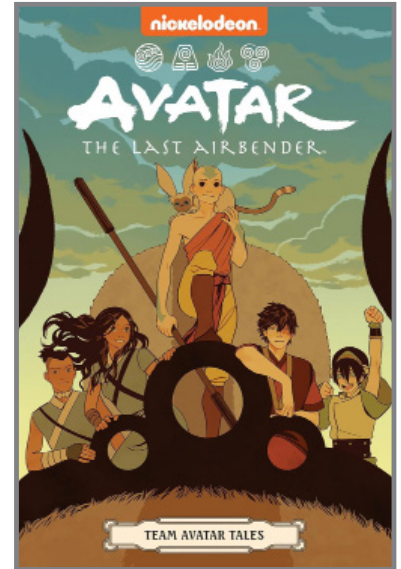


Team Avatar Tales



CREATED BY

BRYAN KONIETZKO AND MICHAEL DANTE DIMARTINO

AUTHORS/ILLUSTRATORS

VARIOUS

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Secondary

SYNOPSIS

This anthology from the world of *Avatar: The Last Airbender* features all your favourite characters, brought to life by a cast of all-star creators!

Journey along with Team Avatar as they rescue a pumpkin farmer waylaid by monsters, go undercover in the Fire Nation, help an old rival with a hair-raising problem, and reflect on what it means to save the world.

ABOUT THE CREATORS

Bryan Konietzko is an American animation director, writer, producer and musician. He is best known, together with Michael Dante DiMartino, as the co-creator and executive producer of the animated series *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and *The Legend of Korra*.

Michael Dante DiMartino is an American animation director best known as the co-creator, executive producer and story editor of the animated TV series *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and *The Legend of Korra*, both on Nickelodeon. He was born in Shelburne, Vermont. He studied at the Rhode Island School of Design with Bryan Konietzko, with whom he created Avatar. Before Avatar, Mike worked for twelve years at Film Roman.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the book, as a class, discuss the cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion could be:
 - Who has read or seen the Avatar series before?
 - Who are the main characters you would expect to see in these stories?
 - Who is shown on the cover of this book?
 - What are the characters on the cover doing?
 - What (or who!) are the characters on the front cover of the book standing on?
 - What does this picture tell us about where and when in the Avatar universe the stories in this book are likely to be set?

Rebound

- What is the meeting that Kei Lo takes Mai to?
- Why is Mai so upset to find that Tom Tom is at the meeting?
- How do you think that Mai feels when she realises that Kei Lo asked her to dinner, as part of his 'mission' to get Mai to attend the meeting? What is another way that Kei Lo might have managed to get her to attend, without him

having to lie to her?

- How do you think Kei Lo feels about his date with Mai being part of a ‘mission’—and how do you think he feels when he realises that Mai will know that he was instructed to take her on a date?
- Why does Mai take Tom Tom with her when she leaves? How do you think her father feels about this? What does her father do when he realises that Mai is leaving with Tom Tom?

The Substitute

- How good do you think Sokka’s disguise is?
- Why do you think that Sokka is so desperate for snacks?
- When Sokka says that he is literally going to die if he doesn’t get snacks, does he mean that he actually will die, or just that he really really wants some snacks now? Is this a literal meaning of the word literally, or is Sokka using it figuratively? Why do you think that the author chose to use this phrase in their writing? What is the impression that it makes on the reader?
- What do you think a ‘furry lipped fiend’ is, and why did the boy say that Sokka was one?
- When the children find out that Sokka is not actually the substitute teacher, they force him to buy them lots of treats to keep them from telling the authorities. What do we call it when someone forces someone else to pay them money (or buy them snacks), as payment for not revealing a secret?
- Why do you think the children are so quiet and sleepy when their parents come to collect them?

Shells

- What do you think the difference between a shell, and a ‘collectible shell’ might be?
- When you think of seashells, what type of shell do you picture in your mind? Draw a picture of your mental image of a typical seashell.
- Online or in the library, research seashells, and look at pictures of different types that exist. Using the images you found as a reference, draw and colour pictures of at least three different types of shell.
- Is the storekeeper offering to give Sokka a good deal on shells if he buys two?
- How much would you be willing to pay for a beautiful and intact seashell?
- Is it legal to collect shells from our beaches and take them home? Why/why not?
- Why were Seashell-san and Jojan so rude to Suki?
- Are seashells flammable? Why/why not?
- What do you think that Suki means when she tells Giya that ‘The kind of strength you’re talking about isn’t something you just have, it’s something you learn.’?
- How can we tell that the panels illustrating the story Suki tells Giya, show events that are all happening in the distant past?

Sokka’s Poem

- Who is speaking in Sokka’s Poem? How can we tell?
- What does Sokka’s Poem tell us about Sokka?
- How can we tell that this is a poem?
- Write a poem of your own, and illustrate it with at least four panels of drawn and coloured artwork.

Toph and the Boulder

- What is happening on the first page of this chapter? How can we tell just from the pictures?
- What is making all the noise?
- How do you think crococats differ from regular cats? Draw a picture of a croccat that you would like to have as a pet.
- What does it mean to have an insatiable hunger?
- How would you describe The Boulder and The Pebble’s reaction to the idea of seeing a vet? Write a detailed description of their response to Toph’s suggestion.
- Would it really be possible for any sort of cat to eat all of a fish that is larger than they are? Why/why not?
- Why do you think The Boulder wanted to keep The Pebble’s existence secret, and why did he change his mind?
- What would you call the three croccokittens if you were in charge of naming them?

Origami

- Why is Chio so embarrassed when her father calls her origami ‘paper-bending’?
- Look online or in the library for some origami instruction sets that can teach you how to fold a paper crane. Choose one that you think is clear and understandable, and use a piece of pre-used paper from the recycling bin for your first attempt. If you find it too challenging, try again, if necessary using a different set of instructions. If you are successful, then practise until you are confident. Once you are confident in your new paper-folding skill, make a presentation version using origami paper, wrapping paper or some other coloured paper cut to size. Display your finished cranes in a class origami-display, for everyone to see and admire.
- Why do you think that Chio continuously downplays her origami skills, and talks as if they are useless and worthless in comparison to the things that other people can do?
- What do you think is the best piece of personal advice to be found in this chapter?

Sisters

- Do you think that each of the sisters having their own ‘thing’ to keep their parents from comparing them to each other was a good idea? Why/why not?
- Can you ‘steal’ acrobatics or any other interest from another person? Why might Ty Lee’s sisters think that she stole acrobatics from them?
- Why does Ty Lee not want to be part of a group where everyone looks the same and does the same thing? Why might some other people yearn for this type of group and belonging instead? What are the benefits of belonging that cause Ty Lee to decide to stay with the Kyoshi warriors?
- Can you think of something in your life which is made much easier when a lot of you do it all at once?

The Scarecrow

- Do you think that it is okay to steal someone else’s pumpkins?
- Why did the old man dress up so scary and try to attack Momo and the others?
- What constitutes an over-reaction, and what makes a reaction proportionate?
- Make pumpkin masks out of cardboard. You can make them scary, or you might want to aim for cute. For a challenge, you can also try to make a 3D pumpkin decoration, and place an electric light inside it so that it looks like a traditional jack’o’lantern.
- It turns out that it was Raccoon-crows that were raiding the pumpkin fields. If we had bird-animal combinations in real life, what combination of which two creatures do you think would be most likely to raid the fields here?

AUTHOR OF NOTES

RAE CARLYLE