



Bruno for Real

Caroline Adderson
illustrated by Helen Flook

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About the Book

Bruno for Real is the second collection of stories about the irrepressible seven-year-old Bruno, a boy who never lacks for imagination but who is, at the same time, completely real. Bruno manages to vanquish his nighttime hiccups, but not before waking everyone in the house. He aspires to be as bad as possible without getting in too much trouble. After he passes to level 3 in swimming, he promotes himself to level 5 in life. He trades his mother for a hat. For Bruno, every day is his birthday. If he could only remember how old he is: seven and thirty-three days or seven and thirty-four!

About the Author

Caroline Adderson is the author of three books for children. *Very Serious Children* (Scholastic 2007), a novel for middle readers about two brothers, the sons of clowns, who run away from the circus is nominated for a 2008 Diamond Willow Award and a 2009 Rocky Mountain Book Award. *I, Bruno* (Orca 2007) is a collection of stories for emergent readers featuring seven-year-old Bruno and his true-life adventures; *Bruno For Real* is its sequel. Caroline also writes books for adults—*Bad Imaginings*, *A History of Forgetting*, *Sitting Practice*, *Pleased to Meet You*—and has won two Ethel Wilson Fiction Prizes, three CBC Literary Awards, as well as the 2006 Marion Engel Award, given annually to an outstanding female writer in mid-career. Her numerous nominations include the Scotiabank Giller Prize longlist, the Governor General’s Literary Award, the Rogers’ Trust Fiction Prize and the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize.

Caroline’s nine-year-old son and his many friends inspire her children’s writing. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

About the Writing

I had so much fun writing the stories in *I, Bruno* that I found Bruno wouldn't go away. The stories that make up *Bruno For Real* kept coming and coming. Like the first book, they are partly autobiographical, but mostly as a starting point. Little things happened in our day and I'd ask myself: Hmm, what would Bruno do in this situation?

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections**Prereading Idea**

Real life can be a wonderful adventure. Have students think about something ordinary that happened to them that turned out to be extraordinary.

Classroom Discussion Questions

In “Good Night, Hic, Hic” Bruno gets a terrible case of the hiccups. Has this ever happened to you? What did you do about it?

In “Bruno the Bad” Bruno wakes up bad and decides to act on his feelings. Do you ever feel like doing something bad? What stops you? What do you do when you see other kids doing bad things?

In “The Long Birthday” Bruno stretches out his birthday for several weeks. What is the best birthday you have ever had? What do you think is the best age to be?

In “Bruno Makes A Deal” Bruno swaps his sandwich for a better one. Have you ever traded something? Is this a good way to get something you would like to have?

In “Bruno, Level 5” Bruno is a better swimmer than his mother. Are there things that all kids are better at than adults? Is there something you can do better than your mom or dad?

Suggested Activities

Set up a swap table for students to exchange old toys and games. This is a great way to promote reusing and recycling! (“Bruno Makes a Deal”)

Have a talent day for each student to demonstrate or talk about the special thing they are good at. (“Bruno, Level 5”)

Chart the students' birthdays on the calendar and do some math with the information. For example, How much older is X than Y? How many days until Z's birthday? How many kids are born in April? (“The Long Birthday”)

Study and compare several species of baby animals. What can they already do as soon as they are born? What do they need to learn before they leave their parents? (“School of Boys”)

Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

I, Bruno

Reviews

“*I, Bruno*, by Caroline Adderson, is a series of delightful short vignettes from the life of an imaginative little boy, named Bruno, who is very happy to be himself... Adderson, a newcomer to children’s writing, successfully creates a lovably unique character reminiscent of the favorite characters from the “Little Bear” and “Frog and Toad” series for young readers...Bruno is fresh and stereotype-free, refreshing in early reading materials.”
—*CM Magazine*

“These discrete stories bring to rich life an appealing little individual who may think it’s too much work to write his own name, but who has a clear sense of who he is and who writes ‘I’ at the top of his class assignments before handing them in. Adderson writes with poetry, color, and a real flair for zany description that lends itself to being read aloud.”
—*Canadian Children’s Book News*

“This is a very enjoyable and humorous story...I recommend this book to any primary teacher. It would be a great read aloud as well as a self-selected title for a book report activity.”
—*Resource Links*