

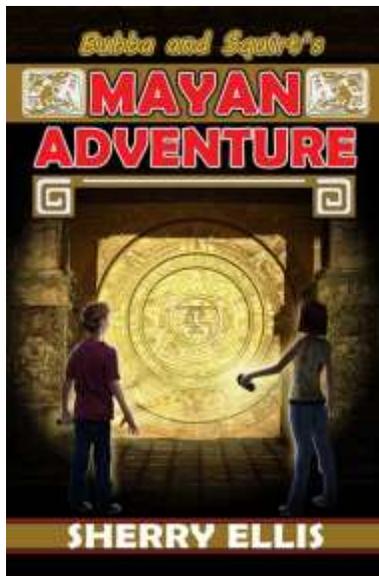
**TEACHER GUIDE**

# ABOUT THE BOOK

## THE SECOND BOOK IN A FUN SERIES ABOUT A BOY, HIS SISTER, AND A WILD ADVENTURE TO BELIZE

*Bubba and Squirt go through the mysterious portal and here's what happens:*

- *They end up at the Mayan ruins of Altun Ha*
- *They meet archeologists who are unearthing priceless artifacts and discover someone has been stealing them*
- *The mysterious Tate Duende awakens magic within Bubba*



*Grades 2-6*

*ISBN: 978-1939844705*

- *Lexile® Measure: 500L - 600L*
- *Mean Sentence Length: 8.47*
- *Mean Log Word Frequency: 3.67*

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*Sherry Ellis is an award-winning author and professional musician who plays and teaches the violin, viola, and piano. When she is not writing or engaged in musical activities, she can be found doing household chores, hiking or exploring the world. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia.*



# HEY, TEACHERS!

## *HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO TAKE YOUR STUDENTS ON A FIELD TRIP TO SEE ANCIENT MAYAN PYRAMIDS?*

Have you ever wished you could take them to a country you're studying in class? Bubba and Squirt can help get your class as close to Belize as possible—without leaving the school! Take the virtual field trip and give your students a peek at the pyramids of Altun Ha.

This packet gives you several options. Choose whichever suits your teaching style. Students can read the book then complete the attached worksheets, or you can have a class adventure where students complete activities at stations and work to solve a mystery.

If you choose the latter, here's how it works: Choose a travel itinerary that works for your classroom. Excursions can be set up as stations for more flexible pacing, or the whole class can work on one destination at a time. Create groups to "travel" to each destination. You will find activity sheets that can be used at each destination in this packet. Be sure to explain each activity to your students before they begin. When a group completes the assignment, they will receive an envelope from you that contains a one-word clue. At the end of their trip, each group will work together to unscramble the words to find out where the jade head of the Mayan sun god was discovered.

## *WHAT YOU WILL NEED:*

- Envelopes (6 for each travel group)
- Mystery words (1 set for each group)
- Air-dry clay
- Acrylic paint
- Paint brushes and water cups for cleaning them
- Modge podge
- Bags of mini marshmallows
- Toothpicks
- Internet access
- Copies of the activity sheets
- Notebook paper
- Pens or pencils

*MYSTERY WORDS:*

<i>In</i>	<i>the</i>
<i>of</i>	<i>Masonry</i>
<i>temple</i>	<i>Altars</i>

**Instructions:** Copy the mystery words for as many travel groups as you have. Then cut apart the mystery word cards and seal each word in a separate envelope for each group.

# TRAVEL ITINERARIES

## *Itinerary 1: Mariemont, Ohio (Computer Station)*

This is where Bubba and Squirt start their journey. It's always a good idea to plan ahead and learn about a place before you visit. Your job at this station is to complete the webquest where you'll learn facts about Belize, Altun Ha, and the ancient Mayan people.

## *Itinerary 2: Temple of Masonry Altars*

The Maya observed the sky to predict solar and lunar eclipses, the cycles of the visible planets, and the movements of the constellations.

Using the items your teacher gives you, create your own recognizable constellation.

## *Itinerary 3: Village of Altun Ha*

Belize is a country in Central America. Spanish is one of the languages that is spoken there. Complete the word search and find out what the Spanish words mean.

## *Itinerary 4: Temple of the Green Tomb*

When Bubba falls down the hole, he discovers a tomb full of Mayan pottery. Using clay, fashion your own pottery. Your teacher will give you directions for how to do this. After it dries, you can paint and seal it.

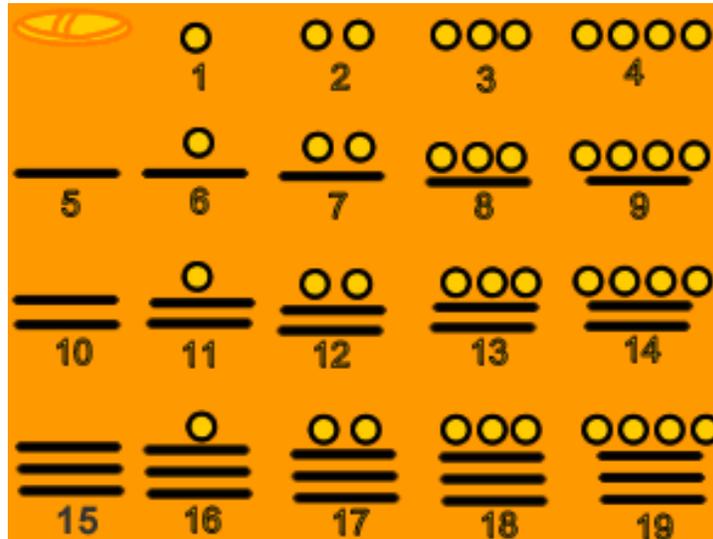
## *Itinerary 5: Temple A3*

Bubba and Squirt discover a codex with Mayan numbers written on it. Mathematics were an important part of everyday life for the Mayan people. They used dots and dashes to represent numbers. Using the guide your teacher provides, see if you can complete the math equations.

### *Itinerary 6: The Jungle*

Bubba meets the Tate Duende who is the guardian of the jungle. Using paper and a pencil, write a short story in which the Tate Duende acts as the protector of animals and plants in the forest.

# Mayan Math



Instead of ten digits like we have today, the Maya used a system of bars and dots as "shorthand" for counting. A dot stood for one and a bar stood for five.

See if you can do this Mayan math.

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# Bubba and Squirt's Mayan Adventure

By Sherry Ellis

## 2020 Language Arts Georgia Standards, Grade 4

Chapter 1	<b>Text:</b> In Chapter 1 you are introduced to Bubba and Squirt. <b>Task:</b> Describe what kind of person Squirt is, using specific details from the text.	<b>ELAGSE4RL3</b>
Chapter 2	<b>Text:</b> Bubba and Squirt are nervous about being in the creepy maze. <b>Task:</b> Recount an experience you have had of being in a place or situation that made you uncomfortable. Use facts and details to support your story. Speak clearly at an understandable pace.	<b>ELAGSE4SL4</b>
Chapter 3	<b>Text:</b> Bubba describes the place they visit. <b>Task:</b> What words and phrases does he use to give a precise description of Altun Ha?	<b>ELAGSE4RL3</b>
Chapter 4	<b>Text:</b> The archeological site is roped off and tourists are not allowed in the area. <b>Task:</b> Explain why the site is off-limits based on specific information in the text.	<b>ELAGSERI1.3</b>
Chapter 5	<b>Text:</b> Artifacts have been found at Altun Ha. <b>Task:</b> List the various artifacts that have been uncovered using specific details from the text.	<b>ELAGSE4RL3</b>
Chapter 6	<b>Text:</b> Bubba comments that the bones he found are not from a T-rex (large dinosaur). <b>Task:</b> Explain why Bubba would say that.	<b>ELAGSERL1.1</b>
Chapter 7	<b>Text:</b> In chapter seven, there are sensory details about the storm: "rain splatting against my arms," "sound like a million marbles crashing into the van." <b>Task:</b> Write a narrative using sensory details of a real or imaginary experience having to do with weather.	<b>ELAGSE4RL3</b>

Chapter 8	<p><b>Text:</b> Senor Raymundo tells Bubba and Squirt about the Tate Duende.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> Conduct a short research project on the Tate Duende. Find out when the legend originated</p> <p><b>Discussion question:</b> Do you believe goblins or other supernatural creatures guard places or things? Why or why not?</p>	<p><b>ELAGSE4W7</b></p> <p><b>ELAGSE4SL1(d)</b></p>
Chapter 9	<p><b>Text:</b> Bubba begins to run from the Tate Duende then realizes he needs to face his problems and not run.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> Recount an experience when you or someone you know tried to run from a problem. What ultimately happened. Use facts and descriptive details to support your story.</p>	<b>ELAGSE4SL4</b>
Chapter 10	<p><b>Text:</b> The Tate Duende communicates without speaking a word.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> List ways he does this.</p> <p><b>Discussion question:</b> Have you ever communicated without speaking? Describe the experience.</p>	<p><b>ELAGSE4RL3</b></p> <p><b>ELAGSE4SL4</b></p>
Chapter 11	<p><b>Text:</b> Bubba said the dirt tasted like burnt hamburgers.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> Use a simile to describe the way something looks, tastes, feels, or sounds.</p>	<b>ELAGSE4SL5(a)</b>
Chapter 12	<p><b>Text:</b> Bubba finds a codex. There are only four in the world.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> Conduct a short research project and find out the names of each of the four codices.</p>	<b>ELAGSE4W7</b>
Chapter 13	<p><b>Text:</b> Bubba runs some more.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> Compare and contrast the two running scenes in the book (chapter 9 and chapter 13).</p>	<b>ELAGSE4RL9</b>
Chapter 14	<p><b>Text:</b> The thief took bold action to attempt to steal the codex.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> Explain why the codex is considered valuable.</p>	<b>ELAGSE4RL1</b>
Chapter 15	<p><b>Text:</b> Before Bubba and Squirt leave, they have a fiesta.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> Write your own story of a celebration, real or imagined. You can even create your own version of Bubba and Squirt's fiesta.</p>	<b>ELAGSERL3</b>
Chapter 16	<p><b>Text:</b> At the end of the story, Bubba and Squirt comment about something they learned from the experience.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> Determine the theme of this story based on details from the text.</p> <p><b>Task:</b> Write an explanatory essay supporting what you think the theme of the story is, using facts, details, and other information from the book.</p>	<p><b>ELAGSE4RL2</b></p> <p><b>ELAGSE4W2(b)</b></p>

## **INDEX – Georgia Standards found in *Bubba & Squirt’s Big Dig to China***

### **Reading Standards for literature, Grade 4**

ELAGSE4RL1 – Chapters 6, 14

ELAGSE4RL2 – Chapter 16

ELAGSE4RL3 – Chapters 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 15

### **Reading Standards for Information Text, Grade 4**

ELAGSE4RI1 – Chapter 4, 6

### **Writing Standards, Grade 4**

ELAGSE4W2 – Chapter 16

ELAGSE4W7 – Chapter 8, 12

### **Speaking and Listening Standards, Grade 4**

ELAGSE4SL1 – Chapter 8

ELAGSE4SL4 – Chapter 2, 9

### **Language Standards, Grade 4**

ELAGSE4L5 – Chapter 11

Additional teacher resources, including vocabulary words, are available on Sherry Ellis’ website at [www.sherryellis.org](http://www.sherryellis.org) and [www.bubbaandsquirt.org](http://www.bubbaandsquirt.org).

Sherry Ellis is available for author visits to schools. You can contact Sherry at [sherry.ellis.booksandmusic@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.ellis.booksandmusic@gmail.com).

Books may be ordered through Follett School Solutions, Ingram, or Dancing Lemur Press. Discounts are offered to schools.

# *Bubba and Squirt's Mayan Adventure*

## Spanish Word Search

D P I S I C P E B U E N O G Q A  
C O H C O I A W N N A L T O K D  
R P V E S T D I M T U Q V M U I  
L F B A M O R Y I G V L E A I O  
Q K Q F X H E Q I J H L D D O S  
S O D I N E V N E I B O Y R A P  
X M B J U Q W D N A Q S L E Y E  
A M I G O S P O H Z E I D A P T  
W F H O G G A S E L S B O V N Y  
M K H P B A W I G P S I E S M G  
V A T K D T R N C A H R W K E V  
Q U A T R O I O A A O N U S S K  
E K M N R H R C J H R C U I I D  
S I O S E E K N Y K I G N E L U  
B Y J N N V S I C C G J L P V I  
H S I E T E L C K B T I A S C E

These are some of the words Bubba and Squirt learned when they went to Belize. See if you can find them.

**ADIOS** (goodbye)

**ALTO** (stop)

**AMIGO** (friend)

**BIENVENIDOS** (welcome)

**BUENO** (good)

**GRACIAS** (thank you)

**HIJA** (daughter)

**HABLE** (speak)

**HOLA** (hello)

**INGLES** (English)

**MADRE** (mother)

**MI** (me)

**PADRE** (father)

**SI** (yes)

**UNO** (one)

**DOS** (two)

**TRES** (three)

**QUATRO** (four)

**CINCO** (five)

**SEIS** (six)

**SEITE** (seven)

**OCHO** (eight)

**NUEVE** (nine)

**DIEZ** (ten)

# *Bubba and Squirt's Mayan Adventure*

## WebQuest

**Directions:** In the book *Bubba and Squirt's Mayan Adventure*, Bubba and Squirt visit Altun Ha in Belize. To learn more about the country and other things related to the story, use the Internet to answer the following questions. (Hint: The bold words might help with your quest.)

1. Grandpa Joe told Bubba and Squirt about workers who tried to build a bridge in Cancun, Mexico. When it kept collapsing, they decided to build a house for the alux they believed lived there. When was the house built? Visit <https://xyuandbeyond.com/mayan-legend/> to find out. And while you are there, look at the cute house.
2. If you visit a country, it's a good idea to know when the best time of year is to visit. That way it's not too hot, too cold, or too rainy. When is the best time to visit Belize? Visit [https://travel.usnews.com/Belize/When To Visit/](https://travel.usnews.com/Belize/When_To_Visit/) to find out.
3. Bubba and Squirt arrive at Altun Ha by traveling through a portal. If they had to pay to visit like regular tourists, how much would each of their tickets cost? Visit <https://nichbelize.org/institute-of-archaeology/archaelological-sites-and-parks/altun-ha/> to find out.
4. How high is the Temple of Masonry Altars, the tallest pyramid at Altun Ha? Go here to find out: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Altun\\_Ha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Altun_Ha)
5. Señor Raymundo mentioned seeing a ghost at the ruins of Xunatunich. What city is that in? Go here to find out: <https://diytravelhq.com/xunantunich-san-ignacio/>.
6. Esperanza pointed out that howler monkeys make a lot of noise before storms come, and Señor Raymundo found an injured spider monkey. How many kinds of monkeys are in Belize? Visit this site to find out: <https://www.northernbelize.com/wildlife.html>. If you'd like to see what they look like, go here: <https://www.islandexpeditions.com/belize-vacations-blog/meet-8-unique-wildlife-belize>.
7. Many artifacts have been discovered at Altun Ha, including a ten-pound jade head of the Mayan sun god, Kinich Ahua. Where was it found? Go here to find out: <https://uncoveredhistory.com/belize/altun-ha/>. And while you are there, take a look at this Mayan masterpiece.
8. Bubba discovers an important treasure – a Mayan codex. There are only 4 in the world. Each one has a name. What are their names? Go here to find out: <https://www.thoughtco.com/maya-books-overview-2136169>.
9. When Bubba and Squirt arrived at Altun Ha, they discovered it was in ruins. At what time in history were the great cities of the ancient Mayan civilization abandoned? (Period and years). Go here to find out: [https://www.ancient.eu/Maya\\_Civilization/](https://www.ancient.eu/Maya_Civilization/)
10. The ancient Mayan people developed their own calendar based on cycles of the moon. How many months were in the Mayan calendar year? Go here to find out: <http://www.websexhibits.org/calendars/calendar-mayan.html>

# *Bubba and Squirt's Mayan Adventure*

## Discussion Questions

### **Chapter 1**

Why do you think the bridge in Cancun kept collapsing? Do you believe an alux had something to do with it? Why or why not?

### **Chapter 2**

Have you ever had to find your way out of a dark place? If so, describe your experience.

### **Chapter 3**

Bubba and Squirt arrive at the ruins of an ancient civilization and discover the buildings are busted. What could make buildings fall apart over time?

### **Chapter 4**

Why do archaeologists not want tourists around their excavation sites?

### **Chapter 5**

Bubba and Squirt learn that artifacts are being stolen. Why would anyone want to steal old things?

Have you ever tried to find dinosaur bones, fossils, or dig for treasure? If so, did you find anything?

### **Chapter 6**

Have you ever seen arrowheads or other Native American tools? How were they made? What materials would you use to make cutting tools or eating cookware if you didn't have today's convenient utensils?

### **Chapter 7**

Bubba and Squirt experienced a severe thunderstorm. Have you ever experienced severe weather? If so, what happened during it?

### **Chapter 8**

When the van got stuck in the mud, Squirt had the idea to put floor mats under the tires. How would that help get a vehicle unstuck?

### **Chapter 9**

Have you ever tried to run from your problems? Did it work? How should you deal with problems when they come along?

## **Chapter 10**

Do you believe you can accomplish anything you put your mind to? Why or why not?

## **Chapter 11**

Bubba literally fell into a great discovery. Have you ever discovered something unexpectedly or by accident? If so, explain.

## **Chapter 12**

Ancient Mayan people had interesting fashion ideas – like drilling stones into their teeth and flattening their foreheads with wooden boards. What do you think of these fashions? Name some fashion trends today. What do you think of them?

## **Chapter 13**

Were you surprised when you learned who the thief was? Why or why not?

## **Chapter 14**

Do you think interdimensional travel through a wormhole is possible? Why or why not?

## **Chapter 15**

Everyone has a fiesta to celebrate the success of catching the thief and discovering the Mayan treasure. It includes music and good food. Describe a celebration or party you have had.

## **Chapter 16**

Have you ever formed an opinion about someone and later discovered it was wrong? If so, describe that experience. What, if anything, did you learn from it?

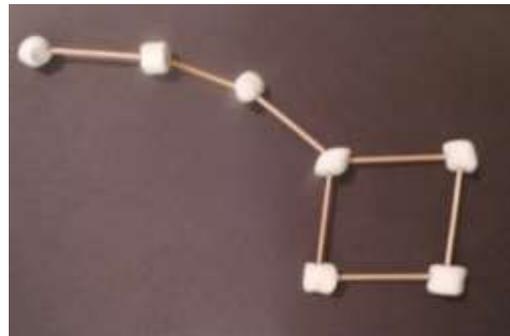
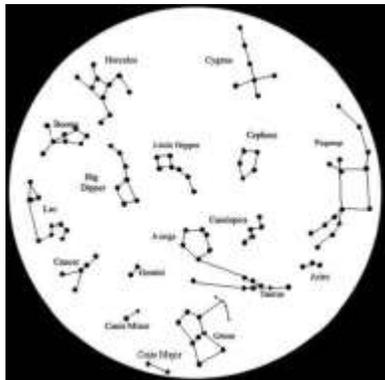
# How to Make Marshmallow Constellations

## Materials:

- Bags of mini marshmallows (2 or 3 per class)
- Toothpicks (2 or 3 boxes per class)
- Diagrams of your favorite constellations
- Paper and pencils

## What to do:

1. Draw the constellation you will create. Use a constellation diagram as a guide. (Black construction paper and white pencils look nice if you have them.)
2. Use dots for the stars and lines to form the constellation's shape.
3. Construct the constellation using marshmallows for the stars and toothpicks for the lines. You may need to break some of the toothpicks to make them shorter.



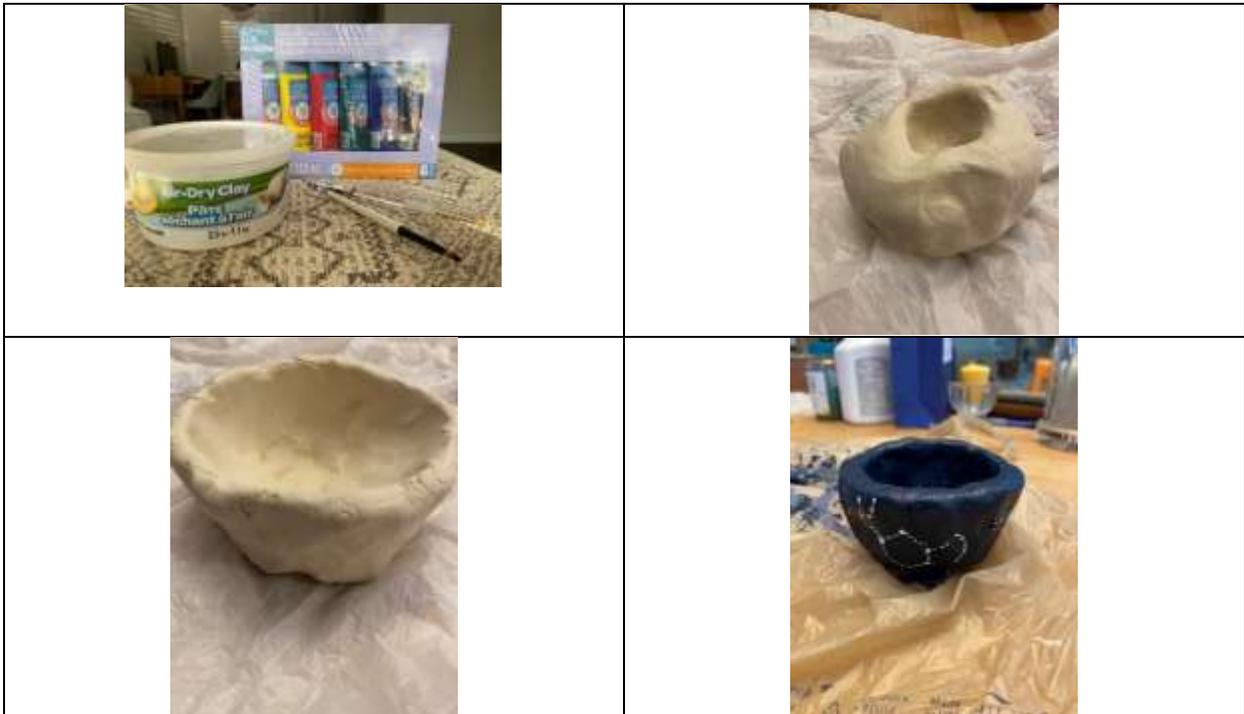
# How to Make a Mayan Pot

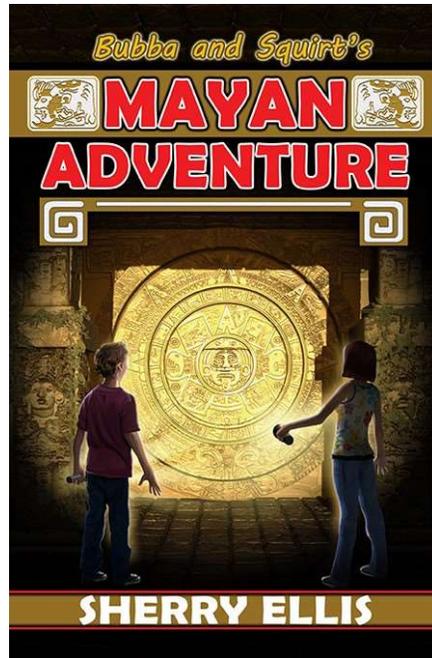
## Materials:

- Crayola Air Dry Clay
- Acrylic Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Modge podge
- Cover for table to prevent paint from getting on it
- Cups with water to clean paintbrushes

## What to do:

1. Form clay into a ball.
2. Make a hole in the center with your thumb.
3. Widen the hole.
4. Form into a bowl. The walls must be at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick.
5. Flatten the bottom.
6. If you want to add grooves or carved shapes, you can do so with a toothpick or craft stick.
7. Allow to dry 2-3 days.
8. Paint with acrylic paint.
9. Allow paint to dry.
10. Apply 1-2 coats of Modge podge sealer.





“Highly recommended for fans of middle-grade Latin American fiction, fantasy, historical fiction, and Mayan Indian culture.” –June McCrary Jacobs, author

“From wild action to education to recipes, Ellis's Mayan Adventure brings it all in this entertaining read.”  
–Virginia Wright, author

“It is a very exciting book . . .It is right for middle-grade readers who aren't advanced but are just starting reading chapter books.” – Kids Book Buzz, 5 stars