



Justine McKeen, Bottle Throttle

Sigmund Brouwer

Illustrated by Dave Whamond

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About the Book

Justine is back! She's worried about what plastic is doing to the environment and to her classmates, so she sets out to ban bottled water school-wide. The only problem is, the new principal, Dr. Proctor, isn't on board. Justine will have to convince him and persuade her classmates if Project Bottle Throttle is going to succeed!

Justine McKeen, Bottle Throttle is the seventh book in the popular Justine McKeen series.

About the Author

Sigmund Brouwer is the author of 20 novels for adults, and dozens of books for children. He visits over 150 schools per year to deliver his Rock and Roll Literacy presentation, reaching about 60,000 students per year to help teachers hook kids on reading and writing. He is Writer In Residence for 80 plus schools through www.writerinresidence.org. His latest novel, *Thief of Glory*, is the 2015 Alberta Readers' Choice Award winner, and his YA novel, *Deadman's Switch* is the 2015 Arthur Ellis best juvenile mystery in Canada.

About the Writing

In each of the Justine McKeen stories, Sigmund uses humor to bring awareness to an environmental issue that students can also address in their own schools and homes. In *Bottle Throttle*, readers learn about the many ways that drinking bottled water is a detriment to helping the planet stay green.

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections

Prereading Ideas

- What is your attitude toward tap water? Does your family drink tap water? Do you think it tastes funny? Do you think it's safe compared to bottled water?
- Take some guesses as to how you think bottled water might hurt the environment, and write down those guesses.
- What do you think the author's purpose is in writing this story? Does the title give you a clue about the direction that the story will take? If you wanted to write a story about how something is bad for the environment, how would you keep readers interested while you introduced the facts?

Classroom Discussion Questions

1. Make a list of the arguments that Justine uses with Doctor Proctor for why bottled water harms the environment. Compare that list to the prereading list. See if there were any new things you learned about the impact of bottled water on the environment.
2. Have you read any other stories in the Justine McKeen, Queen of Green series? If so, what are some of the other environmental issues that the author puts into the stories? If you haven't read any of the other stories, go to www.orcabook.com and guess what those issues are by reading descriptions of the titles.
3. Do you agree with the arguments that Justine makes to her classmates for reducing their use of bottled water? If not, explain. If so, will this change your own bottled water habits? What changes will you make?
4. How much of an impact on the environment do you think that changing your bottled water habits can have as one person? As a class? As a school? As a community? What are some of the ways you could convince other people to change their habits as well?

Suggested Activities

- Make up some posters for your school on why students should cut down on the use of bottled water. Make up some posters that show how bottled water is bad for the environment. Make up some posters on why reducing the use of bottle water is good for the environment. See if you can find out whether the negative posters are more or less effective than the positive posters
- Set up your own taste test in the classroom and record the results. Then see if you can go into other classrooms and do your taste-test experiment there too.
- Put together a YouTube video on your classroom's efforts to cut down on bottled water and challenge other classrooms and other schools to do the same.

Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

Justine McKeen, Queen of Green

Justine McKeen, Walk the Talk

Justine McKeen, Pooper Scooper

Justine McKeen, Eat Your Beets

Justine McKeen and the Bird Nerd

Justine McKeen vs. the Queen of Mean

Reviews

“[In the final chapter of *Justine McKeen, Bottle Throttle*, author] Brouwer provides the reader with the story’s sources for the evidence presented. This inclusion demonstrates Brouwer’s respect for the reader, as young as seven, and underlines that his character should not be taken at face value because what Justine says in the story about the environmental damage caused by plastic water bottles can be researched independently by the reader. Recommended” —*CM Magazine*

Justine McKeen and the Bird Nerd

“What is so interesting about author Brouwer’s Justine McKeen books is that they are well-researched and offer websites for further reading into the issues and ideas his characters bring up...Children are interested in the environment, and the characters Brouwer creates are engaging and smart. Children will enjoy reading how the children cooperate to solve problem and share information to find solutions. The extra reading websites offered can help teachers, parents or students to learn more about specific parts of the book. Recommended.” —*CM Magazine*

Justine McKeen, Queen of Green

“Inventive and intrepid Justine McKeen...finds amusing ways to make classmates and community members more environmentally conscious.” —*Kirkus Reviews*