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Activity Guide

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Shredderman Attack of the Tagger

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ABOUT THE STORY

Shredderman is back! Someone has been spray painting graffiti all over town. Nolan Byrd, a.k.a. Shredderman, leaps into action to find the culprit. Is it his old enemy, Bubba? Armed with his digital camera, Nolan narrows down the possibilities. Then the rumor starts: that it's Shredderman himself doing the tagging! Nolan must act fast to save the superhero's reputation.

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, *Secret Identity*. All are Live Oak Readalongs

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. He also illustrated another book about Shredderman, *Secret Identity*, a Live Oak Media audiobook.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they have ever seen graffiti. Tell them that the book they will read is about a fifth grader who wants to find out who has been spray painting graffiti in his town.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “What places does the spray painter tag?”
- “Why does Nolan begin to suspect the correct culprit?”
- “How does Nolan catch the spray painter?”
- “How do Nolan's parents feel when they find out his secret?” (*Make Inferences*)
- “How does having Shredderman as his secret identity help Nolan?” (*Analyze*)

Vocabulary

Write these adjectives from the story on the chalkboard. Then have students copy the sentences, filling in each blank with a word from the story.

anonymous indignant invincible portable

- The spray painter thinks he is _____ and will never be caught.
- Graffiti artists often do not sign their work, so their graffiti is _____.
- Nolan's digital camera is very small and _____.
- Nolan is _____ when people begin to suspect Shredderman.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Graffiti Debate

Some people think that graffiti is an art form, while others do not agree. Divide the class into three groups to debate this question: *Is graffiti art?* Students in one group can prepare an affirmative answer. Students in the other group can prepare a negative answer. Students in the third group can vote on which side presented the stronger argument.

Art: Shredderman Rules!

Many superheroes got their start as comic strips. Have children work with partners to create a Shredderman comic strip. Students can use events from the book in their comic strips or can invent their own events to portray. Display the comic strips around the classroom.

Math: Converting Numbers

Nolan is very good at converting numbers from one form of measurement to another. Have children look in math books to make the following conversions:

1 mile = _____ kilometers

100 degrees Celsius = _____ degrees Fahrenheit

1 pound = _____ kilograms

1 quart = _____ liters

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 and complete some of the activities that are available at the site. Students might enjoy sending an email to Shredderman as well.