Big Bad Detective Agency

AUTHOR: Bruce Hale
PUBLISHER: Scholastic
COPYRIGHT DATE: 2015
GENRE: Fantasy
LEXILE: 570L

SUMMARY:
Once upon a time… Wolfgang, also known as the Big Bad Wolf, was unfairly accused of trashing the Three Little Pigs’ houses. The only resident of Fairylandia to believe in his innocence, Ferkel the pig, has a tough time convincing the wolf to let him help find the real culprit. But Wolfgang finally, reluctantly, begins using Ferkel’s detecting techniques to discover who could have been the REAL villain of this story.

BOOKTALK:
It’s tough to have a tough rep. It’s a pain to be known as a pain. Wolfgang - a.k.a., the Big Bad Wolf - feels that pain when someone destroys the Three Little Pigs’ houses. A castle guard finds wolf prints running down the path along the houses. “Maybe because that path also leads to MY house,” points out Wolfgang - but no one believes that he’s innocent - after all, he is the Big Bad Wolf! Except Ferkel. To find out how Wolfgang and Ferkel find the REAL Big Bad Guy, and along the way meet Hansel & Gretel, Cinderella and a lot of other Fairylandia characters, read Big Bad Detective Agency, by Bruce Hale.

AUTHOR’S NAME: Bruce Hale

Author’s Website: www.brucehale.com

Other books written by the author:
Chet Gecko series -The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse, The Mystery of Mr. Nice, and at least nine more
Underwhere series - Prince of Underwhere, Pirates of Underwhere, Flyboy of Underwhere

CHALLENGING WORDS

shillings: (p. 1) British coins that were worth 1/20th of a pound. No longer in use in Great Britain, but shillings are used in Kenya, Tanzania, and other African countries.
rephrase: (p. 3) to say in a different way.
tic: (p. 9) a small uncontrollable movement of a muscle
gnawed: (p. 11) chewed
culprit: (p. 12) someone who has committed a crime
porridge: (p. 14) soft mushy food made by boiling grain in milk or water; oatmeal
gristly: (p. 19) describes a part of meat that is tough to chew and eat.
sow: (p. 20) a grown female pig
mistrust: (p. 22) lack of belief that someone is honest
scurried: (p. 28) moved quickly, and with short steps

(used http://www.merriam-webster.com/ for definitions)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Wolfgang met Ferkel at Hansel & Gretel’s house (in Chapter 3)? Why didn’t he just ignore the little pig’s offer of help?
2. What would be the advantages to a house built of gingerbread? What would be the disadvantages? (Chapter 3)
3. Bruce Hale had a lot of fun with different fairy tale characters in this book. He presented many characters as being very different than in their original stories. Which was your favorite “rebooted” character, and why?
4. Think of another version of the Three Little Pigs story that you know. What does this story have in common with that story? What’s different?
5. At the end of the book, a character offers to hire the Big Bad Wolf and Ferkel to investigate a case for him. What is another fairy tale problem that you think a detective agency could investigate? Think about seeing the story from a different angle, as Bruce Hale did in this book, and figure out someone else who could have committed the crime in YOUR story.

ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:

Language Arts:

- Write a new chapter in the Big Bad Detective Agency story. Which fairy tale can you rethink, the way Bruce Hale rethought the Three Little Pigs story? Assign the blame to a different villain. Who hires the Big Bad Detective Agency to solve the case? How do Wolfgang and Ferkel solve the problem?

4.W.3.3. Write narrative compositions in a variety of forms that –
- Establish an introduction, with a context to allow the reader to imagine the world of the event or experience.
- Organize events that unfold naturally, using meaningful paragraphing and transitional words and phrases.
- Use dialogue and descriptive details to develop events and reveal characters’ personalities, feelings, and responses to situations.
- Employ vocabulary with sufficient sensory (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste) details to give clear pictures of ideas and events.
- Provide an ending that follows the narrated experiences or events.

- Use a T-chart graphic organizer to compare and contrast the cases against the Big Bad Wolf and Mama Pig. What pieces of evidence were used against the wolf?
What pieces of evidence did the wolf use against Mama Pig?

4.ML.2.1 Recognize claims in print, image, and multimedia and identify evidence used to support these claims.

- Develop a 30-second commercial for the Big Bad Detective Agency, either for TV or radio. Focus on where the agency works, what it does best, and why someone should hire the Big Bad Wolf and Ferkel. Think about commercials you’ve seen on TV. You’ll also need to write a catchphrase, something that people will remember about the detective agency.

4.SL.4.2 Create oral presentations that maintain a clear focus, using multimedia to enhance the development of main ideas and themes that engage the audience.

- Retell this story in comic/graphic novel format. Summarize and only show the main action. Draw in panels or use an online tool like ReadWriteThink’s Comic Creator.

4.RL.2.2 Paraphrase or retell the main events in a story, myth, legend, or novel; identify the theme and provide evidence for the interpretation.

RELATED INTERNET SITES:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLR2pLUsl-Y Leisurly (12:50) retelling of the original *Three Little Pigs* story, which includes the traditional elements. British voices; simple book-type animation (characters glide through the picture, rather than actually running); short ad in the beginning that can be skipped after a few seconds.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtHjB6rRmQc Quicker retelling (4:51) of the original story. Simple book-type animation again; short ad.


http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/fairytales/ Create your own fractured fairy tale with this interactive planner. Choose to change the characters, the setting, the point of view, and more.

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