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Special thanks to the nationally recognized men's and women's bowling teams of Calumet College of St. Joseph for their participation in the Bowling Challenge.

In 2010 Books to Bridge the Region joins with the Northwest Indiana Literacy Coalition and its affiliates, along with many area libraries, to distribute "Lit-Kits" containing books, discussion guides and book marks to every school and library in our 7-county region. We gratefully acknowledge the hard work of our partners in literacy.

2007 Selections:

- *Into the Forest* by Jean Hegland
- *Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowat
- *Flush* by Carl Hiaasen
- *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry

2008 Selections:

- *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson
- *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan
- *The Journey of Oliver K. Woodman* by Darcy Pattison

2009 Selections:

- *The Ride of Our Lives* by Mike Leonard
- *The Watsons Go To Birmingham — 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *A Day with Wilbur Robinson* by William Joyce

The views of the authors are not those of the BOOKS TO BRIDGE THE REGION committee, its funders or participating entities. You are encouraged to read the books first to determine their suitability for your family or organization. Those participating in or attending programs sponsored by BOOKS TO BRIDGE THE REGION or its participating entities agree to hold BOOKS TO BRIDGE THE REGION and such entities harmless from any illness, injury, damages, or other consequences that result from participation or attendance.



4th Annual
Northwest Indiana
reading event
for all ages!

READING GUIDE for 2010

Put Your Nose in a Book, Northwest Indiana!



Selections for three reading levels:

ADULTS — *Bowling Across America: 50 States in Rented Shoes*

MIDDLE READERS — *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

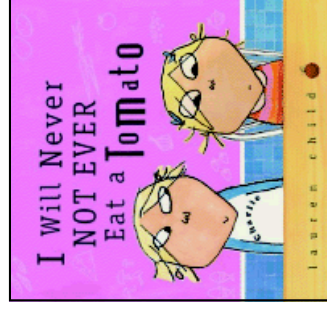
PICTURE/EASY — *I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato*



by Mike Walsh



by Jeff Kinney



by Lauren Child

"I'll be famous one day, but for now I'm stuck in middle school with a bunch of morons." — Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Introduction

Books to Bridge the Region is a reading initiative for all ages encompassing seven Northwest Indiana counties: Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke.

Books to Bridge the Region is a collaborative effort, is not owned or managed by any one entity and does not intend to replace other area “One Read” programs. On the contrary, **Books to Bridge the Region** encourages participation in all programs that foster reading.

Goals

The goals of **Books to Bridge the Region** are to promote literacy, to create conversations among communities, and to foster critical thinking related to a topic.

Rationale

Books to Bridge the Region uses a themed approach with selections at several reading levels so that families can read together and readers of all ages can enjoy the conversations generated by these books.

The books were selected for their subject matter, writing quality, and reading pleasure. We hope that participants will enjoy the books and find much to discuss with members of their families and communities.

“If all goes to plan I will successfully have bowled in both Alaska and Hawaii on the same date — a feat so dubious and unlikely that I will surely be the first to have accomplished it in the history of mankind.” — Bowling Across America

All events are open to the public. Many area libraries will host book discussions and other Books to Bridge the Region events. Contact your local library for information, or check the full events calendar at www.books2bridge.org/calendar.htm. Organizations whose events are open to the public may submit them to the calendar.

“These are not carrots. These are orange twiglets from Jupiter.”

Suggested Materials

If you enjoyed *I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato*, you may enjoy the following books:

- *19 Girls and Me* by Darcy Pattison
- *The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon* by Mini Grey
- *Burger Boy* by Alan Durant
- *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett
- *Eat Your Vegetables! Drink Your Milk!* by Alvin Silverstein
- *Good Enough to Eat: A Kid’s Guide to Food* by Lizzy Rockwell
- *Gregory the Terrible Eater* by Mitchell Sharmat
- *How Groundhog’s Garden Grew* by Lynne Cherry
- *The Monster Health Book* by Edward Miller
- *Oh, the Things You Can Do That Are Good For You!* by Tish Rabe
- *The Runaway Dinner* by Allan Ahlberg
- *Showdown at the Food Pyramid* by Rex Barron
- *Spoon* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- *Where Does Pepper Come From? And Other Fun Facts* by Brigitte Raab

Websites related to this book:

- <http://www.charlieandlola.com> — Homepage for *Charlie and Lola*
- <http://www.candlewick.com> — U.S. publisher of *Charlie and Lola* books
- <http://www.orchardbooks.co.uk> — British publisher of *Charlie and Lola*
- <http://tv.disney.go.com/playhouse/charlieandlola/index.html> — Disney’s site with *Charlie and Lola* cartoons
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/charlieandlola> — *Charlie and Lola* games

Additional questions, activities and materials may be found at www.books2bridge.org.

Discussion Questions

- Is there a food which you would never, not ever, eat?
- What food did you dislike when you were younger, but like to eat now? What changed your mind?
- What imaginative name could you give to broccoli? How about mushrooms, or corn-on-the-cob?
- Charlie found a good way to get his sister to eat foods she thought she didn't like. Have you ever used your imagination to help persuade a brother, sister, or friend to do something?
- Do you think Lola knew that Charlie was tricking her?
- Charlie says that keeping an eye on Lola is difficult. Do you think he is a good big brother? Why or why not?
- What do you think orange twiglets would taste like? How about moonsquirters?
- What is your very favorite food? If someone you know had never eaten that food, how would you persuade them to try it?



“Lola won’t eat carrots, of course. She says carrots are for rabbits.”

Schedule of Major Events

Wed., Sept. 15

4:30-7:00 p.m. **LiteracyPalooza** — Literacy event at the U. S. Federal Courthouse, Hammond, is free and open to the public. Visit www.nwliteracy.org for details. RSVP to (219) 852-6515.

Fri., Oct. 1

10:00 a.m. **Time Out for Reading** — Join thousands across Northwest Indiana and “Put Your Nose in a Book!” For information, go to www.nwliteracy.org. (Sponsored by Northwest Indiana Literacy Coalition, Hammond Reads, and other literacy partners.)

Tues., Nov. 9

2:00-3:00 **Author Mike Walsh** presents *Bowling Across America* at Purdue University Calumet’s Alumni Hall in the Student Union Library Building, Hammond. A book signing follows.

7:00 p.m.

Bowling Challenge! Author Mike Walsh and book-loving bowlers take on members of Calumet College of St. Joseph’s men’s and women’s bowling teams at Stardust Bowl II, Merrillville. (CCSJ’s 2009-2010 Men’s Bowling Team were finalists in the USBC’s National Bowling Championships, finishing in 2nd place to Wichita State.)

Wed., Nov. 10

2:30-3:30 **Author Mike Walsh** presents *Bowling Across America* at Ivy Tech Community College- Gary Campus in the North Building. A book signing follows.

Steve Cooper presents “Bowling Memories,” a video montage of historic footage, trick shots, 300 games, etc., at these libraries:

Sat., Oct. 9 at 2 p.m. Lowell Public Library

Wed., Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m. Lake County Public Library

Thurs., Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. Hammond Public Library

Wed., Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. Whiting Public Library

Thurs., Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. Wheatfield Public Library

Tues., Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. Portage Public Library

Bowling Across America: 50 States in Rented Shoes

By Mike Walsh



Inspired by his father's unexpected passing, a twenty-seven-year-old Chicago advertising executive quits his job to embark on a one-of-a-kind quest. The destination: bowling alleys in each of the fifty states.

Though dubbed “career suicide” by colleagues, the endeavor soon touches a nerve among many. Conversations and adventures with the people he finds in bowling alleys at all hours of the day and night — retired Maine lobstermen, saucy European nannies, recovering addicts, former bowling champions, college students, World War II vets, and lingerie saleswomen, to name a few — combine to form a picture of what America looks like standing in a pair of rented shoes.

“Bowling is a sport steeped in history and tradition ... maybe, just maybe, Cro-Magnon man was a bowler.”

Awards and Reviews

“Walsh is a superb stylist. His writing voice is distinct, and he uses humor naturally.” —*The Denver Post*

“Part travelogue, part road comedy, and part memoir about finding oneself among the strangest of companions, Walsh’s book is a solid read. And it’ll make you want to bowl.” —*The Reader*

“Along the way he meets a variety of people, each of whom offers a distinctive slice of life, and (of course) he discovers a few surprising things about himself. Charming, funny, and sometimes heartwarming.” —*Booklist*



About the Author: Lauren Child

Lauren Child grew up in Wiltshire, England as the middle child of three sisters and the daughter of two teachers. She has always been interested in the many aspects of childhood, from gazing into toy shop windows to watching American children’s shows from the 1960s. After attending two art schools, where Lauren admits that she did not learn much, she travelled for six months, still unsure about which career to embark upon.

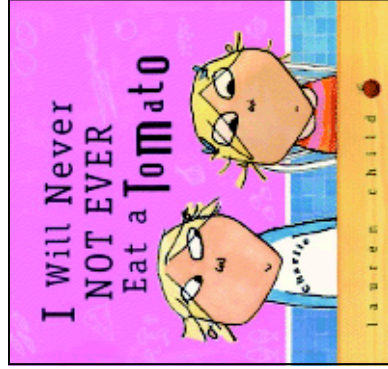
Before Lauren starting writing and illustrating children’s books she started her own company, “Chandeliers for the People,” making exotic, elegant lampshades. It was only when she came to write and illustrate *Clarice Bean, That’s Me* that she decided to devote her time to writing and illustrating books for children, which combines her fascination for childhood and her talent for designing and creating. Lauren lives in North London.

Activity Ideas

- Create an “I Will Never, Not Ever Eat” wall display where children can draw a picture of something they will never eat.
- Host a vegetable tasting party! See which child can eat the most vegetables. Teach children about the food pyramid.
- Hold a creative naming contest. Display a food item and ask children to rename it. Give a prize for the most creative name.
- Watch episodes of Charlie and Lola’s television show.
- Play a memory game. What foods does Lola say she will not eat?
- The author uses many different fonts, or print styles, in her book. Use the computer to experiment with different fonts.

I Will Never Not Ever Eat A Tomato

By Lauren Child



Charlie's little sister Lola does not eat a lot of things — and she absolutely will never not ever eat a tomato. Or will she? Can big brother Charlie find a way to change her mind?

Join these two endearing siblings for a smorgasbord of fun in Lauren Child's witty story about the triumph of a young imagination.

“Sometimes Mom and Dad ask me to give Lola her dinner. This is difficult because she is a very fussy eater.”

Awards and Reviews

Kate Greenaway Medal Winner

“Very funny indeed.” —The New York Times Book Review

“A delectable variation on the picky-eater-themed tale ... Apt not to be satisfied with one serving of this appetizing fare, youngsters will never — not ever — pass up a second helping.” —Publishers Weekly

“The illustrations resemble a child's cut-and-paste collage and the text often dances across the pages in a variety of fonts. Even finicky youngsters will enjoy this tasty treat.” —School Library Journal

“Even younger readers who find Lola's stance perfectly reasonable will join her in this engagingly playful head game.” —Kirkus Reviews

About the Author: Mike Walsh



Mike Walsh is one of the world's leading authorities on the geographic nuances of rented footwear.

A graduate of Miami University, he grew up in a family of six children in Upper Arlington, Ohio. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Chicago within walking distance of four bowling alleys.

NOTE: Mike Walsh will be participating in 2010 Books to Bridge the Region events! See the Schedule of Major Events in this reading guide for dates, times and locations.

Activity Ideas

- Team up with a local bowling alley and have a bowling alley book discussion!
- Hold a “Bowling Basics” program to teach the proper way to bowl and keep score.
- Ask your local bowling center if they have educational kits to use at your school or library.
- Hold a Wii bowling tournament.
- Ask your local bowling center for free game coupons. Hold a drawing for patrons that check out any of the Books to Bridge the Region titles.
- Show bowling-related films.
- Walsh talks about the amount of nachos he ate while on the road. Host a nachos cooking program or have a nachos cook-off.

Cover art, quotes and author photo used by permission of Mike Walsh and St. Martin's Press, an imprint of Macmillan.

Discussion Questions

- If you could do something in all fifty states, what would it be?
- Have you ever challenged yourself to a quest that others might have thought silly?
- The author chooses bowling for his quest, even though he is not a particularly good bowler. Does this surprise you? Why do you think he selected bowling?
- Do you think bowling in all fifty states was an appropriate tribute to Mike's father? Why or why not?
- Does the author seem to experience personal growth or change along the journey?
- Do you have memories of a particular bowling alley/roller rink/arcade from your past?
- Were you surprised by the author's experiences in any particular state? How did you feel about his description of Indiana?
- The author theorizes that bowling alleys are a perfect representation of America in their mix of people and love of recreation. Do you agree? What other places do you think might represent America?

“In all, I bowled 1,150 frames, or 115 games, in which I knocked down over 15,000 pins — which seems like a lot until you do the math and figure out that’s an average of around 130.”

“That’s how I ended up in the emergency room two weeks later with a pink Barbie shoe stuck up my nose.”

Suggested Materials

If you enjoyed *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, you may enjoy the following books:

- *A Long Way From Chicago* by Richard Peck
- *The Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket
- *The Day My Butt Went Psycho* by Andy Griffiths
- *Dear Dumb Diary #1: Let’s Pretend This Never Happened* by Jim Benton
- *The Enormous Egg* by Oliver Butterworth
- *Harris and Me* by Gary Paulsen
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *Homer Price* by Robert McCloskey
- *My Life As a Fifth-Grade Comedian* by Elizabeth Levy
- *The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan
- *Utterly Me, Clarice Bean* by Lauren Child

Websites and resources for *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*:

- <http://www.wimpykid.com> — Author Jeff Kinney’s website
- <http://school.familyeducation.com/authors/artists/38386.html> — Interview with Jeff Kinney
- <http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/school/middleschool/> — PBS site about moving from grade school to middle school
- <http://middle-school-life.suite101.com/> — Advice to parents and students about study habits, clubs, lockers and more!

Discussion Questions

- Do you think that Greg is actually a “wimpy” kid? Why or why not?
- If you could pick one adjective to describe Greg, what would it be? If the book were a diary by Rodrick, what adjective would describe him best? What about Rowley?
- This book has many funny moments. Which part of the book did you find the funniest? Why?
- For Greg’s independent study assignment, he has to come up with ideas of what he would like a robot to do. What would you like a robot to do? Why? Do you think that we’ll ever have our own personal robots to help us in life?
- Would you ever keep a diary or journal? Why or why not?
- Greg and his brother, Rodrick, play jokes on each other and try to get each other in trouble. Is there a joke you’ve played on a sister, brother, or friend?
- Which character in the book do you think you are most like? Why?
- The kids at Greg’s school are afraid of the cheese touch. What’s something silly that you are afraid of?



“Let me just say for the record that I think middle school is the dumbest idea ever invented. You’ve got kids like me who haven’t hit their growth spurt yet, mixed in with these gorillas who need to shave twice a day.”

“People don’t just bowl in bowling alleys. They eat and drink. They karaoke. They fall in love.”

Suggested Materials

If you enjoyed *Bowling Across America*, you may enjoy the following books:

- *Addled* by JoeAnn Hart
- *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* by Michael Chabon
- *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein
- *Bowling Alone* by Robert Putnam
- *Bowling 200+; Winning Strategies to Up Your Average and Improve Your Game* by Mike Aulby
- *Dishwasher: One Man’s Quest to Wash Dishes in All Fifty States* by Pete Jordan
- *Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn
- *Godmother* by Carolyn Turgeon
- *Home to Harmony* by Philip Gulley
- *I Want to Buy a Vowel* by John Welter
- *I’m a Stranger Here Myself* by Bill Bryson
- *The Longest Trip Home* by John Grogan
- *The Lumby Lines* by Gail Fraiser
- *The New Bowling Trivia Book* by Donald Williams
- *The School of Essential Ingredients* by Erica Bauermeister
- *Step Back From the Baggage Claim* by Jason Barger

Websites related to bowling:

<http://bowlingacrossamerica.com> — Mike Walsh’s website
<http://us.macmillan.com/bowlingacrossamerica> — Publisher’s site
<http://www.helpwithbowling.com> — Bowling tips
<http://www.pba.com> — The Professional Bowlers Association
<http://www.bowl.com> — U.S. Bowling Congress site

Additional questions, activities and materials may be found at www.booksbridge.org.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

By Jeff Kinney



Boys don't keep diaries — or do they?

It's a new school year, and Greg Heffley finds himself thrust into middle school, where undersized weaklings share the hallways with kids who are taller, meaner, and already shaving. The hazards of growing up before you're ready are uniquely revealed through words and drawings as Greg records them in his diary.

In book one of this debut series, Greg is happy to have Rowley, his sidekick, along for the ride. But when Rowley's star starts to rise, Greg tries to use his best friend's newfound popularity to his own advantage, kicking off a chain of events that will test their friendship in hilarious fashion.

“Just don't expect me to be all 'Dear Diary' this and 'Dear Diary' that.”

Awards and Reviews

#1 *New York Times* Bestseller

“Kinney ably skewers familiar aspects of junior high life, from dealing with the mysteries of what makes someone popular to the trauma of gym class. His print debut should keep readers in stitches.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“An excellent choice for reluctant readers, but more experienced readers will also find much to enjoy and relate to in one seventh grader's view of the trials and tribulations of middle school.” —*School Library Journal*

“Greatly adding to the humor are Kinney's cartoon. The simple line drawings perfectly capture archetypes of growing up, such as a preschool-age little brother, out-of-touch teachers, and an assortment of class needs. Lots of fun throughout.” —*Booklist*



About the Author: Jeff Kinney

Jeff Kinney is an online game developer and designer, and a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author. In 2009, Jeff was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

He spent his childhood in the Washington, D.C., area and moved to New England in 1995. Jeff lives in southern Massachusetts with his wife and their two sons.

Activity Ideas

- Make a diary or journal to write about your own experiences and life.
- Hold a cartoon drawing class or contest. Have participants name their character.
- Play Wimpy Kid trivia. For help, visit <http://www.quizmoz.com/quizzes/Books-Novels-and-Magazines-Quizzes/d/Dairy-Of-A-WIMPY-KID-Quiz.asp>
- Conduct a Wimpy Kid book discussion, comparing Greg's school experiences with your own.
- Have a toilet paper mummy contest!
- Watch the “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” movie. How does it compare to the book?
- Predict Greg's future! What will Greg be like in high school or college? Try to imagine his life as an adult. What do you think he will do for a living? Will he be a good father?

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