



Rhyme Stones

Pate Skene

illustrated by Graham Ross

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AR Quiz # 120118

About the Book

In *Rhyme Stones*, we go spelunking; we meet a witch who can't stay on her broomstick and a schoolyard bully; and we see how a simple piece of cloth can become anything we want it to be. Each long poem is followed by an exclusive interview with the main character, and each short poem has a "trailer" of cool facts about the theme.

About the Author

Pat Skene has no strange pets or weird habits; however, she does have eleven rocking chairs and two outdoor swings. Could that be where she gets her wonderful sense of rhythm? Pat lives with her husband in Cobourg, Ontario.

About the Writing

Pat loved writing the poems and stories in this book, because they're all about solving problems through courage and imagination. Have you ever met a bully? Or felt that you just don't fit in? Who do you talk to when you're upset? Are you afraid of the dark?

These are some of the important subjects she wrote about in this collection of stories. The ideas for these poems came from everyday conversations she's had with the children around her. They are her inspiration for the characters in this book. You'll meet Cecil Bunker, who is afraid of the dark and must find the courage to rescue his puppy from a pitch-black cave; Polly Palooka, a bully, who terrorizes children and takes the fun out of school; and a witch called Ernestine, who can't join her friends on the biggest night of the year. This little book of poems is a celebration of everyday heroes.

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections***Prereading Ideas***

Explore what it means to go “spelunking.” List some of things you know about bats. How did Halloween get started? What would you do if someone bullied you or one of your friends? Can you get warts from a toad?

Classroom Discussion Questions

1. What was your favorite story or poem and why?
2. How did the author use her imagination to write the story?
3. What are some of the real facts you learned?
4. Why were the other witches upset with Ernestine?
5. What is the important difference between a “wild cave” and a “show cave”?

Suggested Activities

- Take turns reading from the stories in the book. Discuss the various rhyme patterns of each verse in the poems.
- Using the Polly Palooka poem as a reference, discuss bullying and what kids should do when encountering a bully.
- Do a creative craft by having the students bring a square piece of cloth to class and make shawls and pirate bandanas like in Mrs. Magilvery’s Silvery Shawl.
- Create a true or false quiz from the list of facts. Some examples could be:
 - Bats like to fly into your hair. (False, page 10)
 - Spelunkers like to explore caves. (True, page 9)
 - Taking a bath in oatmeal can help relieve itchy skin. (True, page 43)
 - A “yawl” is the same as a “yawn”. (False, page 50)
 - There are no words that rhyme with orange, silver and purple. (True, page 59)
 - Bats babies are called pups. (True, page 12)
 - The last day of school used to be called “All Hallows Eve.”(False, page 32)
 - A “stalactite” hangs down in a cave like an icicle. (True, page 12)

Other Titles and Websites of Interest

For an exciting spelunking adventure, go to the National Caves Association website and take the “Virtual Tour” at www.goodearthgraphics.com.

To read stories about bats, try the Silverwing series by Kenneth Oppel.

For more excellent information on the health and social issues discussed in this book (including bullying), go to www.kidshealth.org.

Just for the fun of it—enjoy the rhythm of more rollicking rhymes in the following books:

Boy Soup by Loris Lesynski (Annick Press)

If I Had a Million Onions by Sheree Fitch (Tradewind Books)

Buttercup's Lovely Day by Carolyn Beck (Orca picturebook)

Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

Monster Lunch

What a Hippopota-Mess!

Reviews

“The poems...are enjoyable and flow nicely when read aloud.”

—*Resource Links*