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# Activity Guide

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## Shredderman Secret Identity

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### ABOUT THE STORY

Alvin Bixby, known as Bubba, is the class bully, and Nolan Byrd (known as Nerd, thanks to Bubba) has had enough. When Mr. Green gives the class a computer assignment, Nolan designs a web page and on it becomes Shredderman, the superhero who can take on Bubba. But is Shredderman strong enough to defeat the hulking, mean, nasty, smelly Bubba?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Wendelin Van Draanen lives in Santa Monica, California, where she teaches math and computer science and writes books for young people. Ms. Van Draanen is the author of the Sammy Keyes mysteries, including *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief* and *Sammy Keyes and the Skeleton Man*, and another book about Shredderman, *Attack of the Tagger*. All are Live Oak Media audiobooks.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Brian Biggs was born in Arkansas and grew up in Texas. He studied art at Parsons School of Design. He now teaches illustration at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where he lives with his two children.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask students if they have ever had to deal with a bully. Have volunteers describe some of the situations they faced with the bully. Then tell students that the book they will read is about one kid's attempt to deal with a class bully.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

- “What does Bubba do to other kids?”
- “What are some of the items on Nolan’s website?”
- “What does ‘shred’ mean?”
- “How does Nolan manage to get pictures of Bubba doing his bullying?”
- “Why does Mr. Green approve of Shredderman?” (*Draw Conclusions*)
- “Why does Nolan understand Bubba better by the end of the story?” (*Analyze*)

### Vocabulary

Write these words on the chalkboard. Explain to students that they are technical words having to do with computers, a major topic in the story. Have students arrange the words in alphabetical order and look up each word, writing down its definition. Students can refer to their list of words as they read.

digital    download    scanner    monitor    cyberspace

### CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### **Art: Design a Superhero Web Page**

Just as Nolan did, students can design their own superhero web pages, either on paper or on a computer. Have students work in pairs or groups of three to plan a web page of their own. They can invent a superhero with super powers and then design the page with information and links. If possible, allow students to set up their web pages on the computer. If you cannot do this, post their paper websites around the classroom.

#### **Language Arts: School News**

Nolan’s website evolves from the school assignment to create a newspaper page. Have students design and write their own newspaper pages with news from the school. They can work in small groups to create a front page with a newspaper name, headlines, and two or three stories.

#### **Health: Dealing With Bullies**

Nolan devises a very unusual way to deal with a bully. Ask students to work together to create a list of other ways to deal with bullies. Encourage them to brainstorm actions that can help kids handle bullies. Then they can write their list on a piece of posterboard and provide illustrations. Hang the list in the classroom.

#### **Language Arts: Email from Shredderman**

Have students work in pairs to continue the email conversation between Shredderman and Bubba that is featured in the story. One student can write an email that Bubba might send to Shredderman. The other student can respond to the email as he or she thinks Shredderman might respond. Students can take turns writing as Bubba and Shredderman.

### INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

#### **Visiting Shredderman**

Have students visit [www.shredderman.com](http://www.shredderman.com) and complete some of the activities that are available at the site. Students might enjoy sending an email to Shredderman as well.