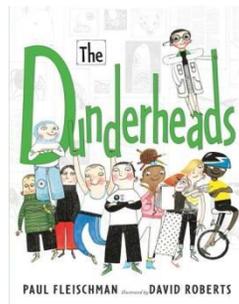


Book Guide

Milwaukee Public Library Summer Reading Program



Book Title:	Dunderheads
Author:	Paul Fleischman
Illustrator:	David Roberts

Recommended Audience	<input type="checkbox"/> K5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 th	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 th	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 th
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Length of Time to Read:

One class period, about 20 minutes

Summary:

A classroom of students with unique personalities plan to outwit their mean teacher, Miss Breakbone.

Before Reading (Create Interest):

Have the students look at the cover and predict why the book is called “The Dunderheads”. What does dunderhead mean (dunce, blockhead, stupid person)? Ask the students if they have ever had a teacher they didn’t like? Have them name reasons why they like or dislike a teacher. Tell them to listen for reasons why the students might dislike Miss Breakbone, the teacher in the story.

During Reading (Discussion/Questions):

- Talk about each of the mistakes Miss Breakbone made to provoke the students into seeking revenge (insult, no eye for talent, outrage, the dare).
- Talk about how each student had a special talent that made the plan to get Junkyard’s cat back possible.
- Take time to notice all the funny illustrations that go along with the story!

After Reading:

- Discuss how each student’s talent helped to make their plan to get Junkyard’s cat back a success.
- What were some of the difficulties the students ran into at Miss Breakbone’s house?
- How did they solve them?
- Do you think the students were wise to take revenge against Miss Breakbone? Why or why not?
- Do you think there will be a new punishment when the students return to class? If so, what will it be?



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STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Connection:

Each Dunderhead had a nickname. Review the Dunderhead nicknames and how they got them. Have each student think about a nickname they have. If they don't have a nickname, ask them to create one and think about why they chose it.

Give each student a 3x5 notecard. Have them print their nickname on one side of the card (tell them to use creative lettering). On the other side of the card, have them write down how they got that name. Have students share their nicknames asking others to guess how they got that name.

Ideas for younger or older children

Have each student think about a talent they have. Have them draw a picture of themselves exaggerating their talent and then writing a sentence about how their talent could be useful to others.

Additional Notes: [Click here to enter text.](#)

