

Special Pull-Out Section

**22** PAGES OF

exciting, book-related  
activities for your  
school year!

# CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY THE MONTH





# MAY

*This month we feature titles  
from Simon & Schuster*



## Room One

*by Andrew Clements, illustrated by Chris Blair*

A shrinking school in a dying town. A face in the window of an empty house. Isolated events? Sixth grader Ted Hammond learns that they're not – and discovers that the solution of one mystery is often the beginning of another.

### ACTIVITY

#### SOLVE IT

Using the website <http://kids.mysterynet.com> as a resource, teachers can find several short mysteries for students to solve. Before tackling any of these mysteries, discuss the observation, note-taking and problem-solving skills that helped Ted solve his big mystery. Follow up by asking students to read short mysteries for details that can be recorded on an event map or on a cause/effect map. After analyzing the details collected, ask your students to draw a specific conclusion.

## Lunch Money

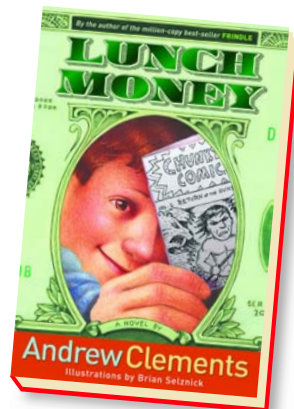
*by Andrew Clements, illustrated by Brian Selznick*

Greg Kenton loves money, but is not fond of his neighbor Maura. Together, however, they become comic book publishers, eventually fighting for the right to sell their books in school.

### ACTIVITY

#### STEP BY STEP

At the start of the book Greg seems to think he can do almost everything better than Maura can. What makes him feel this way? Is this how he feels by the end of the story? Why? Is Mr. Z. good at being a teacher? How can you tell? Ask your students to discuss what it means to be good at something. What are some practical steps to different accomplishments? Are there steps that are common to every kind of accomplishment? Make a list of things that kids in your classroom are good at now, and what they hope to be good at in the future.



*Also look for a BRAND-NEW Andrew Clements novel, No Talking, in Summer 2007!*



## The Report Card

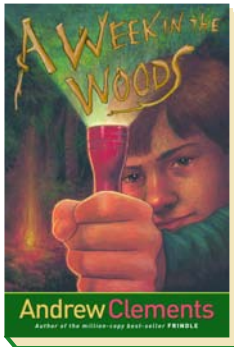
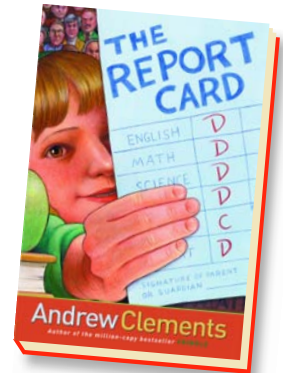
by Andrew Clements

Nora Rowley goes to great lengths to hide the fact that she is a genius. She just wants to be treated like a “normal” fifth grader.

### ACTIVITY

#### COMPARED TO WHAT?

We all know that kids compare themselves to each other, and that schools compare kids by using tests and grades. Ask your students to think of other areas in life where people are compared to each other. How about in professional sports? Are some people better than others at mowing a lawn? How about running a business? Is being “the best” at something the most important thing in life? What are some qualities that are important for everyone to have? Is it possible to compare yourself to...yourself? Maybe someone would like to try comparing him- or herself *now* to the way he or she was *then* – this is a good activity for the teacher to try first!



## A Week in the Woods

by Andrew Clements

Mark didn't ask to move to New Hampshire. Or to go to a hick school like Hardy Elementary. When the whole school heads out for a week of camping, nothing goes as planned. Through the ensuing events, Andrew Clements explores issues of first impressions, fairness, loyalty and courage.

### ACTIVITY

#### USING A COMPASS

Since his compass convinced Mark that he was not lost, ask students to use a compass and determine the location of various areas of the classroom or the school building. For example, they could learn that the teacher's desk is on the north side of the room and the technology center is in the west end of the school. Using only the terms North, South, East or West, ask students to write directions with which a stranger could find several items in the classroom or areas of the building. As a good follow-up homework assignment, have students determine whether their home is N, S, E or W of the school.

## Frindle: 10th Anniversary Edition

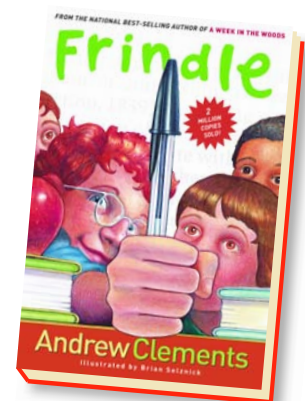
by Andrew Clements, illustrated by Brian Selznick

Nick Allen's curiosity about the origin of words has far-reaching effects. His creativity gains him notoriety; at the same time, it creates a power struggle between him and his teacher, Mrs. Granger.

### ACTIVITY

#### RULES! RULES!

Periodically throughout the reading of *Frindle*, ask students if they think Nick is actually disobedient and creating problems for the school. Record these responses on a chart. At the end of the story, have students reflect on these thoughts and compare them to how they felt at the end of the story when Mrs. Granger's letter is revealed. This can be tied into behavioral issues that might apply to the class. Further discussion can focus on what causes problems for schools and why.



Special Pull-Out Section

**22 pages** of exciting, book-related activities for your school year!

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY**

**Little, Brown Books for Young Readers  
Hachette Book Group**




 HarperCollins *Children's Books*



**HYPERION**  
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

 **Harcourt**

 **Charlesbridge**

  
**BOYDS MILLS PRESS**

**teaching**<sup>PR</sup>**k-8**

40 Richards Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06854  
800-249-9363  
[www.TeachingK-8.com](http://www.TeachingK-8.com)