



The True Story of George

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. They make up adventures to have with the toy. Meanwhile, George, the little red guy, experiences the events in a whole different way.

About the Author

Ingrid Lee 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 her two children were small, they did find a little plastic guy in a jumpsuit. They spent many a day thinking up terrible adventures for the toy. When Ingrid decided to write a book about these exploits, Kate, her daughter, suggested Ingrid write the book with two points of view, so that readers could share in George's fun too. This is the first book in the series.

Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections**Prereading Idea**

The True Story of George is a tale of a little plastic figure and his owners. What is your favorite plastic figure? What does it look like? What are some of the games you play with toy figures?

Classroom Discussion Questions

George says, "He was George the Brave, George the Steadfast." What does it mean to be brave? Who do you know that is brave? How do they show bravery? What does it mean to be steadfast? Who do you know that is steadfast? How do they show this trait?

Katie and Mackenzie like to investigate. What do they investigate? What word describes people who like to investigate? What do you like to investigate?

Katie and Mackenzie also like to make things. What do they make? What word describes people that like to make things? What do you like to make?

In chapter ten, George is logical. *Logical* (adjective) is a word to describe something that makes sense. If the clouds are dark, it might rain. That is logical. If you go to bed late, you will be tired the next day. That is logical too. Give an example of something that is logical. How would you use logic to decide what to wear? Where else do you need to be logical?

This story is told from two different points of view. What does this mean? Why do you think the writer changes the point of view between chapters?

What happened to Humpty Dumpty in the Mother Goose rhyme? Where do you think George's parts will go? Think of some unusual places. Do you think he will get himself together again? Why do you think that? (Read *George Most Wanted* to find out what the writer decides.)

Suggested Activities**Words Words Words!** (Language)

What is a word in chapter three that is spelled to copy the sound? Words that copy noises are fun. This technique is called onomatopoeia. Say *onomatopoeia* quickly five times. Spell it without looking. Now pretend you are a strange animal. What sound does the animal make? What letters put together will make that sound?

In chapter eighteen, George found four letters in his bubble bath. How many words can you make with some, or all, of these letters? (Hint: One word means fish eggs. One word means a scary giant. One means pirate drink! There are names of people hidden here too.)

A simile compares two things using the words *like* or *as*. It is a figure of speech. A figure means a picture. Similes help the reader to think of a picture from the words. For instance, George is “as fresh as a daisy.” Picture this.

Here is a little story. All it needs are good similes to make it more descriptive. Fill in each blank to finish the simile. Afterward, give the story a title.

Once upon a time there lived a dragon. The dragon had eyes as red as _____. It had scales as hard as _____. The smoke coming from its nose was as hot as _____.

The dragon was unhappy. It wanted to sit in some grass as soft as _____. But every time it sat down, the grass would turn brown and crispy. The dragon’s breath was too hot.

Finally the dragon started to cry. The tears were so hot, they made the ground steam and sizzle like _____.

The princess of the kingdom felt sorry for the dragon. She climbed on the dragon’s back. They walked for five days and nights. The dragon walked as fast as _____. It carried the princess all the way to the cold North Sea.

The princess pointed to a big chunk of ice. It was floating in the water. “That is an iceberg,” she said. “It is as cold as _____. If you eat one every spring, you will not burn the grass. You will be as cool as _____. Next winter you can live at my castle. You will get back just enough heat to keep my toes as warm as _____. My father, the King, will enjoy your company. You and my father will get along like _____.”

So the dragon followed the advice of the princess and lived happily ever after.

Parachute Parade (Art and Science)

Katie and Mackenzie make a parachute for George. Make a parachute and a passenger! Follow these instructions:

- Cut the sides of a plastic bag to make a large piece of plastic. See if you can find a bag with a great color.
- Trace a circle (You can use a large dinner plate or some other large round shape.)
- Cut out the circle.
- Make six small holes around the edge of the circle. Space your holes evenly. If you wrap a piece of masking tape at the site of each hole, the holes will not tear.
- Cut six pieces of strong thread about one ruler long.
- Tie one end of the thread at each hole. Make a tight knot three times.
- Bring all the ends together evenly. Tie them together in one big knot right at the end.
- String a paper clip through the knot.
- Make a small cardboard doll for a passenger. Glue a penny to the back of its head for the weight. Add a paper clip to the top. (Remember that masking tape will stop a rip in the holes.)

Words to Equations (Mathematics)

George makes up some questions and answers while he is at school. Write out two of his questions and answers.

_____ = _____
 _____ = _____

How many lights in total does the yellow rocket with the dragons have? Add them up. Write out the work and the answer!

_____ + _____ + _____ = _____

Reading for Detail (Language, Art,)

Stéphane Denis is the illustrator of *The True Story of George*. Pretend you are the illustrator. Draw the dinosaur that Mackenzie makes. First, fill in the blanks with words from the story. This will help you see the dinosaur properly in your mind.

_____ belly

legs as big as _____

_____ neck

eating _____

_____ tail

_____ color

_____ head

_____ eyes (made of)

Now that you have all the facts, draw Mackenzie's dinosaur. Include what the dinosaur is eating. Don't forget to color your creation. Put the name of the dinosaur as the title.

Or make your dinosaur out of Plasticine!

Inventory (Language, Mathematics)

People often make lists of things that they have or need. This is called making an inventory. Here is an inventory of things Ingrid Lee has in her cupboard.

Toppings for Ice Cream in My Cupboard

butterscotch sauce

blackberry jam

chocolate sprinkles

cherries in syrup (two bottles)

marshmallows

crushed toffee bits

Make an inventory of all the fireworks that Mackenzie and Katie buy at the fireworks trailer. Give it a proper title. (There's a little trick here. Read the chapter carefully!)

(b) Now make an inventory of your own.

Other Titles and Websites of Interest

The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss (George likes this poem. It makes him laugh.)

My Very First Mother Goose by Iona Opie and Rosemary Wells

George Most Wanted by Ingrid Lee

George, the Best of All! by Ingrid Lee

Steadfast Tin Soldier by Hans Christian Andersen

Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers

Dragon Tide

George Most Wanted

George, the Best of All!

Maybe Later