

Punished!
By David Lubar
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About the Author

Author's Webpage

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



Author's Background

David Lubar was born and raised in Morristown, New Jersey. As a child, he spent a lot of time in the library (either because his mother was a librarian or because he got kicked out of class for too much talking). He attended Rutgers University, earning a degree in Philosophy. After college, Lubar decided to try his hand at writing for a career. When that did not prove successful, he began working as an editor for a magazine. Following that, he had a career designing and programming video games in California. Lubar returned to writing. He currently lives in Pennsylvania with his wife and their three cats.

Other Books by David Lubar

- **Hidden Talents*
- **True Talents*
- **Flip*
- **The Battle of the Red Hot Pepper Weenies*
- **The Curse of the Campfire Weenies*
- **Invasion of the Road Weenies*
- **In the Land of the Lawn Weenies*
- **Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*
- **Dunk*
- **Dog Days*

Awards

- **Hidden Talents* – An ALA Best Book for Young Adults
- **True Talents* – A Spring 2007 Book Sense Pick
- **Flip* – A VOYA Best-of-the-Year Selection
- **Invasion of the Road Weenies* – A Kansas State Reading Circle Selection
- **Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* – Michigan's Thumbs-Up Award for 2006
- **Punished!* – A Junior Library Guild Selection
- **Dunk* – A KSRA Young Adult Book Award Winner, 2004 Young Adult Book Award from the Keystone State Reading Association, Texas Lone Star Reading

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List

**Dog Days* – A Junior Library Guild Selection

Annotation	Logan Quester finds trouble at the library. While he and his best friend Benedict are playing in the library, Logan encounters Professor Robert Wordsworth. Logan's life changes after Professor Wordsworth punishes him with a special dust that. Logan finds himself using pun after pun at home, with his friends, and at school. Professor Wordsworth tells Logan that his punishment can end if he successfully completes several tasks. Logan works against the clock, trying to get his pun-free life back.
Genre	Fantasy/Friendship/Family Stories
Point of View	First Person
Theme	The main overall theme in this short novel is that of overcoming obstacles. Logan must finish every task the professor has laid out for him, or he'll be stuck using puns forever! Another theme is that of friendship, as his friendship with Benedict is strained while he works to undo the magical powder's effects on his own.
Conflict	Internal conflict is present throughout the book as Logan works hard on his own to free himself from the world of puns. He must work alone and without his best friend, which causes him a lot of worry. External conflict arises when Benedict and Logan have an argument. Logan can't tell Benedict what is happening, but Benedict knows something is up.
Conflict Resolution	The conflict is resolved when Logan completes Professor Wordsworth's tasks successfully and frees himself from using puns. Benedict and Logan resolve their argument and enjoy a pizza using Logan's Student of the Month coupon.
Characters	Logan Quester – Logan is an active young boy who would rather play baseball than do schoolwork. Benedict – Benedict is Logan's very hyper best friend. Benedict struggles with behavior in school, and longs to win the Student of the Month Award. Kaylee – Kaylee is Logan's little sister who thinks his puns are incredibly funny. Professor Robert Wordsworth – The professor is a serious man who spends a lot of time in the library. He punishes Logan, and then actually helps him find his way out of the world of puns.
Setting	The novel takes place in modern times in May near the end of the school year. A lot of the action in this book takes place in the library, at Logan's home, and at school.
Interest Level and Reading Level	Interest Level – Grades 3 - 6 Reading Level – 3.6
Booktalk	<u>Punished!</u> by David Lubar is an entertaining novel. Logan Quester encounters trouble at the library. It comes in the form of Professor Robert Wordsworth, who Logan meets while he's playing tag in the very quiet library. The professor is not amused by Logan's playing, and decides that there should be

a punishment. Before Logan realizes it, he’s using puns every time he speaks. This serves to annoy his parents and friend, amuse his sister, and get him in trouble at school. Logan must complete several language-related tasks in order to get his life back to normal. After tackling oxymorons, anagrams, and palindromes, Logan breaks the spell. He and Benedict celebrate, and Logan will probably never run in the library again.

Language **Phase** pg. 23: A step in a series of actions
Industry pg. 26: Steady labor or work
Doomed pg. 30: To set on a fixed course to an unhappy ending
Quest pg. 33: An act of seeking or searching

Indiana Academic Standards Language Arts: 3.1.6, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.3.6, 3.3.8, 4.1.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.6, 4.3.7, 5.1.1, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.8

Anticipation Statements

Anticipation Guide

Before Reading		Punished! By David Lubar	After Reading	
Agree	Disagree		Agree	Disagree
		Libraries are quiet places.		
		Best friends always understand.		
		Oxymorons are people who aren’t very smart.		
		Anagrams are opposites.		
		Palindromes are sports arenas.		

Read-Aloud Passages

Punished! Read-Aloud Passages

By David Lubar

PASSAGE ONE

Before Reading:

Prior to reading Chapter 2, a class discussion about apologies will take place. Create a web detailing how people show they are sorry.

The Passage:

“Words aren’t always enough.”

Chapter 2, page 14.

After Reading:

Do you notice how the author makes us think about just saying “sorry” isn’t always enough? Share a time when you or someone else has said “sorry” and it wasn’t really meant.

Why Passage Was Chosen:

Students need to realize that apologizing is more than saying a word. It is also the actions that follow the apology.

PASSAGE TWO

Before Reading:

Discuss fighting with a friend. When have you had an argument? How did you solve it? Why did you fight in the first place?

The Passage:

“The way you rushed out the other day when I saw you on the steps, I knew something important was going on. Even if you wouldn’t tell me about it.”
Chapter 7, page 89.

After Reading:

Could you be as understanding as Benedict was? Have you ever done something nice for someone while in the middle of an argument with that person?

Why Passage Was Chosen:

This part of the book shows that even when having a disagreement, true friends stick up for each other. I believe that it is important for students to realize how they can be good friends all of the time.

Bibliography

Lubar, David, *Punished!*, Darby Creek Publishing 2006.

Official Website of Author David Lubar: <http://www.davidlubar.com/>

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