

Bats at the Beach
Written and Illustrated by Brian Lies
Houghton Mifflin Company
Boston 2006

About the Author

Brian Lies grew up in Princeton, New Jersey, where he spent a lot of time building and inventing things with a neighbor across the street. He also spent quite a bit of free time writing and drawing with his older sister. In fifth grade, his life was changed forever. An author/illustrator visited his school and Lies was so excited that someone could have such a fun job for a living! He never thought, though, that he could have such a fun career. However, as he grew older, he became more and more interested in drawing. After attending Brown University for psychology and British and American literature, he moved to Boston and began studying drawing. This led to him getting a few jobs at Houghton Mifflin illustrating political pieces. Later, he got into children's books, which is his love. He currently has illustrated around 19 books, including Bats at the Beach, which he also wrote. When not working on his own books, he likes to visit schools to help children with writing and drawing. He resides in Massachusetts with his wife and daughter. He has a few hobbies, and he really likes to read!

And now a piece of advice straight from the author:

“I also read a lot, which I think is important—it keeps my imagination going, and leaves me feeling much more relaxed than television does!”

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Program Information

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Other Books Written by Brian Lies

Finklehopper Frog

Frinklehopper Frog Cheers

Spy Hops and Belly Flops

Hamlet and the Magnificent Sandcastle

Hamlet and the Enormous Chinese Dragon Kite

Popcorn!

See the Yak Yak

Lucky Duck

Flatfoot Fox and the Case of the Missing Eye
Flatfoot Fox and the Case of the Missing Schoolhouse
Flatfoot Fox and the Case of the Bashful Beaver
Flatfoot Fox and the Case of the Missing Whooo
Flatfoot Fox and the Case of the Nosy Otter

The Poet's Pen

Deep in the Swamp

Coming SOON

Bats in the Library

Book Awards

Young Hoosier Book Award Nominee 2008-2009 Bats at the Beach

Other Awards

2004 Children's Choice Award Winner Finklehopper Frog

Annotation

Title: Bats at the Beach

Author: Brian Lies

Annotation:

Lies, Brian. "Bats at the Beach." 2006

The author writes this fictional story to show what bats might do in their free time during the night, which of course is their day. He shows them traveling to the beach to share in some fun activities and lots of great food. The book is full of amazing illustrations done by the author himself that depict what bats and their surroundings look like during the night. Children will absolutely love these detailed pictures. This book is intended for very young readers who will find the humor in his creativity and fictional mind. It may be useful, too, in teaching children about bats, as it does contain a few realistic facts about the bat family. Teachers could find a variety of activities to tie into this book on the author's website.

Genre

Fiction-Picture Storybook

Point of View

1st person

Theme

bats

Conflict

The bats are bored in their barn, and it is a beautiful night outside.

Conflict Resolution

The bats leave their barn and head to the beach for a night of fun.

Characters

bats, little bats, old bats

Setting

This story takes place at the beach during the nighttime, which is the bat's daytime. It also begins and ends in a barn, where the bats live.

Interest Level and Reading Level

Interest Level-Ages 5+

Reading Level-1.5

Booktalk

Bats at the Beach is a wonderfully picture story book with absolutely beautiful illustrations. In this story, Brian Lies portrays bats as human-like with some qualities that only humans possess, such as surfing, swimming, singing, building sandcastles and much, much more. He takes us on a nighttime journey with the bats, showing us what they do for fun and what they like to eat. He even shows us how to roast bug-mallows. However, when the sun begins to come up...well, I guess you'll just have to read the story to see for yourself!

Language

rafter-part of the roof that helps support it

shrieks-loud, high-pitch sounds

gleeful-happily; joyfully

trowels-very small shovels used for digging in the dirt

milkweed bugs-black and red insects

damselflies-a smaller version of the dragonfly

embers-small pieces of glowing scraps from a fire

leathery-looking or feeling like leather

flutter-move gently with quick motion, like a butterfly

crevice-a narrow crack or opening

Indiana Academic Standards

English/LA: K.1.1, K.1.10, K.2.1, K.2.2, K.3.2, 1.1.7, 1.2.1, 1.2.5, 1.2.7, 1.3.3, 1/5.3, 2.2.9, 2.2.10, 2.3.4, 2.3.5, 2.4.3, 2.5.7, 3.1.3, 3.1.6, 3.1.7, 3.3.6

Math: K.5.2

Science: K.3.2, K.4.1, 1.1.2, 1.4.1, 1.4.3, 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 2.4.3, 3.3.3

Social Studies: K.2.4

Anticipation Statements

	Agree/Disagree	Page Number	Were you right?	Reflect
1. Bats sleep during the night.				
2. Only humans go to the beach.				
3. Bats eat plants.				

4. Marshmallows make a yummy treat.				
5. Bats sleep upside down.				

“If you like Bats at the Beach, you will love...”

Stellaluna by Janelle Cannon

Zippping, Zapping, Zooming by Ann Earle

Bats by Gail Gibbons

Bat Loves the Night by Nicola Davies

Bats at the Beach by Brian Lies (COMING SOON)

Popcorn! By Brian Lies

Across the Curriculum Connections

- Have students imagine that they are Little Bat (the bat with the yellow floaties/ water wings). Have them write a diary/journal entry about their night at the beach. Or have them write a letter to someone about it—a friend or a grandbat. (English/LA: 2.4.3, 2.4.7, 2.5.1, 2.5.3, 2.5.5)
Supplies: paper, pencil, editing sheet to check work
- Have students draw an imaginary map of the bats’ journey from their attic to the beach. Be sure to have them show all of the rivers, mountains and other strange things they have to fly over. (English/LA: 3.4.4; Science: 3.6.3; Social Studies: 3.3.1, 3.3.8)
Supplies: paper, pencil, atlases and maps to preview, colored pencils

Resources

Book Activities

Activity One

Individual Activity for grades 2-3

Have students cut out bat book (found on enchantedlearning.com under bats-picture books.) Then go through all the activities in the book with them, while they complete each page. Finally, have students color their books. These can either be sent home or put on display in the classroom or in the hallway for others to learn more about bats.

This book should take 2-3 days of 20 minutes each to complete. Then one day should be allowed for coloring and adding finishing touches. Before you begin, make sure to have lots of books about bats for children to find information. Also, if you have any other resources about bats, these should be put on display for students to look through.

Academic Standards Met

English/LA: 2.2.5, 2.2.6, 2.6.1, 2.6.3, 2.6.7, 3.4.4, 3.6.1, 3.6.2, 3.6.7,

Science: 2.4.3, 2.4.4, 2.4.7, 3.4.3

Bibliography

Teacher Book Wizard

<http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/homePage.do>

Hoosier Book Awards

<http://www.ilfonline.org/AIME/YHBA/YHBA.htm>

Brian Lies' website

<http://www.brianlies.com/>

Enchanted Learning

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html>

Read Think Write

http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson226/anticipation.pdf