



Justine McKeen, Walk the Talk

Sigmund Brouwer

illustrated by Dave Whamond

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About the Book

Meet Justine McKeen, she's 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, Walk the Talk*, the second book in the Queen of Green series, Justine decides there are too many cars idling in front of her school. So she comes up with a solution that should help keep the air cleaner. But she soon discovers not many adults trust her crazy ideas.

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, Walk the Talk* is the second 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

The idea for *Walk The Talk* came to me, appropriately enough, at a school where I was visiting to present the Rock & Roll Literacy Show. I saw a poster up in the hallway explaining the Walking School Bus and I asked a lot of questions and discovered that the kids had fun with it and that it really worked. It's such a good idea that I wanted to share it through Justine's story.

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections*Prereading Ideas*

- Justine has what she thinks is a great idea. The trouble is that she needs to convince grown-ups to go along with her idea. Has this ever happened to you? What do you think is the best way to get parents or teachers to try one of your ideas?
- Is there ever a time when you should take the blame for something someone else did wrong? And is this like lying?
- Have you ever felt like quitting and then decided not to quit? What made you want to quit and what made you decide not to quit?

Classroom Discussion Questions

1. Would it be possible to start a walking school bus at your school?
2. If a walking school bus is a good idea, who should be the ones to start it and why, students or parents?
3. Do you think the janitor really used toilet water to clean the mirrors or was he playing a trick on the girls who kissed the mirrors? Is it right to trick someone like this?
4. Remember when Justine's friends told her that she sometimes talked to much? When your friends ask you to be honest about how you feel about them, when is it okay to say something negative and how should you say it?

Suggested Activities

- Go to the website mentioned below and learn about a walking school bus.
- Plan out a walking school bus route for your neighborhood.
- Take your planned walking school bus route and walk it once with a adult supervisor and see if the walking school bus route would actually work.

Other Titles and Websites of Interest

365 Ways to Live Green for Kids: Saving the Environment at Home, School, or at Play Every Day! by Sheri Amsel (Adams Media)

Justine McKeen, Queen of Green (Orca Echoes)

www.walkingschoolbus.org

http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/walking_school_bus/index.cfm

www.nrdc.org/living/gettingabout/smarten-up-stop-idling.asp

Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

The Howling Timberwolves series (Orca Echoes)

Justine McKeen, Queen of Green (Orca Echoes)

Rock & Roll Literacy

Several Orca Sports titles