

YHBA Novel Resource The Great Fuzz Frenzy

**Young Hoosier Book Award Book The Great Fuzz Frenzy
by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel**

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Publisher

Harcourt Children's Books

About the Author/Illustrator – Janet Stevens

Janet Stevens, coauthor of many books with her sister, Susan Stevens Crummel, lives in Colorado with her family and has written and illustrated many wonderful children's books. As a child, Ms. Stevens's family moved frequently because her father was in the Navy. Ms. Stevens relates to young readers, telling them about her experiences in the "Bluebird" reading group and learning to love reading, writing, and drawing and how they are all connected.

Art Medium

Mixed Media – pencil, watercolor, sewing, digital arts (scanner, Photoshop)
Students may pencil, colored pencil, and watercolors independently to create illustrations. Janet Stevens' website (www.janetstevens.com) has an excellent "slideshow" demonstrating the process that she uses to create her book illustrations, starting with pencil drawings. If technology resources allow, this could be a great partner project with classes and older students, media specialists, technology teachers, or parent volunteers.

Contact Information

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Via Harcourt

Harcourt Trade Publishers

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Photo



Connections to the Book

The story of The Great Fuzz Frenzy was inspired by Ms. Stevens' dog, Violet, dropped a tennis ball down prairie dog hole. On her website, Ms. Stevens states, "There those prairie dogs were, minding their own business deep underground, when a mysterious object rolled into their town. What did they think it was -- and what did they do with it?"

Other Books Written by Janet Stevens

Tops and Bottoms adapted by Janet Stevens

Three Billy Goats Gruff, adapted by Janet Stevens

Old Bag of Bones, A Coyote Tale Adapted by Janet Stevens

From Pictures to Words (A Book About Making a Book) by Janet Stevens

Coyote Steals the Blanket Adapted by Janet Stevens

Dog Who Had Kittens by Janet Stevens

How the Manx Cat Lost Its Tail Retold by Janet Stevens

Princess and the Pea Adapted by Janet Stevens

Three Billy Goats Gruff Adapted by Janet Stevens

The Tortoise and the Hare Adapted by Janet Stevens

Other Books Illustrated by Janet Stevens

Why Epossumondas Has No Hair on His Tail by Colleen Salley

Epossumondas by Colleen Salley

To Market, To Market by Anne Miranda

Anansi and the Magic Stick by Eric Kimmel

Anansi and the Talking Melon Retold by Eric Kimmel

Anansi And The Moss Covered Rock Retold by Eric Kimmel

Anansi Goes Fishing Retold by Eric Kimmel

The Gates of the Wind by Katherine Lasky

About the Author – Susan Stevens Crummel

Susan Stevens Crummel, author of several children's books with her sister, Janet Stevens, lives in Fort Worth, Texas with her family. Writing is a fairly new career for Ms. Crummel; she was a math teacher in Texas schools for 31 years! She has a husband, three grown children, two grandchildren, and a black, fluffy cat named Tweeter.

Contact Information

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Photo



Other Books by Susan Stevens Crummel

City Dog, Country Dog by Susan Stevens Crummel and Dorothy Donohue

All in One Hour by Susan Stevens Crummel

Ten-Gallon Bart by Susan Stevens Crummel

Ten-Gallon Bart and The Wild West Show by Susan Stevens Crummel

Other Books by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Jackalope by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

The Dish Ran Away with the Spoon by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Cook-A-Doodle-Do, by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Plaidypus Lost by Janet Stevens and Susie Stevens Crummel

My Big Dog by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Help Me, Mr. Mutt! by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Shoe Town by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Tumbleweed Stew by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Awards

Colorado Children's Book Award for 2007

Annotation

Inspired by Janet Stevens' dog Violet, The Great Fuzzy Frenzy is the story of a tennis ball that descends upon a prairie dog colony. The prairie dogs have many humorous and creative uses for the tennis ball's fuzz, which leads to quite an uproar! Readers of all ages will delight in this clever story. Big Bark, "the meanest dog around," begins to take

control of the situation when he is cut-off by Pip Squeak, a little, fearless dog, who not only approaches the unknown object, but begins the great fuzz frenzy. When the frenzy gets out of control, it's Pip Squeak's duty to end it. In an attempt to gain his status back, Big Bark steals all of the fuzz, ending the frenzy, and giving Big Bark a new occupation in the colony. The imaginative illustrations add a lifelike touch to this witty story, with silly fuzz everywhere you can imagine. The sister-team of Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel has created a book that children will ask to hear again and again, and parents and teachers will enjoy reading aloud, again and again! With numerous outlets for extensions, The Great Fuzz Frenzy is a welcome addition to any bookshelf.

Genre

Animal & Nature Fiction

Point of View

Third Person

Theme

Prairie Dogs, Greed, Working Together

Conflict

Internal Conflict – Pip Squeak feels that she is responsible for the great fuzz frenzy, but does not know how to stop it. The other prairie dogs are overcome with greed and cannot see that it is destroying their town.

Conflict Resolution

Big Bark steals all of the fuzz and the prairie dogs are forced to band together to save him. They soon realize that the fuzz was troublesome.

Characters

Violet – dog

Big Bark – big, bossy prairie dog; thinks he's in-charge!

Pip Squeak – small, fearless prairie dog; first to approach the tennis ball

Other prairie dogs

Eagle

Setting

Present Day

Prairie Dog Town – above and below ground

Interest Level

Pre-K – 2 Perma-Bound Resources

Reading Level

1.9 Perma-Bound Resources

Booktalk

In the story The Great Fuzz Frenzy by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel, a tennis ball is dropped into a prairie dog hole. What do you think a prairie dog would do if they came across a tennis ball? Would they think it was food? Or try to play with it? Some very creative things begin to happen when the prairie dogs start a fuzz frenzy! The illustrations in this story are wonderful to look at – it looks as if you could feel the soft tennis ball fuzz! This silly story is one that you’ll want to read over and over.

Discussion Questions

Before Reading

What makes a tennis ball different from a baseball or basketball?

Where do prairie dogs live?

What is a prairie dog town?

During Reading

What do the other prairie dogs think of Big Bark? Page 13

What would you do with a piece of fuzz? Page 15

Why is Big Bark “beside himself?” Page 19

Why are the prairie dogs acting this way? Page 27

What would you suggest to Pip Squeak? Page 29

Who stole the fuzz? Page 33

After Reading

What lesson did Big Bark learn from this?

What lesson did the prairie dogs learn from this?

Language

frenzy title – wild excitement

gutless page 13 – lacking courage

charged page 16 – ran up to, ran toward

storming page 21 – leaving angrily

fiesta page 25 – a festival or festive celebration

fandangle page 25 – a fancy, but useless ornament

abuzz page 25 – alive,

pruned page 26 – to cut off

plucked page 26 – to pull off

feud page 28 – a fight

fiasco page 28 – a failure

talons page 38 – claws of a bird

Indiana Academic Standards Met by Novel Content

Kindergarten Language Arts

K.1.1 Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book.

K.2.1 Locate the title and the name of the author of a book.

K.2.3 Generate and respond to questions (who, what, where).

First Grade Language Arts

1.2.5 Use context (the meaning of the surrounding text) to understand word and sentence meanings.

1.2.7 Relate prior knowledge to what is read.

1.3.3 Confirm predictions about what will happen next in a story.

1.3.5 Understand what is read by responding to questions (who, what, when, where, why, how).

Second Grade Language Arts

2.3.5 Confirm predictions about what will happen next in a story.

2.3.7 Identify the meaning or lesson of a story.

Third Grade Language Arts

3.1.6 Use sentence and word context to find the meaning of unknown words.

3.3.4 Determine the theme or author's message in fiction and nonfiction text.

3.3.8 Identify the problem and solutions in a story.

Anticipation Statements

Before		The Great Fuzz Frenzy By Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel	After	
Agree	Disagree		Agree	Disagree
		Prairie dogs live underground.		
		Prairie dogs look like small dogs.		
		It is okay to be greedy.		
		It is important to work together to solve problems.		

Read-Alikes

Jackalope by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

The Dish Ran Away with the Spoon by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Cook-A-Doodle-Do, by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Plaidypus Lost by Janet Stevens and Susie Stevens Crummel

My Big Dog by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Help Me, Mr. Mutt! by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Shoe Town by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Tumbleweed Stew by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

Lewis and Clark: A Prairie Dog for President by Shirley Redmond

Prairie Dogs by Marybeth Lorbiecki

Peeking Prairie Dogs by Christine Zuchora-Walske

Grassland Animals: Prairie Dogs by Patricia J. Murphy

Prairie Dogs (Animal Prey Series) by Sandra Markle

Prairie Dogs by William Munoz

The Secret World of Prairie Dogs (The Secret World Series) by John Woodward

Across the Curriculum Connections

Prairie Dogs - Science

Using non-fiction texts from the public library or school media center, have students investigate prairie dogs. Facts to be gathered should include, but are not limited to; habitat, diet, 2 or more characteristics, enemies, babies, and size. Students can then use the facts they have gathered to create a web or graphic organizer on a computer program such as KidSpiration, write a brief report, poem, or story. Students could work individually, partnerships, or small groups to research and report their findings.

Optional Resources:

List of facts students are to research

KidSpiration or other graphic organizer computer software OR

Printed graphic organizers

Lined paper for reports, poems, stories

Blank paper

Prairie Dogs by Marybeth Lorbiecki

Peeking Prairie Dogs by Christine Zuchora-Walske

Grassland Animals: Prairie Dogs by Patricia J. Murphy

Prairie Dogs (Animal Prey Series) by Sandra Markle

Prairie Dogs by William Munoz

The Secret World of Prairie Dogs (The Secret World Series) by John Woodward

Kindergarten Science

K.4.1 Give examples of plants and animals.

First Grade Science

1.2.7 Write brief informational descriptions of a real object, person, place, or event using information from observations.

1.4.1 Identify when stories give attributes to plants and animals, such as the ability to speak, that they really do not have.

1.4.2 Observe and describe that there can be differences, such as size or markings, among the individuals within one kind of plant or animal group.

1.4.3 Observe and explain that animals eat plants or other animals for food.

1.4.4 Explain that most living things need water, food, and air.

Second Grade Science

2.4.1 Observe and identify different external features of plants and animals and describe how these features help them live in different environments.

2.4.2 Observe that and describe how animals may use plants, or even other animals, for shelter and nesting.

Third Grade Science

3.4.3 Observe that and describe how offspring are very much, but not exactly, like their parents and like one another.

Tennis - Physical Education

Partnering with the PE teacher in your building, teach students the basics of tennis. If tennis courts are available, these may be incorporated, but if not, use of a racket and ball, forehand, backhand, serving, rules, and vocabulary can be taught in the gymnasium.

Optional Resources

Tennis rackets

Tennis balls

Tennis courts

Rules and regulations – USPTA Little Tennis website

<http://littletennis.com/index.cfm?MenuItemID=323&MenuGroup=homepage>

Kindergarten Physical Education

K.3.1 Participate in moderate to vigorous physical activity during and after school.

K.5.1 Demonstrate an understanding of rules, regulations, and safety practices.

K.7.1 Exhibit self-confidence and enjoyment when participating in movement experiences.

K.7.3 Attempt new skills and demonstrate a determination to develop skills through repetitive practice.

First Grade Physical Education

1.1.3 Manipulate a variety of objects (throw, catch, strike, kick) while moving or standing still, using variations in force/effort.

Second Grade Physical Education

2.5.1 Demonstrate an understanding of rules, regulations, and safety practices.

Third Grade Physical Education

3.1.3 Utilize implements (bat, ball, racquet) combined with motor skills (movement skills) to perform specific skills.

3.5.2 Recognize and avoid unsafe practices and situations.

Resources

Interview with Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel on Help Me, Mr. Mutt! June 22, 2008 from, <http://www.harcourtbooks.com/mrmutt/interview.asp?source=contest>

This is an easy to read interview with Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel about their most recent book Help Me, Mr. Mutt! Students will enjoy hearing about inspiration for stories, processes for illustration, and personal experiences of the authors.

Prairie Dog Coalition, June 22, 2008, from <http://www.prairiedogcoalition.org/children-and-education.php>

The Prairie Dog Coalition website has activities and lessons for students in grades K-5. Primary age activities include coloring, “Life in a Prairie Dog Town,” facts and myths, mazes, and word puzzles.

National Geographic Prairie Dogs, June 22, 2008, from

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/prairie-dog.html>

This website from National Geographic offers facts, photos, and several videos on prairie dogs. This would be a great website to share with younger students, or a link on a webquest for older students.

Book Activities

Writing a Sequel

Writing a Sequel

Name: _____ Date: _____

We just read The Great Fuzz Frenzy by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel. Examine the very first pages of the book, inside the front cover and the very last pages of the book, inside the back cover. What is the same in the two illustrations? What is different between the two illustrations? Your job is write the *sequel* to The Great Fuzz Frenzy. The last illustration is where your story should begin. Be sure to use capitalization and punctuation and a title for your story!

*What's a sequel? A sequel is a story that begins where another story has ended.

After an initial story has been written, students may add illustrations and share with classmates. Students may work on this assignment together or individually. Older students could also pair with younger students (if your class does a “Reading Buddy” activity) to assist in the writing process. Additional lined paper or blank paper may be needed.

Use of Language

Use of Language

Name: _____

Date: _____

Using the story **The Great Fuzz Frenzy** by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel, locate the following types of words. Write each word or words into the chart in the appropriate column.

simile A simile is the comparison of two unlike things using <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> .	onomatopoeia An onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound it represents	alliteration An alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in neighboring words	anaphora An anaphora is repetition of a word at the beginning of a clause, line, or sentence

Indiana Academic Standards Met by Book Activities

Kindergarten Language Arts

K.1.10 Say rhyming words in response to an oral prompt.

K.4.2 Tell a story that the teacher or some other person will write.

First Grade Language Arts

1.1.7 Create and state a series of rhyming words.

Second Grade Language Arts

2.1.1 Demonstrate an awareness of the sounds that are made by different letters by:

- distinguishing beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words.
- rhyming words.
- clearly pronouncing blends and vowel sounds.

2.3.2 Create different endings to stories and identify the problem and the impact of the different ending.

2.3.4 Identify the use of rhythm, rhyme, and alliteration (using words with repeating consonant sounds) in poetry or fiction.

Third Grade Language Arts

3.3.5 Recognize that certain words and rhythmic patterns can be used in a selection to imitate sounds.

Bibliography

Janet Stevens' Website

www.janetstevens.com

Indiana Academic Standards

www.doe.state.in.us/standards

Harcourt Children's

www.harcourtbooks.com/childrensbooks

Susan Stevens Crummel's Website

www.susanstevenscrummel.com

Barnes and Noble

www.barnesandnoble.com

Perma-Bound

www.perma-bound.com

