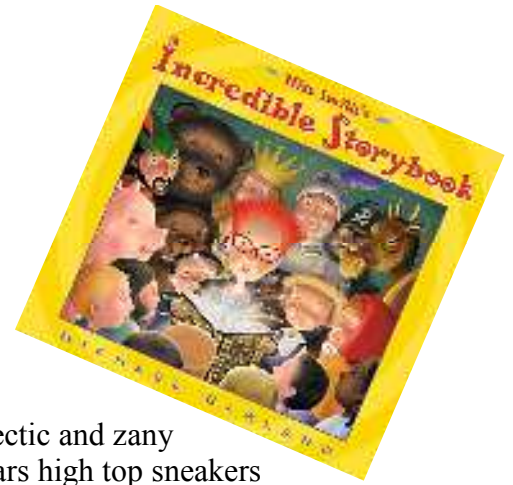


Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook

Written and Illustrated by Michael Garland



Zack is not excited to begin second grade until he meets his eclectic and zany teacher, Miss Smith. Her bright, orange hair is spiked. She wears high top sneakers and “The Clash” pin adorns her black leather jacket. When Miss Smith reads aloud from her personal storybook, the characters magically pop out of the book and come to life. The students are fascinated. One day, when Miss Smith is stuck in traffic, Principal Rittenrotten takes over the class. As he reads aloud, a princess, a knight on horseback, and a fire breathing dragon come out of the book. Mr. Rittenrotten flees the room in a panic. The students continue reading different tales, and more characters continue to pop out of the book. After Miss Smith finally arrives at school, she settles the chaos by completely reading each story. This makes the characters return to the incredible storybook.

About the Author/Illustrator

Michael Garland has written and illustrated many books for children, including *The Mouse Before Christmas*, *Mystery Mansion*, and *Christmas Magic*. He has won various awards, including two Silver Medals from the Society of Illustrators. He lives in Patterson, New York, with his wife and children.

Accompanying Activities

1. Character Matching (Pre-Reading)

Ask students to match the characters in column A with characters from the same story in column B. Tell students that if they look closely, they will see all of these characters in *Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook*. Mix up column B first. This activity can be done on an overhead projector transparency, a dry erase board, or individual sheets of paper.

A

Little Red Riding Hood
Goldilocks
Alice
Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion
Robin Hood
Three Little Pigs
Jack
Bo Peep
Tom Sawyer

B

Big Bad Wolf
Three Bears
Mad Hatter and Cheshire Cat
Wicked Witch of the West
Friar Tuck
Big Bad Wolf
Beanstalk
Sheep
Huckleberry Finn

a. Listening/speaking/purposes – Respond appropriately and courteously to directions and questions.

TEKS: *ELA 110.2 (b) 1 B; ELA 110.3 (b) 1 B; ELA 110.4 (b) 1 B*

2. Different Ending

Ask students to predict what would happen if Miss Smith’s magic did not work, and she wasn’t able to get the characters back into the book. Illicit possible solutions from the students.

a. Listening/speaking/purposes – Listen critically to interpret and evaluate.

TEKS: *ELA 110.2 (b) 1 D; ELA 110.3 (b) 1 D; ELA 110.4 (b) 1 D*

b. Reading Comprehension – Make and explain inferences from texts such as determining important ideas and causes and effects, making predictions, and drawing conclusions.

TEKS: *ELA 110.3 (b) 12 F; ELA 110.4 (b) 9 F*

3. Up Close and Personal

Ask students which character (from any book) they would like to have pop out of a book and come to life. Why would they choose this character? What would they do together? What questions would they ask their favorite character? Students can respond individually, or share with a partner.

a. Listening/speaking/purposes – Listen responsively to stories and other texts read aloud, including selections from classic and contemporary works.

TEKS: *ELA 110.2 (b) 1 E; ELA 110.3 (b) 1 E; ELA 110.4 (b) 1 E*

b. Listening/speaking/purposes – Participate in rhymes, songs, conversations, and discussions.

TEKS: *ELA 110.2 (b) 1 C; ELA 110.3 (b) 1 C; ELA 110.4 (b) 1 C*

c. Reading Comprehension – Make and explain inferences from texts such as determining important ideas and causes and effects, making predictions, and drawing conclusions.

TEKS: *ELA 110.3 (b) 12 F; ELA 110.4 (b) 9 F*

4. Story Comparison

Play “I Spy” while you read aloud the book *Each Peach Pear Plum* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. (A big book format works the best, if available.) Have students look for the characters that are in Miss Smith’s book. (Three Bears, Bo Peep, Robin Hood, and the Wicked Witch)

a. Reading Comprehension – Identify similarities and differences across texts such as in topic, characters, and problems.

TEKS: *ELA 110.3 (b) 12 G; ELA 110.4 (b) 9 G*

Companion Books

Other Books Written and Illustrated by Michael Garland

An Elf for Christmas. Puffin Books, 2005.

Christmas City: A Look Again Book. Dutton, 2002.

Christmas Magic. Dutton, 2001.

Icarus Swinebuckle. Albert Whitman & Company, 2000.

Last Night at the Zoo. Boyds Mill Press, 2001.

The Mouse Before Christmas. Puffin Books, 2001.

Mystery Mansion: A Look Again Book. Dutton, 2001.

The President and Mom’s Apple Pie. Dutton, 2002.

Other Books Illustrated by Michael Garland

- Bertram, Debbie. *The Best Place to Read*. Random House for Young Readers, 2003.
- Estefan, Gloria. *The Magically Mysterious Adventures of Noelle the Bulldog*. Rayo, 2005.
- Friedrich, Elizabeth. *Leah's Pony*. Boyds Mill Press, 1999.
- Klier, Kimberly Wagner. *Firefly Friend* (Rookie Readers, Level B). Children's Press, 2005.
- O'Brien, Kathryn. *I'd Be Your Hero: A Royal Tale of Godly Character*. Standard Publishing Company, 2005.
- O'Brien, Kathryn. *I'd Be Your Princess: A Royal Tale of Godly Character*. Standard Publishing Company, 2004.
- Patterson, James. *SantaKid*. Little, Brown, 2004.
- Smith, Stu. *Goldilocks and the Three Martians*. Dutton, 2004.
- Tompert, Ann. *Saint Nicholas*. Boyds Mill Press, 2000.
- Tompert, Ann. *Saint Patrick*. Boyds Mill Press, 1998.

Related Book

- Ahlberg, Janet. *Each Peach Pear Plum*. Puffin Books, 1978.