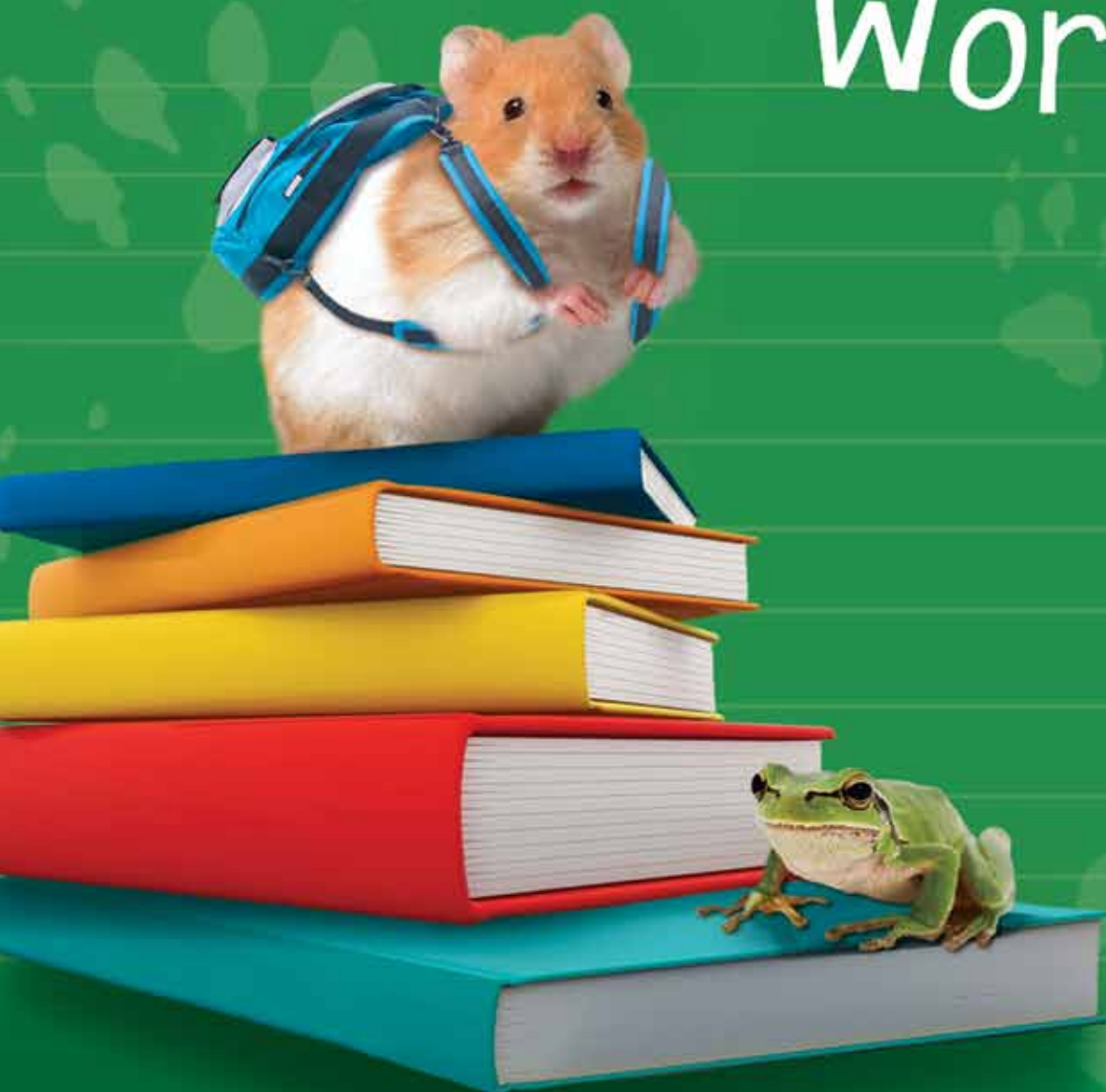


A Classroom Guide to the Award-Winning Series

Welcome to Humphrey's World!

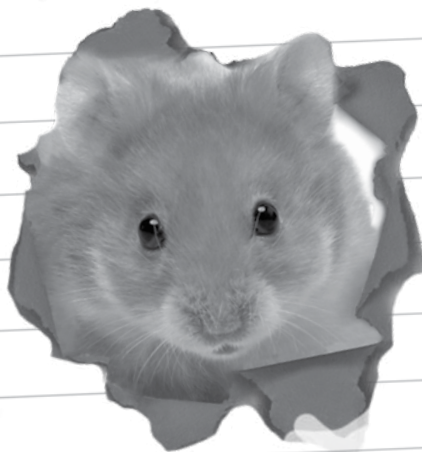


Join everyone's favorite classroom pet for these curriculum connections, discussion questions, and classroom activities.

For other great educator resources, go to www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians

G. P. Putnam's Sons • Puffin Books • Divisions of Penguin Young Readers Group • www.bettybirney.com

Everyone's favorite
classroom pet!



Praise and Acclaim for The Humphrey Series

“Humphrey, a delightful, irresistible character, is big hearted, observant, and creative, and his experiences... range from comedic to touching.” —*Booklist* (about *The World According to Humphrey*)

“Readers will find that seeing the world from Humphrey’s standpoint is mighty satisfying.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

(about *Friendship According to Humphrey*)

“Humphrey is serious about his job as classroom pet for the students of Room 26. He loves his humans and always offers a helping paw when possible.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

(about *Friendship According to Humphrey*)

“His escapades teach honesty, responsibility, and the consequences of actions.”

—*School Library Journal* (about *Trouble According to Humphrey*)

“Humphrey’s views underscore the importance of knowing the full story before making judgments, and his presence makes a positive difference in the lives of the people he meets.”

—*School Library Journal* (about *The World According to Humphrey*)

“New and returning readers will enjoy the caring hamster’s unique perspective on everything from friendship to fire drills.”

—*Booklist* (about *Surprises According to Humphrey*)

Learn More About Everything according to Humphrey

IN THIS GUIDE, YOU WILL FIND:

ALL ABOUT BETTY BIRNEY

Get to know Betty Birney! Visit her website, read her bio, and enjoy hearing a little more about Humphrey from the author herself. Use the information in this section to create an author study unit.

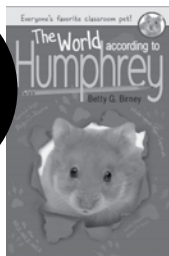
READING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Meet Humphrey and introduce him to your classroom! Discuss what happens in each story by using the questions for the books. Have fun with the games, from mazes to puzzles to word scrambles! Feel free to reproduce these sheets so your whole class can enjoy them. Take things a step further and do some of the classroom activities included here—and think up some of your own as well.

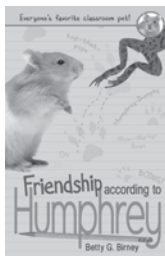
THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

The Humphrey series is a perfect complement to any classroom. You can easily incorporate the themes and topics from these books into classroom discussion and as writing prompts for journaling exercises.

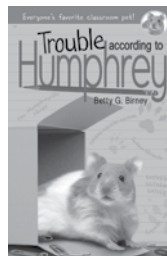
A One School
One Book
Selection!
Readtothem.org



#1: THE WORLD
According to Humphrey



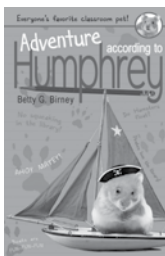
#2: FRIENDSHIP
According to Humphrey



#3: TROUBLE
According to Humphrey



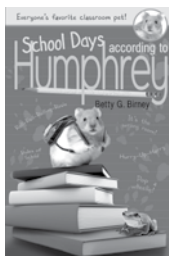
#4: SURPRISES
According to Humphrey



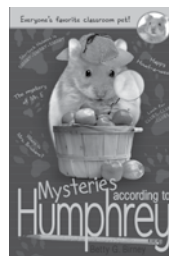
#5: ADVENTURE
According to Humphrey



#6: SUMMER
According to Humphrey



#7: SCHOOL DAYS
According to Humphrey



#8: MYSTERIES
According to Humphrey

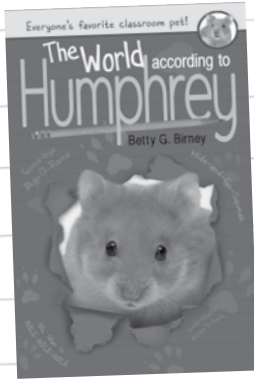


#9: WINTER
According to Humphrey

COMING
SOON!
FALL
2012!

thematic Connections

The Humphrey series is a perfect complement to any classroom, especially since Humphrey observes so much that happens in Room 26 and beyond! You can easily incorporate the themes and topics from all the books into classroom discussion as writing prompts, extension activities, and research opportunities for many subjects. Allow the "Related Topics" to guide you as you plan your lesson or event.

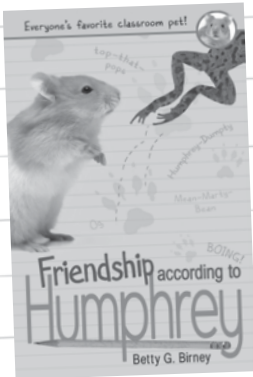


#1: The World According to Humphrey

In the first book of the series, Humphrey learns to read, write, shoot rubber bands (only in self-defense, of course), turn off TVs, teach English as a second language, and more. With a lock-that-doesn't-lock and an adventurous spirit, what more could a mischievous hamster want?

Find out more about this title at: www.bettybirney.com/humphrey.html

RELATED TOPICS: Responsibility * Understanding Differences * Language * International Studies * Coping with Change * Teacher/Student Relationships * Family

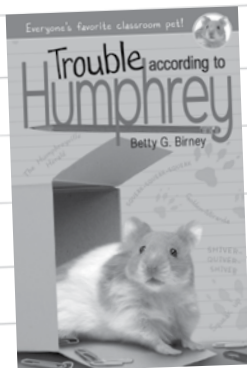


#2: Friendship According to Humphrey

After the holidays, Humphrey is shocked by a big surprise in Room 26—a new class pet! Humphrey tries to be welcoming, but Og the frog doesn't seem to want to be friends. During class and the weekends at students' houses, Humphrey helps to resolve friendship problems between his classmates and learns that friendship can be tricky, but if any hamster can become buddies with a frog, it's Humphrey!

Find out more about this title at: www.bettybirney.com/friendship.html

RELATED TOPICS: Responsibility * Making Friends * Arguments and Jealousy * New Places * Bullying * Poetry * Emotional Intelligence * Conflict/Resolution * Family

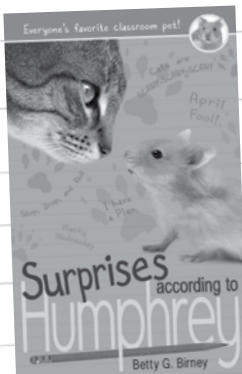


#3: Trouble According to Humphrey

Humphrey loves to solve problems for his classmates in Room 26, but he never meant to create one! No one knows about Humphrey's lock-that-doesn't-lock, but when Humphrey is caught outside of his cage, Golden-Miranda, one of his favorite students, gets blamed. Humphrey manages to help Pay-Attention-Art and Sit-Still-Seth and even survives a trip to the vet, but can he clear Miranda's name without giving up his freedom forever?

Find out more about this title at: www.bettybirney.com/trouble.html

RELATED TOPICS: Jobs/Employment * Community * Learning From Mistakes * Strengths and Weaknesses * Problem Solving * Overcoming Obstacles * Conflict/Resolution * Family



#4: Surprises According to Humphrey

Being a classroom hamster means having to be ready for anything—but suddenly there are a lot of big surprises in Humphrey's world. Some are exciting, like getting to roll around in a hamster ball and some aren't so good, like a run-in with a cat. Even with all that's going on, Humphrey makes time to help his classmates, but will he be able to make sure that Mrs. Brisbane doesn't stop teaching?

Find out more about this title at: www.bettybirney.com/surprises.html

RELATED TOPICS: Surprises * Language * Rules * Friendship * Imagination * Exploration * Conflict/Resolution * Coping with Change * Community Service * Family

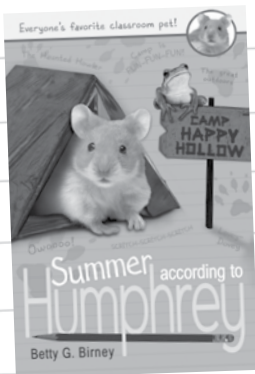


#5: Adventure According to Humphrey

Humphrey is in for his biggest adventure yet! When his friends begin studying the ocean and boats, he discovers the new and exciting world of the library and learns about the science and art of building and sailing ships. Even with all this excitement, Humphrey finds time to smooth rough waters in the classroom and have a few adventures of his own.

Find out more about this title at: www.bettybirney.com/adventure.html

RELATED TOPICS: Competition * Trying New Things * Courage * Art * Science * Seafaring * Ocean Studies * Pirates * Libraries * Conflict/Resolution * Family

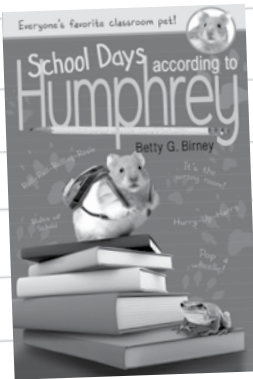


#6: Summer According to Humphrey

When Humphrey hears that school is ending, he panics. School ends? What's a classroom hamster to do if he's not in school? But as it turns out, there's something thrilling in store: going to Camp Happy Hollow with Ms. Mac and lots of the kids from Room 26! Camper Humphrey meets a friendly wild mouse, tracks down Og when he gets lost by the lake, and uses his wily charm to help kids adjust to cabin life and make new friends.

Find out more about this title at: www.bettybirney.com/summer.html

RELATED TOPICS: Character Development * Teacher/Student Relationships * Trying New Things * Understanding Differences * Courage * Competition * Emotional Intelligence * Friendship * Nature Studies

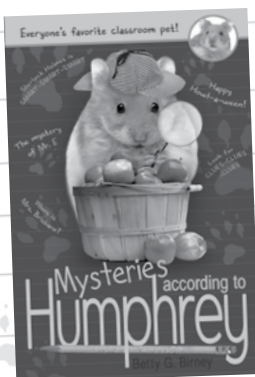


#7: School Days According to Humphrey

After an unspeakably fun summer at camp, Humphrey can't wait to get back to Room 26 and see all of his classmates. But something fur-raising happens on the first day of school—some kids he's never seen before come into Mrs. Brisbane's room. And she doesn't even tell them they're in the wrong room! While Humphrey gets to know the new students, he wonders about his old friends. Where could they be? What could have happened to them? It's a BIG-BIG-BIG mystery for a small hamster to solve. But as always, Humphrey will find a way!

Find out more about this title at: www.bettybirney.com/school.html

RELATED TOPICS: Friendship * Coping with Change * Understanding Differences * Responsibility * Making New Friends * Strengths and Weaknesses * Poetry



#8: Mysteries According to Humphrey

Humphrey has always investigated things, like why Speak-Up-Sayeh was so quiet and Tall-Paul and Small-Paul didn't get along, but this is a true mystery—Mrs. Brisbane is missing! She just didn't show up in Room 26 one morning and no one told Humphrey why. The class has a substitute teacher, called Mr. E., but he's no Mrs. Brisbane. Humphrey has just learned about Sherlock Holmes, so he vows to be just as SMART-SMART-SMART about collecting clues and following leads to solve the mystery of Mrs. Brisbane (and a few others along the way).

Find out more about this title at: www.bettybirney.com/school.html

RELATED TOPICS: Friendship * Courage * Surprises * Being Yourself * Honesty * Being Helpful * Mysteries * Working Hard * Overcoming Obstacles * Creativity * Adapting to Changes

All about Betty G. Birney

Dear Friends,

My friend Humphrey was born in a classroom.

One of my son's science teachers had a collection of classroom pets. There were cages with hamsters and mice, tanks with lizards and frogs, and most memorably, a boa constrictor which the teacher liked to wear draped around her waist. I wondered what these animals thought about what they saw and heard all day and decided that it would be fun to write about school through the eyes of a classroom pet.

Some years later, Humphrey the hamster sprang to life. As a newcomer to Room 26 of Longfellow School, Humphrey has to cope with problems such as a teacher who doesn't like him and his own jealous feelings when they bring in a second classroom pet. He also sees his classmates coping with their own issues and invariably decides to lend a helping paw. In his series of comical adventures, the curious hamster deals with a bully on the bus, a student wrongly accused of a misdeed, an unfriendly new stepsister, winning at any cost and even watching too much TV.

These days, I spend a good deal of time in classrooms and libraries, speaking to students and teachers and listening to what young readers have to say about the books.

"You can learn a lot about yourself by getting to know another species," Humphrey once said. I've certainly learned a lot about myself since I stood in my son's classroom and wondered about those pets. And I've learned a lot about hamsters, children, and even teachers, too.

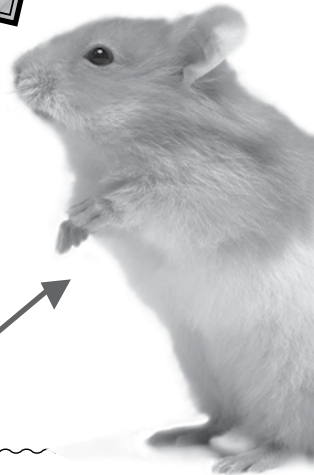
BEST-BEST-BEST wishes,

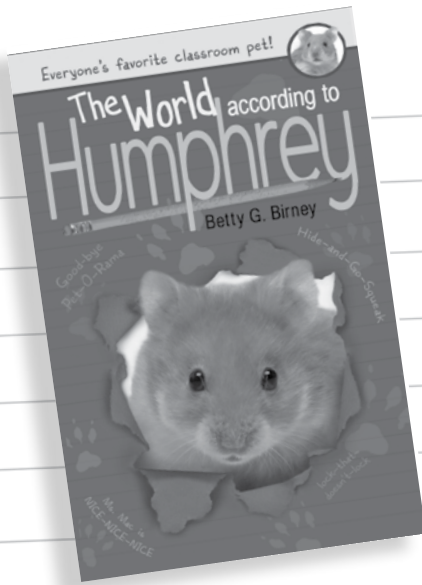


BETTY G. BIRNEY has written over 200 episodes of children's television shows as well as after-school specials and a television movie, *Mary Christmas*. Her TV awards include an Emmy, three Humanitas Prizes, and a Writers Guild of America Award. In addition, she has written twenty-five picture books.

The World According to Humphrey was her first middle-grade novel and received a number of honors, including the Children's Crown award and seven state book awards. *Friendship According to Humphrey* won the Christopher Award and the Children's Crown Award. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Betty G. Birney lives in Los Angeles with her husband, an actor.

Go to www.bettybirney.com for information about her and Humphrey.





#1: The World According to Humphrey

Questions for Discussion



Why does Humphrey see the world from a different point of view than the other students in Room 26? What do you imagine Humphrey would think of your classroom?



Ms. Mac tells Humphrey, "you can learn a lot about yourself by taking care of another species." What do you think she means by this statement?



Do you talk to your pets or other animals? What do you imagine your pets say back to you? How do they tell you that they're happy or unhappy?



Describe the job of a school principal. Why does a school need a principal? What would a typical day in the life of a principal be like?



Think about what your classroom is like at night when no one is there. If you were spending the night in your classroom, what would it be like? What might you see and hear that you don't normally see and hear during the day?



Why don't A.J.'s parents plug the television back in once they discover what Humphrey has done? Name five to ten fun things you like to do besides watching television. If suddenly there were no more TVs, how would you entertain yourself?

Classroom Activities



Mr. Brisbane built an elaborate addition for Humphrey's cage. Draw a picture of the inside of Humphrey's cage the way you think he'd like it to be. (Don't forget the lock-that-doesn't-lock.)



Humphrey tells us Ms. Mac sometimes played the bongo drums. Look up bongo drums in the dictionary, encyclopedia or on the internet.

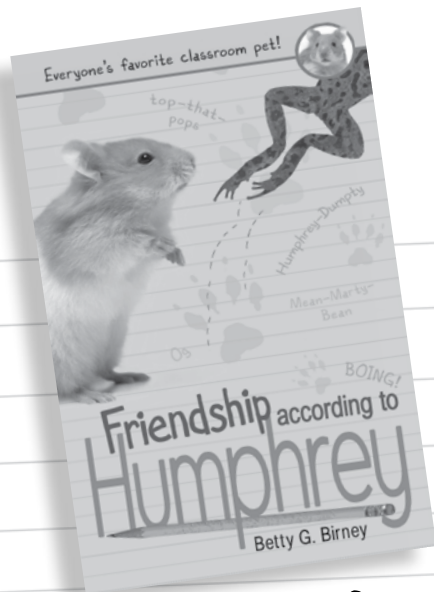


Ms. Mac leaves Room 26 to teach in Brazil and she writes to the class and Humphrey several times. Research Brazil in groups, focusing on one aspect of the country or culture, and then present what you've found.

Possible topics: geography, landmarks, language, the rain forest, the Amazon River, Brasilia, carnival, and games.

HUMPHREY according to BETTY G. BIRNEY

"While writing this book, I did a lot of research on hamsters and spent time admiring the cute creatures at my neighborhood pet shop. I feel as if I am Humphrey, because he's so much like me. First, he's an observer, which is a key quality for being a writer. Second, Humphrey is caring and kind and believes in justice. Third, Humphrey is enthusiastic about life and learning and the great big world and how much there is to discover about it..."



#2: Friendship According to Humphrey

Questions for Discussion



Why does Humphrey feel jealous when Og appears in the classroom? What are other reasons that someone might be jealous of someone else? What might help someone get over those feelings of jealousy?



Humphrey feels that Og does not want to be friends. Why does he think that? Is it true?



Think about a time when you met a group of kids you didn't know (first day of school, sports practice, after-school program). How did you feel? How did other kids or grown-ups make you feel welcome? What could you do if you see someone in a similar situation?



The children who rode the bus with A.J. and Garth were all afraid of Martin Bean. If Humphrey had not helped them, what are three other things they could have done to deal with Martin's bad behavior? Why does Martin act the way he does? What adult helps Martin learn to be friendlier? How does he do that?



Have you ever had an experience with a bully or seen someone else have one? How did you or the other person handle the situation?



Miranda's stepsister, Abby, seems mean when Humphrey first meets her, but by the end of his visit, she seems nice. Why was Abby crabby in the beginning? What changed the way she acted?



Humphrey becomes very upset when best friends Heidi and Gail stop speaking to one another. Have you and your best friend ever had a big argument? How did you feel? Were you able to make up and become friends again? What did you learn from that experience?

Classroom Activities



None of the students could think of a word to rhyme with "Humphrey," but Mandy Payne realized that her name rhymed with "candy cane." Try to find a word that rhymes with your first or last name.



Kirk wrote a poem about a frog in which the first letter of each line spelled the word FROG. This is called an acrostic poem. Pick your favorite animal and write an acrostic poem.



Describe a time when you met a group of kids you didn't know (first day of school, sports practice, Cub Scouts, Brownies, after-school program). Include how you felt and if other kids or grown-ups made you feel welcome. If it didn't go well, include what you wish had happened.



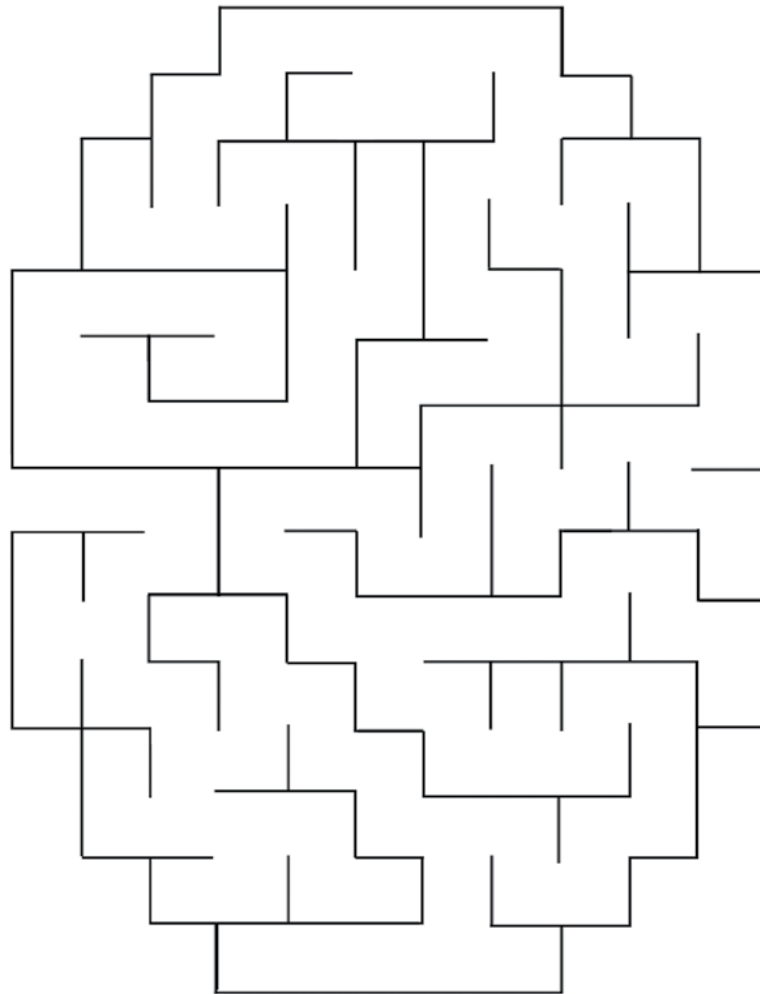
Taking care of a pet is a big responsibility, and different types of animals have different needs. Choose a type of animal to research and use the internet, an encyclopedia or an animal reference book to find out more about their habitat, their life cycle, where the animal is found, and what you can do to take care of it as a pet.

Og Pops His Top!

Og accidentally popped the top of his aquarium and ran away.
Can you help him find the way back . . . quick?



start

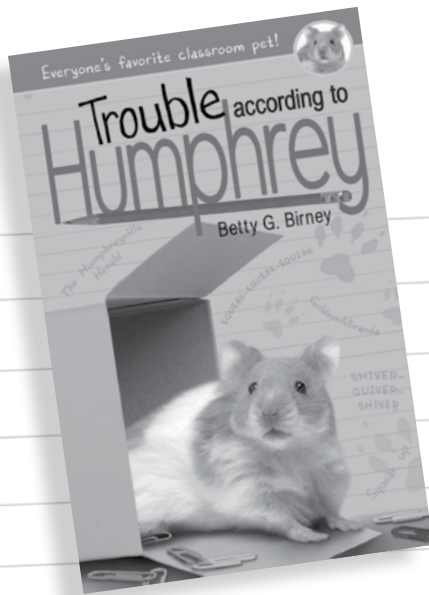


finish

NEW FRIENDS according to BETTY G. BIRNEY

"Humphrey solved so many problems in the first book, I had to think very hard about how to include all my favorite characters and still make the new story a little different. Then I had a bright idea: I would introduce a second classroom pet into Room 26.

"I knew it wouldn't be easy for a hamster to make friends with a frog and that Humphrey would have many challenges getting used to his new neighbor. But in the end, I was sure Humphrey would succeed and along the way learn, as we all do, that what a friend says isn't as important as what a friend does."



#3: Trouble According to Humphrey

Questions for Discussion



In the story, the students of Room 26 build a model community called Humphreyville. Why did they decide on that name? Where did the name of your town come from? If you were going to build a town or a street, what would you call it and why?



Art is really good at imagining things while Paul is really good at understanding numbers and math. How did Paul's math skills help Art solve a problem and how could Art's creativity help Paul?



Did you ever try something and think you weren't good at it the first time? Have you ever tried something that you were good at right away? What are some ways in which you have gotten better at doing things?



Was Mrs. Brisbane wrong to accuse Miranda of leaving the cage door open? How well do you think Miranda handled the problem? Is there anything else she could have done?



Have you ever been accused of something you didn't do? How did you feel? How did the problem work out?



Humphrey is nervous when he visits the veterinarian for the first time because he's never been to a doctor before. Can you remember a time when you were nervous about going somewhere for the first time? How did it turn out?



Seth's grandmother can remember her town before a lot of modern changes were made. Ask adults in your area what changes they've seen in your community. What changes do they see as being good? What changes do they see as being bad? What changes do you think will happen in the next 25 years? 100 years?

Classroom Activities



In groups or by yourself, create a drawing or model of one of the streets or buildings in Humphreyville. You can also create your own town from scratch! Make sure to consider what buildings would be there, what they would look like, and how everything would be organized.



Go through the local newspaper's classified ads and see what kinds of jobs are available. Are there any jobs you think you'd like to do? What would you enjoy doing and what job might fit best?



Try writing your own Help Wanted ad. Write one for the job of a classroom hamster. Describe all of the jobs Humphrey does in Room 26. Write an ad for your dream job. What are the qualifications for a job you think you'd like? Write an ad for a job as a character in your favorite book or in a fairy tale or legend.



Humphrey and Friends

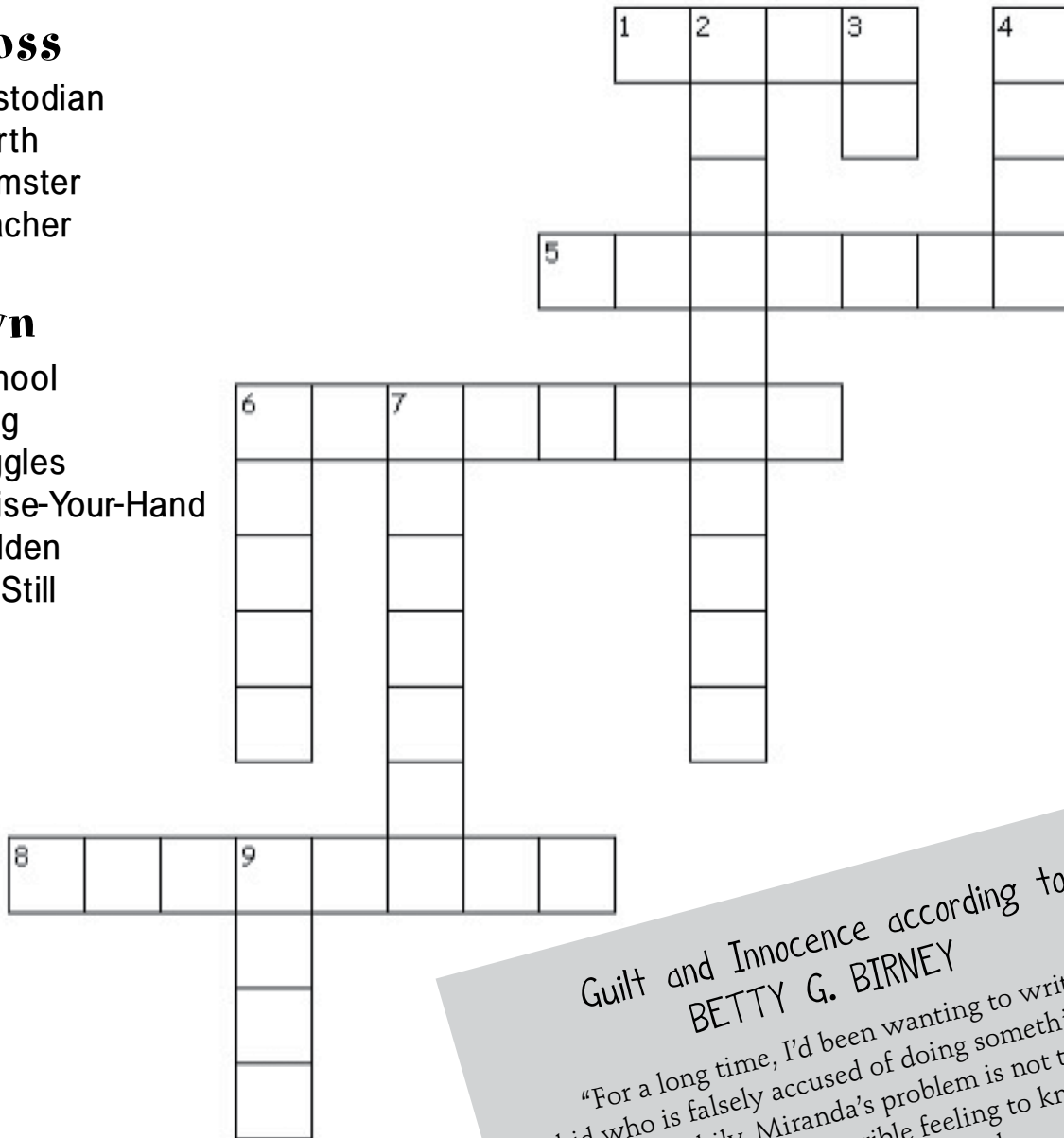
How well do you know Humphrey and his friends?
See if you can use the clues below to complete this crossword puzzle.

Across

1. Custodian
5. Garth
6. Hamster
8. Teacher

Down

2. School
3. Frog
4. Giggles
6. Raise-Your-Hand
7. Golden
9. Sit-Still

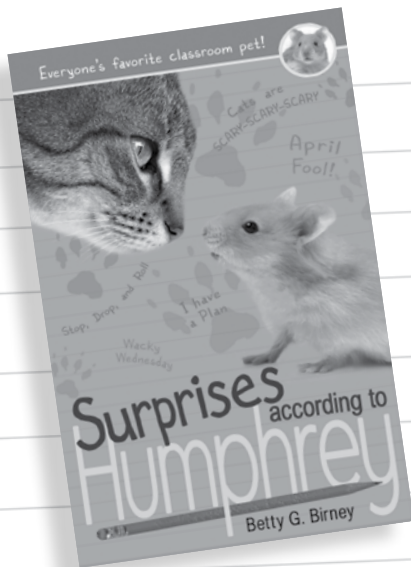


ANSWERS:
Across: 1. Aldo, 5. Tugwell, 6. Humphrey, 8. Brisbane
Down: 2. Longfellow, 3. Og, 4. Gail, 6. Heidi, 7. Miranda, 9. Seth

Guilt and Innocence according to BETTY G. BIRNEY







"For a long time, I'd been wanting to write about a kid who is falsely accused of doing something wrong. Luckily, Miranda's problem is not that serious, but it's still a terrible feeling to know that you're innocent but are not believed.

"As I wrote the book, I had my own trouble: trying to decide how Humphrey would clear Miranda's name. I had lists of possibilities; and for a long time, I resisted what was clearly the only choice: He had to do the right thing, no matter what the consequences. That's just the kind of hamster he is."





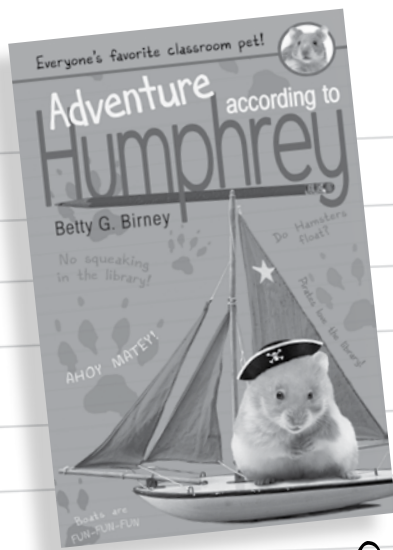
#4: Surprises According to Humphrey

Questions for Discussion

-  Humphrey says there are surprises that are fun and surprises that aren't so much fun. Describe a surprise that you think would be especially wonderful (a gift, a party, a visitor) or a surprise that wouldn't be so great (a bad grade, an injury, a cancelled trip). How would you feel in each situation?
-  The P.E. teacher, Mrs. Wright, is very strict about following the rules. Sometimes Humphrey finds this annoying. Why might we need rules in a classroom? Think of a few examples of rules and explain why each one might be important. Would it ever be a good idea to disobey a rule? If you thought a rule was unfair, what would you do to change it?
-  How does Garth feel when his best friend, A.J., doesn't pick him for his team? Why does A.J. do what he does? What are some other ways each of them could have handled the situation?
-  Because of a movie he's seen, Humphrey lets his imagination run away with him when he thinks that Aldo has been abducted by aliens. Have you ever let your imagination run away with you? Are there times that having a big imagination would be good? Are there times it would be bad?
-  Humphrey writes down his idea about a party for Mrs. Brisbane and puts it in the school suggestion box. If you had a suggestion box in your classroom, what ideas would you submit? If you don't have a suggestion box, how else can you get your ideas across to people?
-  What does Humphrey think of Sweetums? How do you think Sweetums feels about Humphrey?





Classroom Activities

-  Humphrey doesn't know what's going on when Aldo starts speaking Spanish. Do you know any Spanish words?
Make a list of five Spanish words you know or have heard and their English meanings. If you don't know any words, ask a friend or look in an English-Spanish dictionary for help. If you already speak Spanish, list five words that are the same in English and Spanish.
-  In Mrs. Brisbane's class, the students of Room 26 do a daily dictionary drill. You can do your own too.
Use words that you don't know from the book and write down both the definition and a sentence using each word correctly. Once you do that, you will have a dictionary book, just like Humphrey does.





#5: Adventure According to Humphrey

Questions for Discussion

-  In the story, Kirk gets so caught up in his desire to win, he almost destroys his friendship with Richie. How could they have won the contest without Richie feeling left out?
-  What makes a good winner? What makes a good loser? Name five things you can do to be a good teammate whether you win or lose.
-  Why do you think Gail is so quiet when everyone is making plans to decorate their boats? How does she let people know how she's feeling? What else might she have done to let people know how she was feeling? What happens to make her feelings change about the project?
-  Can you remember an adventure you were looking forward to, such as a boat ride, bicycle ride, hike, or campout? Did it turn out the way you expected? Did you have any surprising experiences?

Classroom Activities

-  Humphrey's friends in Room 26 build their own boats for the contest on Potter's Pond and learn about things that float. Find five things that you're sure will float in water, five things that you're sure will not float in water, and five things that you're not sure will float—test them out and see what floats. Were there any surprises? Can you explain why certain items floated and others sank?
-  Go to the library and check out books about real pirates. What did pirates do? What was the life of a real pirate like? Were there any women pirates? After reading about pirates, would you want to be one? Why or why not?

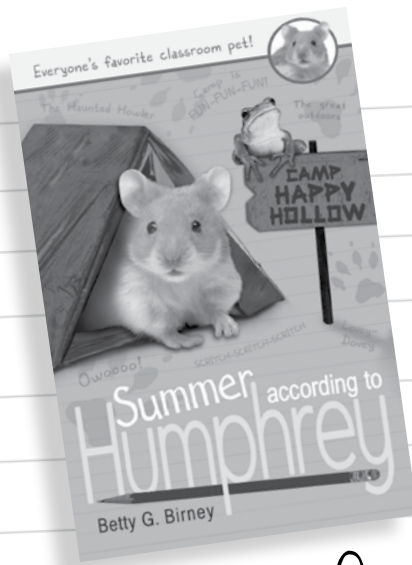
LIBRARY TREASURE according to BETTY G BIRNEY

"In this book, Humphrey not only goes to the library with his class, but he also finds a way to sneak back in night after night to watch a video of Treasure Island and to stare at the awesome fish tank. How can Humphrey help but think about pirates?

"So set sail for adventure. And if you don't already have one, go to your local library and get your own library card. (It's free.) There are hundreds of exciting adventures just waiting for you!"

Arrrgh! Here be Pirate Riddles!

- | | |
|--|--|
| Q. What do you get when you cross a pie with a rat? | Q. Why didn't the pirate get hungry on the desert island? |
| A. A Pie Rat! Arrrgh! | A. Because of all the sand which is there! (Sandwiches) |
| Q. Why does it take a pirate so long to learn the alphabet? | Q. What is a pirate's favorite kind of cookie? |
| A. Because they can spend years at C! | A. Ships Ahoy! |
| Q. How much does it cost a pirate to get earrings? | Q. How much did the pirate pay for his peg leg and hook? |
| A. A Buccaneer! (Buck-an-ear) | A. An arm and a leg! |



#6: Summer According to Humphrey

Questions for Discussion

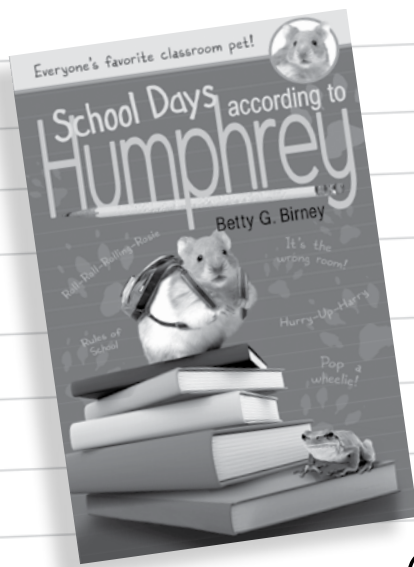
- Why is Humphrey unhappy about summer vacation? Do you feel sad or happy when it's time for a break from school? What are some things you look forward to about not being in school? What are some of the things that you miss?
- Why is Humphrey worried about going to the camp and being in the wild? What experiences does he have over the course of the story that change the way he feels? Have you ever felt worried about something and then had your feelings about it change?
- Why do you think Gail looks so upset when she arrives at camp? How does she deal with her feelings? How does Humphrey help her to change the way she views camp?
- Why do you think Brad acts the way he does? What are some possible reasons for why someone might have a bad attitude about things? How does Humphrey help Brad's attitude change? What might you do in a similar situation?
- Sayeh is concerned about the way the campers are interacting—why do you think they became so competitive? Can it be good to be competitive? When might it be a bad thing? What does Sayeh end up doing that allows her to have lots of fun with all her friends?
- What are the ideas that the different teams have about how to win? What ends up working and what doesn't? What are some of the skills you have that would help a team?

Classroom Activities

- Mrs. Brisbane writes report cards for Humphrey and Og for the end of school. If you were going to get a report card like the ones that the classroom pets received, what do you think it would say? What kind of report card would you write for your friends?
- In groups, plan out a funny skit like the ones the campers put on and perform for your classmates or friends! You can use the ones from the book, ones you might know from camp, or make up something new! Study pictures of boats in books and on the internet. Is there a type of boat (tall ship, Viking boat, junk) that you especially like? What do you like about it? Using what you know, draw a picture of a boat that you'd like to sail.







SUMMER VACATION according to BETTY G. BIRNEY

"I liked school when I was growing up, but I always looked forward to summer vacation. However, I thought that the end of school might be pretty upsetting to a classroom hamster like Humphrey. When he heads off to summer camp with Og, he's unspeakably nervous, but Camp Happy Hollow turns out to be a great place with familiar faces, lots of new friends and some of Humphrey's wildest adventures ever!"






#7: School Days According to Humphrey

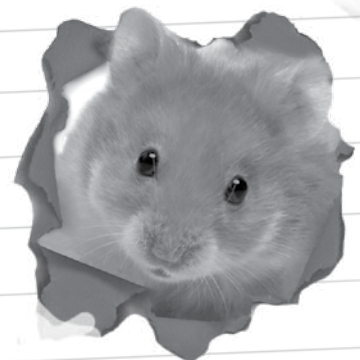
Questions for Discussion

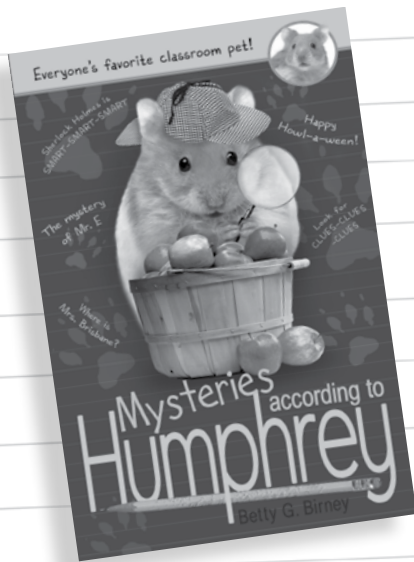
-  Humphrey is incredibly excited to be back at school. Do you feel excited when schools starts again? What's your favorite part about a new school year?
-  There are lots of new students in Room 26! If you were Humphrey, how would you feel about so many new people? What kinds of tips would you give the new students to help them start the year off right?
-  Holly is very excited to be Rosie's helper, but Rosie doesn't seem to need much help at all. What advice would you give to Holly about being Rosie's helper? Why does Holly think Rosie needs so much help?
-  Tall-Paul and Small-Paul's friendship gets off to a rough start. Why do you think the two Pauls don't like one another at first? Have you ever made a bad first impression on a new friend?
-  A lot of the students in Mrs. Brisbane's new class are very different in their own ways. What's the best way to get along with people who are different than you? Why are differences important?
-  Humphrey is very helpful when it comes to solving problems. Who did he help in this book? In the next Humphrey books, what other problems do you see Humphrey helping to solve?

Classroom Activities

-  Mrs. Brisbane has her new students create a box that tells all about what they did that summer. Create your own box to help your classmates understand what you did over summer break, or, create a box full of items that help your classmates get to know you better.
-  One way that Humphrey and Mrs. Brisbane help the new students cooperate is by assigning jobs. Think of all the jobs that need doing around your classroom and create your own job chart. Make sure to explain why each role is important!
-  Humphrey spends a lot of time trying to find his old friends from Room 26 in their new classrooms. It might have been helpful if he had a map! Make a map of your classroom. Be sure to include a key and a compass!






SUMMER, OH SUMMER,
WITH DAYS LONG AND LAZY.
NOW THAT YOU'RE OVER,
THINGS ARE GOING CRAZY!








#8: Mysteries According to Humphrey

Questions for Discussion

-  Thomas likes to exaggerate when he tells stories about his family. What lesson does Joey teach Thomas about being truthful? Do you ever have a hard time being yourself?
-  Humphrey and the students of Room 26 dress up for Halloween in creative costumes. What is the most creative Halloween costume you have ever worn? What would be other fun costumes for Humphrey?
-  Mr. E learns that in order to be a good teacher, he must stick to the lesson plan. The students of Room 26 still love him, even though he gives homework and doesn't tell as many jokes. Have you ever learned anything surprising about yourself? Did it change the way you work or do things?
-  Sherlock Holmes plays the violin and Humphrey rolls in his hamster ball when they need to think. What do you do when you need to think?
-  Humphrey makes his way all the way to the lost in found box to look for Phoebe's watch. He also finds a flyer that he thinks will help Phoebe. Why is it important to help your friends? Have you done anything recently that was helpful? How did it feel to lend a hand?

Classroom Activities

-  Mr. E tells the students that their only homework is to bring in a riddle or a joke for the next day. Write a joke, riddle or funny story to share with your class. You can do this in groups or by yourself.
-  Mrs. Brisbane reads mystery stories to Room 26. Go to the library and check out *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. What do Humphrey and Sherlock Holmes have in common? Would you want to be a detective? Why or why not?
-  Mr. E likes to play fun games in the classroom. In groups or by yourself, come up with a fun and educational game to play in your classroom!

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Sherlock Holmes can't solve a
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