


Novel Resource for the novel:
The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco
By Janice Repka
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About the Author Janice Repka	
Background and Interesting Facts	Janice Repka was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and grew up in Carnegie, Pennsylvania, which was a lot like Hardingtown. Her writing career began as a U.S. Army journalist in Fort Hood, Texas. She wrote on topics ranging from chaplains to rattlesnake hunts for a weekly military newspaper. After earning a journalism degree, she later she went to law school and practiced law for many years before getting back to writing.
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Author's Connection to the Book	Even though she was a lawyer, she never lost the desire to write. One day she thought about the game of dodgeball and built a story around what would happen if a shy, boy found himself in the unofficial dodgeball capital of the world. Repka said, "if kids have half as much fun reading it as I had writing it, I'll consider it a huge success."
Other Books Written by the Author	<u>The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco</u> is Janice Repka's first book.. She has had short stories published in the Antietam Review and Writer's Journal.

Annotation

Phillip Stanislaw just wants to be a regular kid who lives in a regular town. Finally he has a chance when dad, a circus clown, and mom, the circus fat lady, let him stay with Aunt Veola and Uncle Felix in Pennsylvania. But he finds life as a regular kid isn't easy and Hardingtown, the unofficial Dodgeball Capital of the World, isn't a regular town. As home of the American Dodgeball Company, dodgeball is the sport in Hardingtown. In gym class all students play dodgeball. Phillip has a problem. He's angered the school bully, B.B., Junior Dodgeball Champion. After B.B. hits Phillip with a ball and breaks his glasses, he decides to file a lawsuit against B.B., the school, the coach, the dodgeball company and the town! Will the judge take it seriously or will his case be thrown out? What will happen to Phillip if he loses? This book is an easy read that students and teachers will really enjoy. Readers will learn about bullies and how students can take a stand and work to change what they feel is wrong.

Booktalk

Phillip is a circus kid. You might think he's really lucky! He gets to be around cool animals and acrobats and he gets to travel all over. That's the life! But Phillip would rather be living in a regular town doing regular kid things. You see, his dad is a clown, Leo Laugh-a-Lot and his mother is Matilda the Fat Lady. They've tried to get Phillip involved in different circus acts, but he's just not fitting in.. When he's 11, he goes to Hardingtown to live with his aunt and uncle and go to a regular school. But life isn't so great there either. Have you ever played dodgeball? Well, Phillip hasn't and at this school, dodgeball is THE sport. Have you ever had to deal with a bully? When you read The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco you'll find out if Phillip survives dodgeball, how he handles a bully, and what the stupendous fiasco really was.

Characters

<u>Name & Age</u>	<u>Relationship to other Characters</u>	<u>Personality Traits</u>
Phillip, 11	Main character	Shy, inexperienced in life outside the circus, gutsy
Leo and Matilda	His parents	Clown and Fat Lady in the circus, love to make people happy
B.B. Tyson, 12 (almost 13)	Bully & junior dodgeball champion	Afraid to disappoint her father
Sam	His friend & lawyer	Caring, good listener

Conflict
Phillip’s conflict is external. He is bullied by B.B. at school, especially in gym class. He is her target in dodgeball. His glasses are broken by one of her ‘hits’ and Aunt Veola must pay for new glasses.
Conflict Resolution
Phillip feels it’s not fair that his aunt must pay for the glasses and after reading law books and consulting with a lawyer, he files a lawsuit against B.B. for assault and battery.
Genre
Realistic fiction, school stories fiction, family fiction.
If You like <u>The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco</u>, you’ll love:
Same genre/theme: <u>Dork on the Run</u> by Carol Gorman; <u>The Revealers</u> by Doug Wilhelm; <u>Trial by Journal</u> by Kate Klise
Interest Level/Reading Level
Interest Level: 3-6 Reading Level: 4.7 Lexile 710 www.titlewave.com
Read-Aloud Pages/Passages
Ch. 7, p. 42-43 Phillip trips in the cafeteria & food gets all over B.B. “The bell rang and Phillip...” Ch, 25, p. 144-146 Phillip questions B.B. in court.”Phillip had never before been in a place...” Ch. 28, p. 160-161 Phillip and his father talk during a break in the trial. “Phillips swung around in his chair. His dad was holding a take-out box...”
Setting
Present day, Hardingtown, Pennsylvania
Point of View
Third person
Theme

The theme of this book is bullying. At first, Phillip is bullied by B.B. due to a bad first meeting at school. B.B., junior dodgeball champion, takes action against Phillip during dodgeball games in gym class. Phillip lacks experience playing the game and he does not enjoy it. He soon realizes that many other students don't like it either. The coach insists they must play dodgeball because Hardingtown is the unofficial dodgeball capital of the world, host of the annual dodgeball world series, and home to the American Dodgeball Company. It is after his glasses are broken when hit by a ball thrown at him by B.B. that Phillip decides to take action, asserting his right not to be bullied by B.B. as well as the other students' right not to be bullied by the coach by being required to play dodgeball. Phillip's legal action helps bring closure to a long ago dodgeball incident involving his mother, Mr. Race, and others.

The title, The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco, can refer to two incidents. Of course it can relate to the lawsuit that Phillip files, but it also alludes to the past incident involving Matilda and the cheerleader pyramid and Stinky who threw a dodgeball causing the collapse of the pyramid. The title offers a great opportunity to learn definitions, too, as students might look up 'stupendous' and 'fiasco' before reading.