

LUCY ROSE: BIG ON PLANS

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2008 Grades 3-5

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Lucy Rose: Big on Plans by Katy Kelly. Illustrated by Adam Rex. Delacorte Press, 2005. 163 pages.

Summary

The irrepressible, outspoken eight-year old Lucy Rose wears red cowboy boots, collects palindromes, and has big plans for summer vacation. Lucy writes in her diary and describes her feelings, her activities, and her numerous plans. Her plans include: making a lanyard at summer camp; dealing with the snooty new girl named Ashley; saving her grandmother's apricot tree from squirrels; and—most of all—trying to reunite her separated parents. Occasional black and white sketches illustrate this chapter book. It is the second in a series of books about Lucy Rose, but it easily stands on its own. Kids will, however, definitely want to read the other books about Lucy Rose. She is a wonderfully realistic character with the most refreshing personality since Ramona the Pest.

Awards and “Best Book” Lists

Publishers Weekly Flying Start Authors

Publishers Weekly Best Children's Book of the Year List

Author's Biography

Katy Kelly grew up on Capitol Hill in a family of writers, including her late brother Michael, who died in the war in Iraq. Formerly a reporter for *People* and a feature writer for *USA Today*, Kelly is now a senior editor at *U.S. News & World Report*. Some of the details of Lucy Rose's life come from Kelly's own childhood experiences. She and her husband and her two daughters live in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

<http://www.powells.com>

<http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/lucyrose/author.html>

Other Titles by Katy Kelly

Lucy Rose: Busy Like You Can't Believe

Lucy Rose: Here's the Thing About Me

Illustrator's Biography

Adam Rex grew up in Arizona and received a BFA in Illustration from the University of Arizona in Tucson. He lives in West Philadelphia where he creates art for a subsidiary of Hasbro, Inc. The Society of Illustrators has honored him twice. The first book he wrote as well as illustrated, *Tree Ring Circus*, was honored by Parents Choice Foundation. <http://www.adamrex.com>

Other Titles Illustrated by Adam Rex

Frankenstein Makes A Sandwich by Adam Rex.

Small Beauties by Elvira Woodruff.

Tree Ring Circus by Adam Rex.

Related Titles

The Beezus and Ramona Diary by Beverly Cleary.
Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary.
Don't Make Me Smile by Barbara Park.
Calliope Day Falls...in Love? by Charles Haddad.
Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary.

Classroom Connections

Random House: Lucy Rose: Big on Plans

<http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/lucyrose>

This excellent site about *Lucy Rose: Big on Plans* includes an excerpt, a list of sixteen things about Lucy Rose, and activities, such as writing palindromes.

Language: Writing and Character Development

- Have students download the following web site to find sixteen (16) interesting facts about Lucy Rose. <http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/lucyrose/sixteenthings.html>
- Have a class discussion about the facts about Lucy Rose. Have the students write several interesting facts about themselves.

Language: Writing Palindromes

- Lucy Rose collects palindromes. Using her collection as a starting point, have the students record their own palindromes, and then visit the NIEHS web site to see its list. Have a contest to see who can come up with the longest single word palindrome, or the longest sentence that reads the same forward and backwards.
- <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/palindromes.htm> A great site for brainteasers sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Health & Human Services, has riddles about palindromes
- http://www.fun-with-words.com/palin_explain.html Information about palindromes, including links to history of palindromes, lists of palindromes and palindrome poetry.
- <http://www.kwiznet.com/p/takeQuiz.php?ChapterID=2043&CurriculumID=15> A worksheet for Grade 4 students related to English Language Palindromes

Art: Making Lanyards

- At the Parks & Rec summer camp, Lucy Rose struggles with making a lanyard. Demonstrate how to make a lanyard using gimp (a flat plastic lace). Have the students make their own lanyards.
- <http://www.boondoggleman.com> has clearly pictured instructions about lanyard braiding.
- Resource Book: *Lanyard: Having Fun With Plastic Lace*, by Camilla Gryski. To incorporate math, have them measure the gimp before and then after braiding, and compute the percentage of change or the difference in the two measurements.

Art: Perspective

- Some of Adam Rex's illustrations are from a skewed perspective. Have the students research perspective in art using books or online sources. Home School Arts' website is a good place to begin. Children can then sketch an object from an unusual viewpoint using Rex's pictures as a guide.
- **HomeSchoolArts.com** has information about perspective and includes lesson plans and reference information: <http://www.homeschoolarts.com/perspective.htm>

Crafts and Family Relationships

- Since Lucy Rose attended a summer camp, she participated in the making of Crafts. Use the following web site for ideas of crafts that deal with family relationships:
<http://www.123child.com/selfconcept/family.html>

Writing: Journaling

- Journaling was important to Lucy Rose. Discuss with children why this was so important to her. Have them keep a record of their own thoughts and activities for a week, then encourage them to continue with the project. Stress the fact that journals are fun and encourage them to include illustrations or mementoes along with their writing.
- **CanTeach** has writing prompts and topics to offer ideas for getting started writing a journal. <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/prompts.html>

Calendar on Computer

- Glatma, Lucy Rose's grandmother, sent her a calendar on which she kept her V.I.D. (Very Important Dates). Using Microsoft Publisher, or a similar computer program, let the students create a monthly calendar with their own special dates.

Health and Nutrition

- As an incentive for reading the book have a celebration party and make an ice cream sundae using the recipe given by Lucy Rose on the following web site:
<http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/lucyrose/activities.html>

Social Studies: Geography

- Lucy lives in Washington, D. C. Have the students gather information about Washington, D. C. and make a presentation.
- Lucy Rose's father lives 500 miles away. Plot a map showing his route to see Lucy Rose.