



## **Justine McKeen, Queen of Green**

Sigmund Brouwer

illustrated by Dave Whamond

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### **About the Book**

Justine McKeen talks too much, bosses people around too much, and as you will soon find out, she tells the truth, but just not all at once. She's trying to save the planet, one person and one cause at a time. Best of all, when she decides to get something done, it involves a whole lot of laughter and fun for everyone.

### **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, Queen of Green* is the first 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 new book for teachers and parents out this season called *Rock & Roll Literacy*. Sigmund lives in Red Deer, Alberta, and Nashville, Tennessee.

### **About the Writing**

The inspiration for Queen of Green began when I stepped into a washroom at a school, and saw a hand printed sign that nicely said to make sure to turn off the light; and it was signed "Queen of Green." I laughed at the sassiness of it, and immediately asked which teacher was the Queen of Green. Her name was Barb, and the book is dedicated to her, because she helped me understand in a concrete way what is all too often abstract—that we really can make a difference if we care in little ways and big ways.

I wanted Justine to be the kind of character who has the sass it takes to call yourself the queen of something, and it was even more fun in the book to have it initially bestowed upon her as a term of derision by the school bully, and then to see her claim the title with pride (and eventually convert the bully into a friend).

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

- Have you ever felt like doing something really fun but crazy? And then have you stopped yourself from doing something fun and crazy because you were worried about what people might think? Or did you just go ahead and do it?
- Take a tiny action, like say, spending one penny every hour. Then multiply that by twenty-four hours and then by 365 days. Take that number and multiply it by the number of people in your city, and see how big the number is. Then take that same number and multiply it by the number of people in your province or state. If you are amazed at how big the number is, think about the difference that we can make in helping the environment if every single one of us helps just a little bit over the course of a year.

*Classroom Discussion Questions*

1. When do you try to deal with a bully yourself, and when do you ask your teacher or a parent for help?
2. Is there ever a time when it is okay to tell a lie? If so, explain.
3. Have you ever tried something and failed? What did you learn from it?
4. If you have a friend who fools you, just a little bit, by not telling all of the truth all at once, how do you feel?
5. What's one thing you could change in your daily life that would make a difference in helping the environment?

*Suggested Activities*

- Build a greenhouse with empty plastic bottles and see if you can grow something.
- Look around your classroom and find something that you can change to help the environment.
- Go online and find out what kind of insects people eat in other countries.
- Do some research and learn how much emissions are released into the atmosphere each day by humans. Then multiply that by the population of the planet and try to decide if all the cows on the planet add more methane to the air than all the humans.

**Other Titles and Websites of Interest***Planet Earth Projects* by Oksana Kemarskaya

Learn how to transform ordinary household items into fun-filled science projects. Experience the satisfaction of recycling as well as the thrill of creativity with dozens of charmingly illustrated activities. Projects range from starting an ant colony and building a birdbath to growing potatoes, herbs and sunflowers, to making puppets, kites and candles.

*Think Green, Take Action: Books and Activities for Kids* by Daniel A. Kriesberg

This book combines a wide variety of techniques to help students understand environmental issues and gain the skills needed to take action. The children's literature and classroom activities suggested in *Think Green, Take Action* are appropriate for elementary school students from grades three through seven, covering three major environmental issues: endangered species, resource depletion and pollution.

Please refer to the back pages of *Justine McKeen, Queen of Green* for suggested websites.

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

*All-Star Pride* (Orca Sports)  
*Blazer Drive* (Orca Sports)  
*Chief Honor* (Orca Sports)  
*Cobra Strike* (Orca Sports)  
*Hitmen Triumph* (Orca Sports)  
*Hurricane Power* (Orca Sports)  
*Maverick Mania* (Orca Sports)  
*Rebel Glory* (Orca Sports)  
*Rock & Roll Literacy* (non-fiction)  
*Scarlet Thunder* (Orca Sports)  
*Sewer Rats* (Orca Currents)  
*Thunderbird Spirit* (Orca Sports)  
*Tiger Threat* (Orca Sports)  
*Timberwolf Challenge* (Orca Echoes)  
*Timberwolf Chase* (Orca Echoes)  
*Timberwolf Hunt* (Orca Echoes)  
*Timberwolf Revenge* (Orca Echoes)  
*Timberwolf Rival* (Orca Echoes)  
*Timberwolf Tracks* (Orca Echoes)  
*Timberwolf Trap* (Orca Echoes)  
*Titan Clash* (Orca Sports)  
*Winter Hawk Star* (Orca Sports)  
*Wired* (Orca Currents)

### **Reviews**

"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*