

SHREDDERMAN: SECRET IDENTITY
or
SECRET IDENTITY: SHREDDERMAN

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2007 Grades 3-5

Submitted by Jessica Matherne, Teacher, Houma Junior High (Houma, LA) and
Graduate Student at School of Library and Information Science, LSU
(Professor: Dr. Margie Thomas)

Shredderman: Secret Identity (also listed as **Secret Identity: Shredderman**) by
Wendelin Van Draanen. Illustrated by Brian Biggs. Alfred A. Knopf, 2004. 138 p.

Summary

Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd forgets to comb his hair, wears his socks on top of his pants, and gets great grades in math. Bubba Bixby, the school bully, calls him a "nerd." Bubba bullies all the kids, but nobody will stand up to him. When Mr. Green gives the class an assignment, Nolan sees this as the perfect opportunity to get even with Bubba. Nolan becomes Shredderman, a secret identity on the Internet, to expose Bubba and all the cruel things he does to students at school. The large font, open page, fast-pace and humorous illustrations will appeal to reluctant readers. This is the first in a series about Shredderman.

Author's Biography

Wendelin Van Draanen was born on January 6 (no year given) in Chicago, Illinois. She now lives in California with her husband and two sons. Van Draanen had many careers before becoming an author. She was a forklift driver, coach, musician, and a high school computer science teacher for 15 years. Before Wendelin Van Draanen stumbled upon her love of writing children's books, she wrote screenplays about family tragedy and novels for adults. More information about Van Draanen can be found at www.shredderman.com

Other Titles by Wendelin Van Draanen

Flipped

Sammy Keyes Mystery Series

Shredderman 2: Attack of the Tagger

Shredderman 3: Meet the Gecko

Shredderman 4: Enemy Spy

Swear to Howdy

Illustrator's Biography

Brian Biggs was born in 1968 in Little Rock, Arkansas, but he grew up in Pasadena, Texas. Biggs attended Parsons School of Design in New York City majoring in Art. Now living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Biggs teaches illustration at the University of the Arts. Brian also enjoys working in his art-laboratory and playing with his two children. More information on Brian Biggs can be found at www.shredderman.com

Related Titles

Bullies

Agnes Parker—Girl in Progress by Kathleen O'Dell.

Amelia Takes Command by Marisa Moss.

Blue Cheese Breath and Stinky Feet: How to Deal With Bullies by Catherine DePino.

Blubber by Judy Blume.

Cockroach Cooties by Laurence Yep.

Colder Than Ice by Dave Patneaude.

Dog Sense: A Novel by Sneed B. Collard.

Golden and Grey: An Unremarkable Boy and a Rather Remarkable Ghost by Louise Arnold.

Indigo's Star by Hilary McKay.

Jake Drake, the Bully Buster by Andrew Clements.

Matthew Jackson Meets the Wall by Patricia Reilly Giff.

A Midsummer Night's Dork by Carol Gorman.

The Revealers by Doug Wilhelm.

Surviving Brick Johnson by Laurie Myers.

See the Lawrence Public Library Bullying booklist for more fiction titles and for non-fiction titles about bullying.

<http://www.lawrence.lib.ks.us/childrensroom/Bullyingbooklist.htm>

See the Buffalo Erie County Library Booklist on Bullying.

http://www.buffalolib.org/kidscorner/greatbooks/books_bullying.asp

Classroom Connections

Bullying Behavior

- See the web site Thematic Pathfinders for All Ages: Bullying <http://www.42explore2.com/bully.htm> This site has excellent classroom projects, activities and webquests about bullying including:
 - Create an anti-bullying poster.
 - Take a bully quiz.
 - Keep a bully journal.

Language Arts

- See the Shredderman web site www.shredderman.com . It has printable activity sheets (crossword puzzle, quiz, etc.) for each book.
- Have students interview and write a report about someone they know, just as Nolan did in the story. Notes and tips on how to be a good reporter are on www.shredderman.com.
- Have students write what they would do if they were Nolan and being bullied by Bubba. Would you do the same thing Nolan did? Why or why not?

Math

- Math word problems on Nolan's level are on www.shredderman.com.

Character Counts

- Use this book as a springboard to a unit on bullying and tolerance. The book is a quick-read and will grab the students' attention. Discuss the behavior of the characters as you read the story aloud.

Web Links

Shredderman

www.shredderman.com

This is the official website of the book series. The site offers activities that tie into the book. When the site is opened it appears to have been hijacked. A box pops up and says you need to complete the crossword puzzle to save the website. The site also has a 20-question quiz, a math worksheet, and a guide for budding reporters. Information about the author, illustrator, and main characters of the book is also included.

Kidsreads.com – Secret Identity

<http://www.kidsreads.com/reviews/0375823514.asp>

Includes a summary and link to read an excerpt from Chapter 1 of *Secret Identity*.

Nancy Keane's Booktalks: Secret Identity

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

Four booktalks about *Secret Identity*.

Random House: Wendelin Van Draanen

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

Author's site includes her list of works, a biography, and an interview transcript.

Bullying

Lawrence Public Library Bullying Booklist

<http://www.lawrence.lib.ks.us/childrensroom/Bullyingbooklist.htm>

Fiction titles and non-fiction titles about bullying.

Buffalo Erie County Library Booklist on Bullying.

http://www.buffalolib.org/kidscorner/greatbooks/books_bullying.asp

Booklist on bullying.

Thematic Pathfinders for All Ages: Bullying

<http://www.42explore2.com/bully.htm>

Lists excellent links, classroom activities and webquests.