



## **George, the Best of All!**

Ingrid Lee

illustrated by Stéphane Denis

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### **About the Book**

Katie and Mackenzie find a little red plastic toy on the beach. While they make up adventures with the toy, George, the little red guy, experiences the events in a whole different way. This is the third book in the series.

### **About the Author**

Ingrid was born in 1948 in East York, a suburb of Toronto, Canada, the daughter of a Canadian soldier and a Dutch war bride. She graduated from the University of Toronto and became a teacher of lots of things, but mostly of art and English. She has taught steadily since then, most of the time to intermediate students that are twelve and thirteen. She has probably taught close to ten thousand of Toronto's great kids.

**About the Writing**

When Ingrid’s two children were small, they did find a little plastic guy. They spent many a day thinking up terrible adventures for the toy. When she decided to write a book about these exploits, Kate, her daughter, suggested Ingrid write the book from different points of view. She felt that readers would enjoy seeing how George and other characters experienced the adventures too. This is the third book in the series.

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

*George, the Best of All!* is a tale of a little plastic figure. What is your favorite plastic figure? Tell me what it looks like? What are some of the games you play with your figures?

**Discussion Questions**

In a household, everyone takes a role to play. What are some roles that people adopt in your home? What is your role? In the chapter “Katie and Mackenzie Play House,” all the little figures have a role. What does each figure do that demonstrates their role?

What does *destiny* mean? Why do you think the beautiful girl is called Destiny?

What is a mall? Why do people go to a mall? What is your favorite mall? What stores do you like? What restaurants? Is there something else you like to do at a mall?

People write letters to George. George has met each of these people somewhere in his first two books, *The True Story of George* and *George Most Wanted*. Where did George meet each of the letter writers? How does each letter writer feel about George?

Perhaps the writer of the George books will write one more book about George. Predict what might happen. Will George go away again? Give reasons to support your prediction.

**Suggested Activities****Design a Carnival (Art)**

Design a bird’s-eye view of a little carnival on a piece of paper. Consider the following:

What do you want to call your carnival?

What rides do you want to see? Make sure to include your favorite ride.

What game stalls do you want to have? What are the prizes?

What food stalls do you want? Make sure to include your favorite food.

Extras: Make up a poster to attract the crowds to your carnival. Draw a pathway through your carnival to show the way you would plan your visit.

### **Constellations** (Science)

The lightbulbs in the carnival turned the merry-go-round horse into a constellation.

What is a constellation? Name a famous constellation. (See suggested book.) Why does the appearance of the night sky change during the year?

Design your own constellation. Draw or trace a simple animal or figure. Now put dots in important places that will help you to draw the shape when the lines are removed. Put a piece of paper on top and simply draw the dots. (Use dots of glue with glitter.) Leave out the lines. Give your constellation an appropriate title. Ask others if they can connect the dots in their head and see your figure in the constellation.

### **Extrapolate Information from an Illustration** (Logic, art)

(Look at the picture on page 22. What are at least six bits of information, or action, that you can discover from looking at this picture?)

What material has the illustrator used to make the picture? The drawing technique is called cross-hatching. Try to crosshatch with your pencil by copying some object in one of the illustrations and adding the shading. (The balloon on page 53 is easy to copy.) Remember that the more you crosshatch, the darker an area gets. (See website suggestion below.)

### **Action Figures!** (Research)

Why does a certain action figure produced by one toy manufacturer look exactly the same in every store? Who decides what the plastic figure will look like? How is the plastic figure produced? What are some famous plastic figures?

### **Understanding in Context** (Language)

Sometimes an author writes a sentence that really means something else. Write each of the sentences below. Read the page where the sentence appears in the story. In your own words, explain what you think the sentence really means.

“George has a mind of his own.” (page 26)

“Money doesn’t grow on trees.” (page 27)

“You dance like you have two left feet...” (page 31)

“He’s a real Prince Charming, all right.” (page 31)

“George will get a swelled head.” (page 35)

“George is a real scoop!” (page 36)

“George likes to monkey around...” (page 54)

Sometimes an author writes something that has a hidden puzzle. Write each of the sentences below. Read the page where the sentence appears in the story. Explain the puzzle in your own words.

“His bronco ran so fast that the horse in front couldn’t catch up. His bronco ran so fast that the horse behind couldn’t catch up.” (page 17)

“Sho sold one wax figure for thirty hamburgers and got thirty plastic figures for free.” (page 37)

“That day the mall was as busy as the *a* in the word aardvark, busier than the *y* in a question.” (page 54)

### Other Titles and Websites of Interest

*The Glow-in-the-Dark Night Sky Book* by Clint Hatchett and Stephen Marchesi  
[http://www.artyfactory.com/pen\\_and\\_ink\\_drawing/ink\\_drawing/pen\\_and\\_ink\\_drawing\\_6.htm](http://www.artyfactory.com/pen_and_ink_drawing/ink_drawing/pen_and_ink_drawing_6.htm)

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

*Dragon Tide*

*George Most Wanted*

*Maybe Later*

*The True Story of George*

### Reviews

“Would work well with an imaginative child...illustrations nicely break up the text for young readers.”  
 —*CM Magazine*

“This beginning chapter book, with its clear vocabulary and sentence structure, is very accessible for early readers. Recommended.”  
 —*Canadian Book Review Annual*