilizes analytic thinking skills.

Cause & Effect

<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=2973>

Tracing the cause and effect is a great way for students to discuss how a characters' actions affect other characters.

LessonPlansPage.com: Web Page Designing by Sherry Wood

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/CIWebPageDesign6HS.htm>

Students can design their own web page using Netscape Navigator Gold.

Other Activities

- Erin uses slang words to write her private blog. Have students select one of the blogs and rewrite it using proper English and correct punctuation.
- Have each student create a private blog and write in it each day.
- Discuss friendship and brainstorm ways to be a good friend.
- Divide the class into groups and have each group write a story that deals with friendship or other issues related to being in middle school.
- Have each student write a poem about friendship.

Web Sites

Denise Vega's Author Page at Hachette Book Group USA

<http://hachettebookgroupusa.com/authors/5/3173/>

This page offers a brief autobiography as well as links to *Click Here*, her home page, and her author article entitled "The Origins of *Click Here*."

Denise Vega's Home Page

<http://www.denisevega.com/home.html>

Denise Vega's home page allows fans to learn more about who she is and what she's working on. A great feature is the link to Erin's (*Click Here's* main character) website.

http://www.denisevega.com/Interior_ClickHere.htm# Click on the Tootsie Pop.

Fans can submit their drawings of *Click Here's* characters for the Erin's Mug Shot page, read Erin's Blog, and throw darts at Serena. Vega has also included resources for writers in her Stuff for Writer's Page. This is a fun, informative and engaging resource for readers and writers.

Lissa Explains It All: The First and Original HTML Help Just for Kids

<http://www.lissaexplains.com/index.shtml>

This website is great for kids developing their own web pages. It has free resources and step-by-step instructions as well as a forum for questions.

Nancy Keane's Booktalks – Quick and Simple

http://www.nancykeane.com/booktalks/vega_click.htm

A very concise book talk.

Stone Soup: Friendship Stories for Children

<http://www.stonesoup.com/main2/storiesFriendship.html>

Friendship stories written by children – most of the authors are about 13 years of age. Includes a link about finding a pen pal.

Teaching Guide: Friendship

<http://www.goodcharacter.com/BCBC/Friendship.html>

Lesson plan that uses a video to teach about friendship. Good ideas for discussion questions, etc. even if you don't have access to the video.

Webmonkey for Kids

<http://www.webmonkey.com/webmonkey/kids/index.html>

Webmonkey for Kids offers lessons, projects, a playground and tools for kids developing their own websites. The website offers the basics for learning HTML and is easy to navigate and understand. There are also links for parents and teachers about how to use Webmonkey, Internet safety and more.