



## **Bagels on Board**

Joan Betty Stuchner

Illustrated by Dave Whamond

ISBN: 978-1-4598-0695-5

### **About the Book**

All aboard! The Bernsteins are heading off on a cruise, and Aunt Sharon offers to take care of the family pets, Lox (the fish), Creamcheese (the cat) and Bagels, an energetic puppy with a talent for escaping. Trouble is, Bagels is up to his usual disappearing act. When he turns up unexpectedly on the cruise ship, Josh and his little sister, Becky, must keep Bagels hidden. But when an onboard mystery begins to unfold involving two potential spies and a mysterious woman with a secret envelope, Bagels just might be able to help crack the case!

*Bagels on Board* is the third book in the series about Bagels Bernstein, following *Bagels Come Home* and *Bagels the Brave*.

### **About the Author**

**Joan Betty Stuchner** loved stories. When she wasn't writing, she worked in a library, taught part-time and acted in community theater. Sadly, Joan lost her battle with cancer on June 7, 2014, but her stories will continue to bring joy to readers for years to come.

### **About the Writing**

The Bagels series is fiction, but the character of Bagels was based on a dog owned by Joan's mother in law. His name was Ajax. Ajax was an escape artist. Turn your back for a second and he was gone. Ajax was also expelled from puppy pre-school. He just couldn't do as he was told. Ajax was a Sheltie. Shelties are usually small, but Ajax was bigger than most. One day Joan saw her mother in law taking Ajax for a walk. Ajax saw a squirrel and began to run so fast that it looked as if her mother in law was flying through the air holding onto the leash. Joan began asking other people to tell her their dog stories. That's how Bagels was born.

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

Have you ever been on a cruise ship before? What about another type of boat? Where did you go and what did you think? Were there activities on board? If you haven't been on a cruise before, where would you go if you could? Why?

*Classroom Discussion Questions*

1. The Bernstein family win a cruise to San Francisco because they enter a contest. Have you ever won a contest before? What did you have to do to win? What was the prize?
2. On their cruise, the Bernstein family have the opportunity to participate in lots of different activities, like dance classes, swimming, face painting and treasure hunts. What are some activities you enjoy? Make a list.
3. Josh likes to pretend he's a secret agent. What does he do to get into character? What kinds of clothes do spies and detectives usually wear in books and movies? What are some examples of famous spies? If you were going to pretend to be a spy, how would you dress/act the part?
4. Becky wears water wings the whole time she is on the boat, to make her feel safe. What are some comfort items you like to have when you travel, or to make you feel secure?

*Suggested Activities*

- Learn about San Francisco as a class. Draw a picture of one of its major landmarks, like the Golden Gate Bridge.
- Pretend you are going on a cruise. Where are you going? What will you bring? In pairs or groups, have students make lists and compare.
- Have students act out the scene where the kids spy on Blondie and Trenchcoat. Two kids can play the bad guys, two can play Josh and Becky, and a fifth can play Bagels.
- The thieves in the book are after a secret family recipe for baked beans. Have students bring in and share a family recipe from home. What ingredients make the recipe taste so good? How is it different from other recipes? Talk about why some people like to keep their family recipes a secret.
- Think about all the ways that Bagels could have been discovered on the ship. Come up with some different funny scenarios, and act them out as a class or in groups.
- Pretend you are a detective cracking a case. Who are the suspects? What is the crime? What are the clues? Work in pairs to come up with a good mystery to solve.

**Websites of Interest**

[www.best-children-games.com/detective-games.html](http://www.best-children-games.com/detective-games.html)

<http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/kids-guide-san-francisco/story?id=28056523>

### Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

*Bagels the Brave* (Orca Echoes)

*Bagels Come Home* (Orca Echoes)

*Can Hens Give Milk?* (Picture Book)

### Awards and Reviews

*Bagels the Brave*

“With Josh’s bright and authentic first-person narrative, the appealing cast, and the zany illustrations, this fits the bill.” —*Booklist*

“Between Bagels’ frequent forays into the lake, the dilapidated cabin’s leaky roof, and an honest-to-goodness mysterious cave man, the trip is packed full of humorous shenanigans...A fun, whimsical read, with a touch of adventure...The illustrations by Dave Whamond (*Oddrey*) are a fun comedic addition to the story.” —*Resource Links*

*Bagels Come Home*

2014 CCBC Best Books starred selection

“Whimsical and humorous. The crazy adventures that Bagels gets into are close enough to reality that many dog-owning adults will be able to relate to this book as well...Readers will be left with the feeling of fun and mischief that only owning a dog can bring.” —*CM Magazine*

“This lively, easy to read novel will certainly attract the young reader’s interest. Filled with humorous puppy antics as well as a sly cat in the background, this story is highly entertaining and fun.” —*Resource Links*

“A hilarious story that will greatly amuse young readers.” —*Canadian Children’s Book News*

*Can Hens Give Milk?*

2012 Chocolate Lily Award nominee

2012 Washington Children’s Choice Award

“The tone of Joan Betty Stuchner’s tale is cheerful, but the delivery is appropriately straight-faced. The effect is gently teasing but never unkind. Joe Weissmann’s expressive illustrations complement this lighthearted style and paint a comic portrait of Schlomo and his family...There will be ample pleasure in predicting the outcome of the family’s antics or just enjoying this simple tale that celebrates silliness.” —*Quill & Quire*