



Justine McKeen, Pooper Scooper

Sigmund Brouwer

illustrated by Dave Whamond

ISBN: 978-1-55469-931-5

AR Quiz # 155245

About the Book

Meet Justine McKeen, the Queen of Green. She talks a little too much, bosses a little too much, and tells the truth, just not all at once. She's trying to save the planet, one person at a time, and when she decides to get something done, it's a lot of fun.

In *Justine McKeen, Pooper Scooper*, the third book in the Justine McKeen series, Justine gets her friends to help her clean up the dog poop in the park across from the school board's offices in an effort to get the attention of the superintendent of schools. She hopes the efforts of her crew of cheerful pooper scoopers will help get the superintendent to see that bringing their school librarian back to work is the right thing to do.

About the Author

Sigmund Brouwer is the best-selling author of many books for children and young adults, including the Orca Echoes Howling Timberwolves series. Sigmund loves visiting schools and talking to children about reading and writing. *Justine McKeen, Pooper Scooper* is the third book in his new Justine McKeen, Queen of Green series about a spunky girl and her efforts to create a greener community. He also has a book for teachers and parents, *Rock & Roll Literacy*. Sigmund lives in Red Deer, Alberta, and Nashville, Tennessee.

About the Writing

This book was certainly personal for me. I had the same experience that Jimmy Blatzo did, in my home town of Red Deer in Alberta. I sat in the grass in a beautiful park to enjoy reading a book, and much too late discovered that I had solidly sat on a pile of dog poop. Grrrr. The more important reason that it is personal for me is that as I travel to make presentations at schools, I often find that school boards are cutting the hours of librarians, and, for all the reasons presented in the book, I wish this wouldn't happen.

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections*Prereading Idea*

Justine McKeen and her friends want to make a difference. But they are only kids, and the adults around them are in charge of decisions at the school. What ways can students influence those decisions? What are good ways? What are disrespectful ways?

Classroom Discussion Questions

1. How did people dispose of their body wastes before the toilet was invented?
2. How did the invention of the flush toilet make such a big difference in preventing the spread of disease?
3. What is the system of making sure books can be quickly found in a library and how important is it to know the system?
4. Is the internet a safe place without adult guidance? What kinds of things should a child beware of in cyberspace?
5. When you are doing research on the internet, how can you decide whether the research is accurate or biased? (And what does biased mean?)

Suggested Activities

- How many dogs live in your hometown, and how many pounds of waste does this create in a day?
- Ask your librarian to explain the Dewey Decimal system.
- Research on the internet how dog waste is bad for people, and find three examples.
- Research on the internet how people are tackling the problem of dog waste and find three examples.
- Have a contest to see who can find a certain book the fastest in the school library.

Other Titles and Websites of Interest

Justine McKeen, Queen of Green
Justine McKeen, Walk the Talk

Information on how dog poop can be turned into usable energy.

www.popsci.com/science/article/2010-09/fidos-poo-powers-streetlight-massachusetts-dog-park

An excellent resource for understanding the importance of picking up after dogs.

www.conservect.org/ctrivercoastal/PetWaste/tabid/317/Default.aspx

Sigmund Brouwer's website for those who love helping children understand how reading is a fun way to enjoy story. It has an original song available at iTunes called "It Rocks to Be a Story Diva."

www.story-diva.com

Answers to why it's so important to have librarians in schools.

www.ala.org/aasl/aaslissues/toolkits/parentoutreach

Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

The Howling Timberwolves series (Orca Echoes)

Justine McKeen, Queen of Green (Orca Echoes)

Justine McKeen, Walk the Talk (Orca Echoes)

Rock & Roll Literacy

Several Orca Sports titles

Awards and Reviews

Justine McKeen, Queen of Green

Resource Links "The Year's Best"

Justine McKeen, Queen of Green

"Justine is feisty enough to add some flavor to the mix...Brisk, very brief chapters are accompanied by lively full-page black-and-white illustrations...[and] endnotes provide suggestions for environmental projects included in the story...Funnier and fresher than most."
—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Justine and her friends have so much enthusiasm for reusing and recycling...that readers of this book might find themselves looking for ways to recycle in their own lives. Illustrations by Dave Whamond convey the emotion and detail of the scene to help young readers to connect with what they are reading. Recommended."
—*CM Magazine*

"The characters are engaging and their dialogue is brief, humorous and 'kid-friendly.' Large black and white illustrations, comically drawn, enhance the action. This environmental topic is closely connected to the elementary curriculum and the text should prove useful to promote both discussion and ideas."
—*Resource Links*

Justine McKeen, Walk the Talk

"Amusing...[and] sure to appeal."
—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Illustrations by Dave Whamond...add entertainment and understanding to this story. Brouwer's story gives young readers access to environmental language and issues like the walking school bus, recycling, reusing and the reasons why so many people are resistant to such ideas. Recommended."
—*CM Magazine*