

The background of the cover is a vertical split. The left half is a solid dark purple. The right half is an abstract painting with vibrant red and yellow colors, featuring visible brushstrokes and a textured appearance. A white rectangular box with a black border is centered on the purple background, containing the title and author information.

There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom

by Louis Sachar

A Novel Teaching Pack

by Margaret Whisnant

Bradley Chalkers,
back of the room—last seat, last row.
Everyone, including Bradley, likes it that way.

Enter new student Jeff Fishkin.
Bradley won't spit on Jeff in exchange for a dollar.

Mix in Carla Davis,
Red Hill School's new guidance counselor.

Bradley hates her.

Then
there are black eyes,
monsters from outer space,
basketball,
homework,
a book report,
a birthday party
a new friendship,



And
There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom,
(more than once).

There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar
A Novel Teaching Pack by Margaret Whisnant

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ISBN 978-1-934538-62-3

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Table of Contents

	Page(s)
Chapter Summaries	
Chapter 1—Chapter 47	1-25
Before You Read	
Homework (Graphic Organizer).	26
Something to Think/Talk/Write About.	27
Bulletin Board Idea	28
Vocabulary	
Word List in Alphabetical Order	29
Word Lists with Definitions.	30-32
Dictionary Digs.	33-38
Silly Sentences	39-40
Synonym and Antonym ID	41
Short Answer Questions	
Chapter 1—Chapter 47.	42-47
Objective Tests	
Chapter Tests	
Chapter 1—Chapter 2.	48
Chapter 3	49
Chapter 4—Chapter 5—Chapter 6	50
Chapter 7—Chapter 8	51-52
Chapter 9—Chapter 10	53-54
Chapter 11—Chapter 12—Chapter 13—Chapter 14	55-56
Chapter 15—Chapter 16—Chapter 17—Chapter 18.	57-58
Chapter 19—Chapter 20—Chapter 21	59

Chapter 22-Chapter 23.	60-61
Chapter 24—Chapter 25—Chapter 26	62-63
Chapter 27—Chapter 28.	64-65
Chapter 29—Chapter 30—Chapter 31.	66
Chapter 32—Chapter 33	67-68
Chapter 34—Chapter 35	69-70
Chapter 36—Chapter 37	71-72
Chapter 38—Chapter 39	73
Chapter 40—Chapter 41—Chapter 42	74-75
Chapter 43—Chapter 44-Chapter 45	76-77
Chapter 46—Chapter 47.	78-79
Whole Book Test	80-81

Think, Write, Create

Chapter-by-Chapter Prompts and Activities	82-102
Whole Book Prompts and Activities	103-105

Graphic Organizers

The World’s Worst Excuses	106
Bradley’s Ricochet	107
Bradley and Carla Talk about Monsters	108
Hello	109
Gift from the Heart	110
Book Magic	111
Building a Friendship (Sequencing)	112
Detail Detective (Story Trivia)	113

Keys	114-124
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Chapter Summaries

1

- Bradley Chalkers sits at his desk in the back of the room—last seat last row—when Mrs. Ebbel brings the new student in.
- Jeff Fishkin, is from Washington, D.C. He says he has never been to the White House when Mrs. Ebbel asks him about it.
- The only seat for Jeff is next to Bradley. Mrs. Ebbel frowns and apologizes. Nobody likes sitting near Bradley.
- Bradley speaks up to agree with his teacher. It is hard to tell whether his strange smile is a smile or a frown. Bradley looks away when Jeff smiles at him.
- As Mrs. Ebbel teaches, Bradley takes out a pencil and a piece of paper and scribbles. When the pencil point breaks, he laughs and tapes the broken point to the gobs of junk in his desk. He sharpens his pencil, and scribbles again.
- Bradley holds up the language paper Mrs. Ebbel hands back to show off his F. He smiles his distorted smile and cuts the paper into tiny pieces.
- At recess, Bradley is surprised when Jeff calls to him. He doesn't mind sitting next to Bradley. He has been to the White House. He just didn't want to tell the class about it, but he will tell Bradley.
- Bradley thinks for a moment. He orders Jeff to give him a dollar or he will spit on him.

2

- Bradley Chalkers looks like a good spitter. He has taken fourth grade twice, so he is the oldest and toughest-looking kid in Mrs. Ebbel's fifth grade class.
- Jeff stares at Bradley, gives him a dollar, and runs.
- Bradley laughs and then watches all the other kids have fun.
- After recess, Bradley decides that Jeff hasn't told on him for fear of being punched in the face. He eats lunch alone.
- After lunch, Mrs. Ebbel asks if Bradley has delivered the note about tomorrow's Parents' Conference Day. It is important that his mother attend and meet the school's new counselor.
- Bradley has delivered the note, but his mother is sick. Besides, the counselor and his mother have already met at the bowling alley. Mrs. Ebbel can call the doctor and the bowling alley if she doesn't believe him.
- Back in his seat, Bradley thinks about Jeff. He hates the other kids, and he needs to hate Jeff before Jeff hates him. But now Bradley is confused.
- After school, Bradley follows Jeff out the door and calls for him to wait. Jeff runs, but Bradley catches up. Nervously, Jeff warns that he doesn't have any more money.
- Bradley holds out Jeff's dollar. Bradley will give it back if Jeff will be his friend.
- Jeff grabs the dollar.
- Bradley smiles his crooked smile, and asks Jeff if he has ever been to the White House.
- Jeff says he has. Bradley says he has too.
- Bradley turns and runs home.

3

- Bradley's mother is in the kitchen. He is early because he and his friends have raced home.
- In his room, Bradley greets his collection of little toy animals. They all like Bradley.
- He retrieves Ronnie the Rabbit and Bartholomew the Bear from under his bed. He has an imaginary conversation with the little rabbit and the ceramic bear about why they are there.
- Bradley has brought food. He takes bits of cut-up paper from his pocket and places it on the bed for his animals to eat. They thank Bradley and give him a cheer.
- Ronnie the Rabbit goes swimming in the grape juice stain on Bradley's bedspread too soon after eating. She gets a cramp and starts to drown. Bartholomew is about to rescue her when Bradley's sister Claudia barges in.

Word Lists with Definitions

(In Story Order)

Set One

Chapter 1—Chapter 19

- shrugged** Raised and contracted the shoulders expressing indifference, disdain, disregard, etc.; ridded oneself of, such as a problem. (p. 3, 5, etc.)
- distorted** Twisted; deformed; misshapen; not truly or completely representative of the facts or reality; altered. (p. 5)
- glared** Stared with an angrily or fiercely piercing look; gave a dirty look; frowned. (p. 6)
- snickered** Laughed in a slightly stifled mocking or disrespectful manner; chuckled; smirked. (p. 12)
- flabbergasted** Overcome with surprise and bewilderment; astonished; shocked. (p. 15)
- asserted** Declared; stated with assurance, confidence or force; defended. (p. 16)
- timidly** In a manner that indicates fear or a lack of confidence; bashfully; nervously; carefully; hesitantly. (p. 18)
- drastic** Extremely severe or extensive; strict; stern; harsh; tough. (p. 19)
- muttered** Spoken in a low tone, usually as if talking to oneself; mumbled, grumbled; groaned; complained. (p.21)
- modestly** Spoken or acted as to be without conceit or a feeling of self-importance; in a manner that shows a humble estimate of one's merits, value, etc.; (p. 23)
- frantically** Wildly; desperately; in such a way as to indicate fear or panic; frenziedly; excitedly; crazily. (p. 25)
- cluttered** Filled or littered with things in a disorganized manner; messy. (p. 25)
- grimaced** Made a pained expression; twisted one's facial expression, often into an ugly state, to indicate pain, disgust, disapproval, embarrassment, etc.; frowned; mugged (p. 30)
- gurgling** Flowing in a noisy, irregular, or broken current; blubbing; murmuring. (p. 32)
- ferociously** Fiercely; savagely; wildly; crazily. (p. 33)
- hag** An ugly old woman, especially a mean or frightful one; a witch. (p. 36)
- squiggly** Having short irregular curves or twists as in writing or drawing. (p. 36)
- scribbled** Covered with meaningless writing or marks; wrote hastily, illegibly, or carelessly; scrawled. (p. 36, 38)
- squirmed** Felt or displayed discomfort, distress, or embarrassment by wriggling or twisting about; fidgeted; writhed. (p. 38)
- reflex** An automatic response or reaction; an involuntary reaction or response, such as a sneeze, blink, or hiccup. (p. 45)
- urged** Encouraged; tried to convince or persuade; goaded; spurred; endorsed. (p. 47, 48)
- anguish** Distress, suffering, or pain; agony; torment; torture. (p. 49)
- reluctantly** In a manner that shows an unwillingness or a lack of desire to comply; hesitantly; grudgingly; unenthusiastically. (p. 51)
- hysterically** In a manner controlled by uncontrolled emotion; uproariously; deliriously; excitedly; uncontrollably. (p. 57) *hysterical* (p. 125)
- romping** Playing or frolicking in a lively manner; running or going without effort; playing; skipping. (p. 58)
- terrorizing** Frightening or dominating another person by using fear or intimidation; threatening; bullying. (p. 62)
- intently** Done with sharply focused attention or determination; in a manner not easily distracted; closely; attentively. (p. 67)
- shuddered** Trembled with a sudden, convulsive movement, as from fear or cold; shook; quivered. (p. 70)
- quality** Having great value, worth, or merit; excellence or superiority; a trait, character, or feature; characteristic; attribute. (p. 70)
- quantity** A particular number or amount of something; a considerable or great amount; abundance; a total or sum. (p. 70)

Dictionary Digs

Set One

Chapter 1—Chapter 19

Use your favorite dictionary to find correct answers to the following questions about some important words from Chapters 1 through 19. Write the **letters** of your answer choices in the blanks to the left.

- _____ 1. If a person **snickered**, it probably means that he/she was (A) trying to keep from crying, (B) mocking someone or being disrespectful, (C) actually afraid of something.
- _____ 2. The word **gurgling** is *most likely* to be used to describe the sound of (A) thunder in the distance, (B) a very loud car horn or a siren, (C) water going down a drain.
- _____ 3. An *antonym* of **urged** is (A) encouraged, (B) discouraged, (C) supported.
- _____ 4. If a child's drawing is composed of **squiggly** lines, then it has (A) long, wide straight marks from side to side, (B) nothing but circles, (C) short irregular curves and twists.
- _____ 5. Which word can be substituted for **hysterically** in the following sentence without changing its meaning?
*Matilda laughed **hysterically** at Landon's attempted somersault.*
(A) uproariously, (B) timidly, (C) modestly
- _____ 6. Which of the following words is **not** a *synonym* for **terrorizing**? (A) threatening, (B) assisting, (C) bullying.
- _____ 7. To say that someone has **distorted the facts**, means that he or she has (A) purposely not told the whole truth, (B) stated the facts accurately, (C) lied without meaning to.
- _____ 8. **Quantity** refers to (A) the value of something in dollars and cents, (B) the number or total amount of something, (C) the number of times something can be divided.
- _____ 9. A **cluttered** room is also (A) empty, (B) organized, (C) messy.

- _____ 10. Which of the following cartoons *best* illustrates the meaning of **flabbergasted**?

(A)



(B)



(C)



- _____ 11. If Callie made a **drastic** change in her hair color, then (A) it was hardly noticeable, (B) she chose a color that was extremely different from the original, (C) she made the switch without her parents' permission.
- _____ 12. **Romping** youngsters are (A) playing or running about in a lively manner, (B) trying to escape adults who are watching them, (C) waiting patiently for a promised surprise.
- _____ 13. A *synonym* for **shuddered** is (A) spluttered, (B) crackled, (C) trembled.
- _____ 14. An *antonym* of **reluctantly** is (A) timidly, (B) casually, (C) boldly.
- _____ 15. A good example of an *involuntary reflex* is a (A) hiccup, (B) laugh, (C) smile.

Silly Sentences

The **bold print** words in each of the following groups moved themselves around so that they are no longer in the sentences where they belong. As a result, all of the sentences are just plain silly! In the blank to the left of each one, write the word that will make it sensible again. Spelling counts!

barged**glistened****grimaced****shrieked****swerved**

- _____ 1. Mr. Hauser **shrieked** into the room before we could all yell, "Surprise!"
- _____ 2. Something **grimaced** in the distance, but we couldn't determine if it was a signal or only a random glint from a reflective object.
- _____ 3. "There's a bug swimming in my soup!" Gabby **swerved**.
- _____ 4. One of the umpires **glistened** onto the sidelines to avoid being tackled.
- _____ 5. Suzanne **barged** when she bit down on something crunchy in her ice cream cone.

**flabbergasted****crumpled****distorted****squiggly****filmy**

- _____ 6. Raphael declared the piece of paper that he had filled with blue **flabbergasted** lines to be a letter to Santa.
- _____ 7. A morning haze **crumpled** our view of the mountains.
- _____ 8. We were **distorted** when Scott did not win the chess tournament as expected.
- _____ 9. Devon wore a **filmy** shirt that he had taken from the drier and refused to iron.
- _____ 10. After Dad's hot shower, the bathroom mirror is **squiggly** with steam and has to be towel dried.

modestly**abruptly****hysterically****reluctantly****ferociously**

- _____ 11. The cast was flabbergasted when one actor turned without warning and **modestly** left the stage without speaking his line.
- _____ 12. Monica cried **abruptly** for half an hour after her mother refused to buy a toy she wanted.
- _____ 13. Mrs. Foy smiled **hysterically** and accepted the blue ribbon.
- _____ 14. Bill looked over his shoulder, sighed, and **ferociously** opened the door.
- _____ 15. The puppy held the squeaky toy in its teeth and shook it **modestly**.

Short Answer Questions

1—2

1. Though his desk was the last seat in the last row in the back of the room, why would Bradley rather have sat in the closet?
2. Why did Mrs. Ebbel apologize to Jeff Fishkin, the new student from Washington, D.C.?
3. Describe the way Bradley smiled at Jeff.
4. What did Bradley do during most of the morning?
5. What was Bradley's grade on the language test that Mrs. Ebbel handed back, and what did he do while she went over the correct answers?
6. What did Bradley do when Jeff said he didn't mind sitting next to him and offered to tell him about his visit to the White House?
7. Why was Bradley a year older than the other kids in his fifth grade class?
8. Why did Bradley tell Mrs. Ebbel to call his mother's doctor?
9. Explain how Jeff confused Bradley.
10. What did Bradley say just before he held out the dollar Jeff had given him earlier?

3

1. How did Bradley's collection of little animals feel about him?
2. What did Bradley do with the language test he had cut into little bits at school?
3. Why did Bradley tell his sister to call his teacher?
4. Why had Claudia bought the bear for Bradley?
5. What did Bradley do when he found out Mrs. Ebbel had called his mother and scheduled an appointment with her for eleven o'clock the next day?
6. Explain why Bradley's father often came home grumpy and short-tempered.
7. According to Bradley, what promise was his mother breaking?
8. What did Bradley do that caused his father to turn purple with rage?
9. What warning did Bradley's father give?
10. Explain how Ronnie the Rabbit and Bartholomew the Bear comforted Bradley.

Chapter 1 and Chapter 2
Pages 3-8

Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank to the left.

- _____ 1. Bradley's desk was (A) in the front of the room near the teacher's desk, (B) in the back of the room, last seat, last row, (C) in a corner separate from the rest of the class.
- _____ 2. The new student, Jeff Fishkin, was from (A) Los Angeles, California, (B) New York City, (C) Washington, D.C.
- _____ 3. Mrs. Ebbel apologized to Jeff for (A) making him sit next to Bradley, (B) not having an extra desk for him, (C) not having time to introduce him to the class properly.
- _____ 4. Bradley's desk was (A) empty, (B) full of taped-together paper, pencil points, erasers and other stuff, (C) exceptionally neat because he never took anything from it.
- _____ 5. During Mrs. Ebbel's lesson Bradley (A) listened, but didn't do any of the work, (B) made noises and punched Jeff in the back with his pencil, (C) scribbled and laughed each time he broke his pencil point.
- _____ 6. When Jeff offered to tell Bradley about his trip to the White House, Bradley said, (A) "Give me a dollar or I'll spit on you." (B) "Go ahead, but I won't listen." (C) "What do I care about the White House?"
- _____ 7. Which of the following was **not** true of Bradley? He (A) was in fifth grade, (B) had taken fourth grade twice, (C) was not very tough-looking.
- _____ 8. Bradley told Mrs. Ebbel that his mother could not come to Parents' Conference Day because she (A) was sick, (B) didn't like conferences or counselors, (C) had to work at the bowling alley.
- _____ 9. Jeff confused Bradley because (A) he didn't care if Bradley hated him, (B) he had said he didn't mind sitting next to Bradley, (C) he hated Bradley before Bradley had a chance to hate him first.
- _____ 10. Bradley offered to pay Jeff a dollar (A) to make up for spitting on him, (B) for his test paper with the gold star on it, (C) if Jeff would be his friend.



Chapter 3
Pages 9-17

Write either **True** or **False** in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. The friends in Bradley's room were his collection of little toy animals.
- _____ 2. Bradley used the language test that he cut to pieces as pretend food for his toy animals.
- _____ 3. Claudia, Bradley's sister, liked to join him in the imaginary games he played with his animal collection.
- _____ 4. Mrs. Ebbel called Bradley's mother and scheduled an appointment for the next day during Parents' Conference Day.
- _____ 5. Bradley's father was a policeman.
- _____ 6. Bradley's father often came home grumpy and short tempered because his injured leg caused him to be in constant pain.
- _____ 7. Bradley claimed his mother had promised to take him to the zoo on the same day she had scheduled a conference with his teacher.
- _____ 8. When Bradley accused his mother of lying, his father got mad.
- _____ 9. Bradley's father said he would be a criminal when he grew up and spend his life in jail if he kept it up.
- _____ 10. Back in his room, Bradley's animal friends would not talk to him because of his lies.



Chapter 4, Chapter 5, and Chapter 6
Pages 18-26

Write either **Yes** or **No** in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. Did Bradley's mother always believe the things he told her?
- _____ 2. Was Bradley's mother shocked at the things Mrs. Ebbel said about him?
- _____ 3. Was the counselor's office really messy?
- _____ 4. Did Miss Davis dread meeting Bradley because of the things other teachers had said about him?
- _____ 5. Did Bradley's mother tell his father the truth about her meeting with Mrs. Ebbel?
- _____ 6. Did Bradley's father want to send him to military school?



- _____ 7. When Jeff greeted him and then offered to help him with his homework, did Bradley smile at his one and only friend and accept the offer?
- _____ 8. Was Jeff trying to follow a teacher's directions to the counselor's office when he accidentally walked into the girls' bathroom?
- _____ 9. Was the girls' bathroom empty when Jeff stepped inside?
- _____ 10. Did Jeff mistake Miss Davis's office for a storage room?

Chapter 9 and Chapter 10
Pages 36-45

the library
her hand
break something
dog food
his drawing

squiggly lines
Jeff
rules
Mrs. Ebbel
kick her

Carla
Carla's office
Bradley
sharing with her
the girls' bathroom



From the list above, choose the name, word, or phrase that fits the description below and write it in the blank. **All** the answers will be **used at least once**. **Some** of the answers will be **used more than once**.

- _____ 1. No matter what Bradley said, this person believed him.
- _____ 2. Bradley thought it was a mess, and he said so.
- _____ 3. He always said hello back when someone said hello to him.
- _____ 4. Bradley suggested that Jeff do this the next time one of the three girls said hello to him.
- _____ 5. Bradley told the teacher who stopped him in the hall and Carla that he was going here, but it was a lie.
- _____ 6. There were none of these in Carla's room.
- _____ 7. Bradley said he had taught her a lot, including geography.
- _____ 8. Bradley noticed that the white shirt Carla was wearing was covered with different-colored ones of these.
- _____ 9. Bradley threw this into the wastepaper basket next to Mrs. Ebbel's desk.
- _____ 10. Bradley told Jeff that the counselor was weird because she liked to eat this.
- _____ 11. This person didn't believe in accidents.
- _____ 12. Carla held this out to Bradley when he came into her office and then again when he left.
- _____ 13. Bradley had permission to do this if he wanted to when he was in Carla's office.

Think, Write, Create

Chapter-by-Chapter

1—2

Bradley thought that Mrs. Ebbel and the rest of his class would be much happier if he sat in the closet.

- From what you have learned about Bradley in the first two chapters, do you think his teacher and classmates actually would prefer that his desk be in the closet? Explain your answer.
- From Bradley's point of view, how would it have been an advantage for him if his desk could have been moved into the closet?
- Do you think isolating Bradley from the class would have been good for him? Why or why not?

The author wrote that Bradley's desk *was full of little wads of torn paper, pencil points, chewed erasers, and other unrecognizable stuff, all taped together.*

- Draw a picture of Bradley's desk as you imagine it might look.
- What would happen at your school if a student sat in a desk such as Bradley's?
- If the desk next to yours looked that the author's description of Bradley's desk, what would you do? Do you think students should remind and help each other keep their desks in good order? Why or why not?

What clues can you find in these two chapters to indicate that Jeff Fishkin is somewhat shy? Could this explain why he was willing to tell Bradley about his visit to the White House but not the whole class?

During recess, Jeff ran after Bradley and asked him to wait up.

- Why do you suppose Jeff not only didn't mind sitting next to Bradley but also talked to him at recess?. *Hint:* What information and experience did the rest of Bradley's classmates have that Jeff did not?
- What, if anything, did Jeff and Bradley have in common? *Hint:* How was Jeff an "outcast" as the new boy in the class?

Bradley was a year older than the other kids in his fifth grade class because he had repeated fourth grade.

- From what you know about him so far, do you think Bradley is stupid? Why or why not?
- How do you know that Bradley is used to getting away with goofing off and lying? Who, in your opinion, should put a stop to these behaviors?
- Do you think Bradley's classmates are afraid of him, do they simply not like him, or is the situation a combination of both? Explain your answer.

At recess, Bradley demanded a dollar from Jeff in exchange for not spitting on him.

- Was Bradley's behavior that of a bully? Explain.
- If you had been Jeff, would you have told Mrs. Ebbel what Bradley had done? Why or why not?
- Why was Bradley confused by Jeff's behavior?

If you were Jeff, what would you do your second day at school? Would you stay away from Bradley Chalkers or try to be friendly toward him? Explain your thinking.

Think, Write, Create Whole Book Activities

Bradley complained when his mother served fish and Brussels sprouts. On the morning he decided to be good, Bradley first complained about his mother's lumpy oatmeal, but then said it was good. When Carla asked if he wanted to trade lunches, Bradley traded a roast beef sandwich for a carton of yogurt and a plate of sliced tomatoes and cucumbers. He ate without a single complaint.

- Which of the four meals mentioned above is the most appealing to you? Why?
- Why do you suppose Bradley accepted Carla's food without comment?
- If Mrs. Chalkers invited you to have lunch with Bradley, what do you imagine she would prepare?
- If Carla invited you and Bradley to lunch, what do you suppose would be on the menu?
- Which meal do you think you would enjoy more—Mrs. Chalkers' or Carla's? Add details to explain your answer.

Bradley always noticed what Carla was wearing.

- Do you think Carla wore clothes that she liked, or did she dress in a way that she thought would appeal to the students who came into her office? Add details to explain your answer.
- Do you think it would be a good idea if **teachers** were required to wear school uniforms? Why or why not?

Bradley thought Carla's book was a lucky charm and the reason for all the good things that were happening to him. Explain how his thinking was both correct and incorrect.

(Related Activity: See Graphic Organizer #6: Book Magic)

Identify four ways that Carla and Bradley were alike. List four ways that they were different.

Suppose Mrs. Chalkers insisted that Bradley write a letter to Colleen thanking her for inviting him to her party. What did he say?

Just as Bradley was no ordinary student, Carla was no ordinary counselor. What we know about her we learned from her relationship with Bradley. Use the following questions and your imagination to create further facts about Carla.

- Where was Carla before she came to Bradley's school? What was she doing?
- What was Carla like when she was Bradley's age? Did she have trouble in school, or was she the perfect student?
- Why doesn't Carla believe in accidents? Who or what gave her that idea?
- Did Carla create the problems that developed with the Concerned Parents Organization and the school board? Explain your answer.
- Do you think Carla will be a good kindergarten teacher? Why or why not?


The World's Worst Excuses

Bradley was a bundle of really bad excuses. His mother was sick and couldn't come to the Parents' Conference Day. Besides that, his mother and the new counselor already knew each other because they went bowling together. His teacher could call the doctor and the bowling alley if she didn't believe him. Then Bradley insisted that his mother could not go to school to talk to his teacher the next day because she had promised to take him to the zoo at lion-feeding time, and his dad could call the zoo if he didn't believe him.


Bradley was definitely a creative thinker, but you probably have heard (or used!) much more outrageous excuses for explaining such things as *not doing chores*, *no homework*, or *why it took so long to come back to class from the bathroom*, and like Bradley's, they didn't work either!

Use the form below to gather your ideas and then write about **The World's Worst Excuses**. Compare your composition with those of your classmates. Take a vote to choose *The Top Ten World's Worst Excuses*.

A really bad excuse for not doing chores is _____

The whole idea is ridiculous because... 

A ridiculous explanation for not having homework is _____

It won't work because... 



If someone catches you wasting time or being where you aren't supposed to be, don't say _____

This will not be convincing because... 