



I, Bruno

Caroline Adderson
illustrated by Helen Flook

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About the Book

I, Bruno is a collection of six stories about the irrepressible Bruno, a seven-year-old, highly imaginative yet utterly real boy. Bruno will not eat anything green. He keeps his neighborhood safe from water-spouting dragons. One day he simply decides to become the Queen. And he changes his name to Ed because it's easier to write! When he needs some money for a new toy, he becomes an entrepreneur who sells chats to firemen. Oh, and he can also speak several dialects of Car!

About the Author

Caroline Adderson is the author of three books for children. *Very Serious Children* (Scholastic 2007), a novel for middle readers about two brothers, the sons of clowns, who run away from the circus is nominated for a 2008 Diamond Willow Award and a 2009 Rocky Mountain Book Award. *I, Bruno* (Orca 2007) is a collection of stories for emergent readers featuring seven-year-old Bruno and his true-life adventures; *Bruno For Real* is its sequel. Caroline also writes books for adults—*Bad Imaginings*, *A History of Forgetting*, *Sitting Practice*, *Pleased to Meet You*—and has won two Ethel Wilson Fiction Prizes, three CBC Literary Awards, as well as the 2006 Marion Engel Award, given annually to an outstanding female writer in mid-career. Her numerous nominations include the Scotiabank Giller Prize longlist, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Rogers' Trust Fiction Prize and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize.

Caroline's nine-year-old son and his many friends inspire her children's writing. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

About the Writing

Caroline wrote an early draft of *I, Bruno* the summer her son was five. It seemed that every day was its own adventure, and she really wanted to immortalize this period of their lives. Later, when she realized kids would be reading the book on their own, she aged Bruno a little, but by then her own son was older too. She also wanted to write a book that was strictly realistic since not every child yearns to be a wizard. Hers was quite happy being a boy.

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections

Prereading Ideas

- Bruno faces a number of simple challenges in this book—how to get through dinner without eating something he dislikes, how to earn money to buy something he especially wants, how to get away with as much as he can without actually breaking the rules. What challenges do your young readers face in their daily lives, and how many imaginative solutions can they come up with?
- What is an imagination? How can it help you?

Classroom Discussion Questions

1. In “Bruno the Queen,” Bruno’s mom is worried that someone will criticize Bruno for wearing a dress, but Bruno isn’t concerned at all. Is it hard or easy to be yourself? How much should we care about what other people think?
2. In “Bruno Speaks Car,” Bruno can understand what cars are saying and even speak their language himself. He also understands what his Nana’s neighbor is saying although Bruno doesn’t speak Chinese. How does Bruno do this?
3. In “Bruno Eats the Rainbow,” Bruno refuses to eat anything green, but he’ll eat other colored foods. How many foods can you think of for each color of the rainbow? Which ones do you like and dislike?
4. In “Bruno, Hard at Work,” Bruno comes up with a number of schemes to earn money. How many can you think of? If you were going to buy a chat, what would you want it to be about? How much would you pay?
5. In “I, Bruno,” Bruno doesn’t like his name any more because it has too many letters. If you could change your name, what would you change it to? Why?

Suggested Activities

- Set up a chat table as a Language Arts station. Students can write subjects on scraps of paper and put them in a jar.
- Chart the students' favorite foods according to color.
- Do some experiments mixing food coloring.
- Take a poll to find out who has the longest name in the class.
- Find out how many countries the Queen of England is head of. Find out one interesting fact about each of these countries.
- Learn how to say "hello" in as many languages as possible.
- Write a play based on "Bruno, Dragonslayer."

Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers*Bruno for Real***Reviews**

"These discrete stories bring to rich life an appealing little individual who may think it's too much work to write his own name, but who has a clear sense of who he is and who writes 'I' at the top of his class assignments before handing them in. Adderson writes with poetry, color and a real flair for zany description that lends itself to being read aloud."

—*Canadian Children's Book News*

"Adderson...successfully creates a lovably unique character reminiscent of the favorite characters from the 'Little Bear' and 'Frog and Toad' series for young readers... [*I, Bruno*] is an excellent read-aloud, particularly with kindergarten and grade one children. Bruno is fresh and stereotype-free, refreshing in early reading materials."

—*CM Magazine*

"In six short tales *I, Bruno* relates the adventures of [a] "boy inspiration." Energetic illustrations by Helen Flook reveal a stalwart defender of dragons-disguised-as-fire-hydrants, the Queen in all his white-glove and red-cape glory and a reluctant primary printer who cleverly comes up with a one-letter moniker for himself."

—*BC Bookworld*