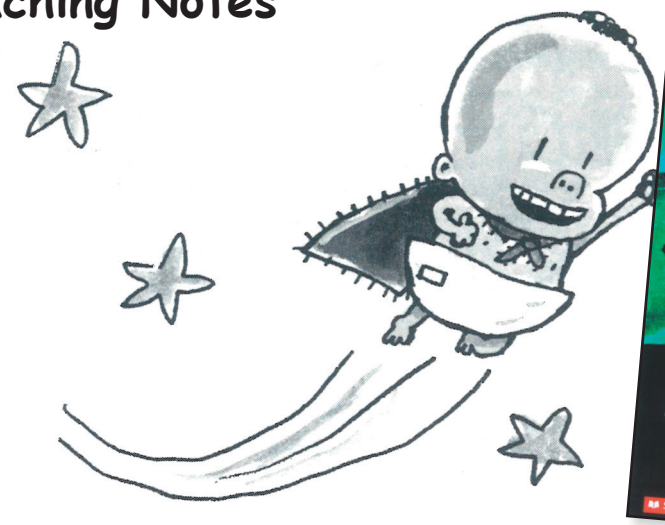
The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby Teaching Notes



About this book

Oh, no! It's not enough that George and Harold have invented Captain Underpants, the greatest superhero of all time, and that they've also saved the world FIVE times — defeating Dr. Diaper, punishing Professor Poopypants and whacking the wicked Wedgie Woman!

What task could be worse? As punishment, the boys have to write a 100-page report on 'good citizenship', and they have been specifically ordered NOT to write another comic about Captain Underpants. So what do they do? Meet Super Diaper Baby!!

Dav Pilkey brings his fans an hilarious new superhero created by George and Harold — the stars of Pilkey's best-selling Captain Underpants series. In this outrageous comic novel, their hero, Super Diaper Baby, must save the world from the evil Deputy Dangerous.

About the Author

Dav Pilkey was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He currently lives in Eugene, Oregon with his dogs, Little Dog, Leia, and Martha Jane, and his cats, Blueberry and Edward Velvetpaws. Dav (originally Dave) hit upon the current spelling of his name when a label maker used to create name tags refused to print the letter 'e'. Though the spelling has changed, the pronunciation is the same.

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Lesson Plan

Subject Area

Language Arts

Objective

Students will understand the graphic-novel format and create their own comics.

Standard: Students will use reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of texts (eg fairytales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths).

Before Reading

Comics Are Everywhere!

Comics are a unique form of literature. Perfect for beginning or reluctant readers, they present information using a combination of text and illustration.

- Introduce the concept of graphic art to students. If possible, bring in an example of a comic (cut from a local paper or magazine).
- Send students home to be comics detectives. Ask them to bring back one example of a comic. They may look in books, newspapers, magazines, copy down something seen on television, or print something from a home computer.
- Share the samples with the rest of the class.

Teaching Plan

Activities

My Comic Adventures

Students can create their own superheroes!

1. Using *The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby* as an example, ask students to invent their own comic adventures. Depending on students' abilities, you may wish to do this individually or as a class. Explain that superheroes tend to have superhuman abilities — what special skills would their superhero possess? Each student should come up with their own superhero. Encourage them to use their imaginations, the wackier ideas the better!
2. Distribute paper and pencils. Allot a certain amount of class time to this project. Students should write and illustrate to the best of their abilities.
3. At the end of the allotted time, share each student's stories with the class. Or, if this has been a class project, read the finished story aloud.

Post the finished project(s) on a classroom bulletin board.

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In My Own Words

Students can compare and contrast straight narrative with the comic novel style.

1. After reading the story, ask each student to think about the story that George and Harold have presented.
2. Using no illustrations, have students recount the adventures of Super Diaper Baby, from start to finish, in their own words.
3. Ask each student to read their narrative aloud to the class.
4. Talk about the differences and similarities between each student's version. Talk about any nuances that were lost (or gained) in 'translating' the story into narrative format.
5. If time allows, let students practise drawing the characters using the instructions provided at the back of the book.

Other Books by Dav Pilkey

Dogzilla: A monstrous mutt terrorises the residents of Mousopolis.

Kat Kong: A spoof of the story of King Kong, with cat and mice characters.

Dog Breath!: Hold your nose! Because here comes the dog with the worst breath in the world?

The Captain Underpants Series: Meet George and Harold's first creation — the amazing Captain Underpants! Children will laugh out loud at the antics of this offbeat superhero...and his creators.

The Ricky Ricotta Series: Ricky Ricotta is a small mouse, but he can do amazing things with the help of his Giant Robot. Evil-doers, beware!

The Adventures of Ook and Gluk: Kung-Fu Cavemen from the Future.

Lesson Plan by Rebecca Gómez

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