

Sample Pages from
The Whipping Boy

By Sid Fleischman

1987 Newbery Medal Winner



A Novel Teaching Pack

By Margaret Whisnant

with

Chapter Summaries, Prereading Activities, Vocabulary,
Short Answer Questions, Objective Comprehension Tests,
Think, Write, Create Open-Ended Activities, Graphic Organizers for Writing,
and Answer Keys

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Table of Contents

	Page
Chapter Summaries	
Chapter 1 through Chapter 20	1-14
Before You Read	
Boredom Busters (Graphic Organizer)	15
Something to Think About	
Something to Write About	16-17
Bulletin Board Idea(s)	17
Vocabulary	
Vocabulary List in Alphabetical Order	18
Vocabulary Lists with Definitions	19-22
Dictionary Digs	23-30
Synonym and Antonym ID	31
Runaway Vocabulary	32-33
Misfit Words	34
Short Answer Questions	
Chapter 1 through Chapter 20	35-39
Objective Tests	
Chapter Tests	
Chapter 1 and Chapter 2	40
Chapter 3 and Chapter 4	41
Chapter 5	42
Chapter 6 and Chapter 7	43-44
Chapter 8 and Chapter 9	45
Chapter 10 and Chapter 11	46
Chapter 12 and Chapter 13	47
Chapter 14 and Chapter 15	48-49
Chapter 16	50

Table of Contents—*Continued*

Chapter 17 and Chapter 18	51-52
Chapter 19	53-54
Chapter 20	55

Whole Book Test	56-59
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Think, Write, Create

Chapter-by-Chapter Activities	60-73
Whole Book Activities	74-78

Graphic Organizers for Writing

Yum and Yuck and Maybe	79
A Week-end Away	80
Turning Points	81
Privileges, Chores, and Point of View	82
From Whipping Boy to Role Model	83
Runaway Time Line	84
Character Catalogue	85-86
Suggested Grading Rubric	87

Answer Keys	88-97
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Chapter Summaries

Chapter 1 *In which we observe a hair-raising event*

- The young prince is known just about everywhere as Prince Brat.
- One night, when the king is holding a grand feast, Prince Brat sneaks behind the lords and ladies and ties their wigs to the backs of their chairs. Then he hides behind a footman.
- When the guests stand up, their wigs fly off. The prince can't keep from laughing.
- The furious king shouts, "*Fetch the whipping boy!*"
- Prince Brat has never been whipped. It is forbidden. A common boy is kept in the castle to be punished in the prince's place.
- Jemmy, an orphan son of a rat-catcher, is roused from his sleep in the north tower. He has been dreaming of his carefree life before he had been taken from the streets and sewers of the city to serve as the royal whipping boy.
- Jemmy has already been whipped twice today. He makes no sounds as he receives the twenty whacks ordered by the king.
- Later in the tower chamber, the prince declares that Jemmy is the worst whipping boy he has ever had. He does not bawl when he is whipped, and the prince wants to know why.
- They dress Jemmy up fancy and feed him well, and he is supposed to bawl. It is no fun if he doesn't bawl.
- Jemmy is determined never to shed a tear that the prince can gloat over.
- Prince Brat threatens to have Jemmy thrown back to the streets if he doesn't yelp and bellow the next time.
- Jemmy's spirits soar. He will take his rags and be gone.

Chapter 2 *Wherein the prince cannot write his name*

- Jemmy expects a thrashing first thing in the morning as usual. The prince will not know his lessons and the royal tutor will be quick with his willow switch.
- Once free of the castle, Jemmy plans to get a pair of ferrets and be a rat-catcher, just like his Pa had been.
- The tutor bellows at the prince. One day he will be king, and he still doesn't know the alphabet.
- The prince will get someone to read for him.
- The prince can't write his name.
- Prince Brat will get someone to write his name for him.
- Jemmy, required to attend the prince's lessons, reckons that freedom is close at hand. The angry tutor gives him ten whacks, but a sound does not escape his lips.
- The prince explodes. Jemmy is refusing to bawl for pure spite. Does he think he can cross the prince and get away with it?
- The prince goes back on his word. If Jemmy tries to run away, the prince will track him down.
- And so for more than a year, the prince learns nothing. The whipping boy learns to read, write, and do sums.

Vocabulary Lists with Definitions

Set One

Chapter 1—Chapter 6

Twenty-five Words

- furious** Extremely angry; full of rage; having unrestrained energy, speed, etc.; enraged; frenzied. (p. 1)
- echo** A sound heard again near its source after being reflected from a wall, mountain, or other obstructing surface; an identical response as to thoughts and ideas expressed by another; repeat; copy; (p. 2) *echoed* (p. 78)
- drafty** Characterized by or admitting currents of air such as in a room, usually creating discomfort for its inhabitants; breezy. (p. 2)
- defiantly** Disobediently; in a manner that is boldly rebellious, resistant, sassy, or challenging; insolently; (p. 2)
- contrite** Showing sincere remorse or sorrow for one's offenses; filled with a sense of guilt and a desire to right one's wrongs; regretful; penitent. (p. 4)
- exasperation** Frustration; in a state of heightened anger, irritation, or annoyance; fury; ire; rage. (p. 4)
- scowl** An expression of anger or displeasure in which the brows are drawn down or contracted; frown; glare. (p. 4)
- shrugged** Raised or contracted the shoulders to express indifference or disdain; (p. 4, 51)
- gloat** To look at or think about with great, often smug or spiteful, satisfaction; (p. 4)
- obliged** Required as by command, law, or necessity; bound as by promise or contract; compelled; forced; obligated; grateful for some service or favor; kindly accommodating.(p. 6, 14, 20, 40, 79)
- smirking** Smiling in a smug or offensive, self-satisfied manner; sneering. (p. 6, *smirk* p.39)
- contrary** Stubborn; rebellious; willful; in opposition to; antagonistic. (p. 6)
- insolent** Boldly rude or disrespectful; insulting; brazen; sassy; impertinent. (p. 11, 27)
- ruffian** A tough, lawless person; a bully; a roughneck; brute; thug; troublemaker. (p. 12)
- exploits** Striking or notable deeds; Spirited or heroic acts; achievements; adventures; escapades. (p. 13)
- snickered** Laughed at mockingly, laughed in a slightly stifled, disrespectful manner; smirked. (p. 13, 32)
- rogues** Dishonest people; scoundrels; playfully mischievous people; tramps or vagabonds; villains; cheats; swindlers; animals having abnormally savage or unpredictable dispositions.(p. 14)
- chortled** Chuckled gleefully; uttered a snorting, joyful laugh; cackled. (p. 14)
- retorted** Replied in a witty, quick, or sharp manner, especially to counter a first speaker's statement; argued; answered; sassed; retaliated. (p. 15)
- scornfully** In a manner that expresses contempt for a person or object considered unworthy or beneath one; contemptuously; arrogantly; haughtily. (p. 15)
- tattered** Ragged; torn into strips or bits; shredded; badly worn; shabby. (p. 15)
- rickety** Likely to fall apart or collapse; worn and unstable; dilapidated; in disrepair. (p. 15)
- hospitality** The friendly reception and friendly treatment of guests and strangers; neighborliness. (p. 15)
- trifle** An article or thing of very little value; a matter or circumstance of very little importance; toy; trinket; novelty. (p. 18, 25)
- vagabonds** People who wander from place to place, usually without a permanent home; nomads; hobos; tramps; loafers.(p. 18)

Dictionary Digs

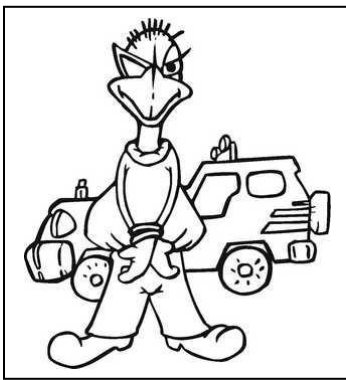
Part One

Chapter 1—Chapter 6

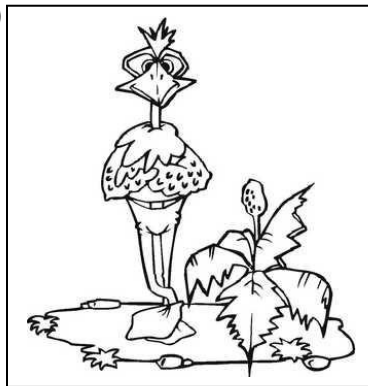
Grab your favorite dictionary and use it to find correct answers to the following questions about some important words from the first six chapters of *Jemmy and Prince Brat's* adventures. Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. **Vagabonds** are (A) a type of living quarters found in some medieval castles, (B) people who wander from place to place, usually without a permanent home, (C) musical instruments constructed from natural materials, such as reeds.
- _____ 2. To say that someone is *being* **contrary** means that he/she is (A) in a state of total surprise, (B) trying to be pleasant, (C) being stubborn or rebellious.
- _____ 3. Which of the following cartoon ducks *best* illustrates the definition of **ruffian**?

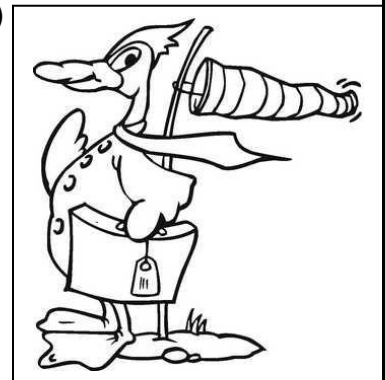
(A)



(B)



(C)



- _____ 4. An *antonym* of **defiantly** is (A) stubbornly, (B) rebelliously, (C) obediently.
- _____ 5. Something that is *not likely* to be described as **furious** is (A) a rock formation, (B) a storm, (C) the movement of morning traffic on a busy freeway.
- _____ 6. If Efraim **chortled** at Peggy's joke, then he probably (A) thought it was really funny, (B) was surprised or upset, (C) had heard it several times before.
- _____ 7. A **rickety chair** is one that (A) looks like an antique, but it isn't, (B) is likely to collapse when someone sits on it, (C) doesn't blend with the other furniture.
- _____ 8. Which word can be substituted for **smirking** in the following sentence without changing its meaning?
*My brother stood **smirking** as Mom insisted that I had started the argument.*
(A) quivering, (B) grinning, (C) sniffing
- _____ 9. The word that is **not** a *synonym* for **exasperation** is (A) frustration, (B) vexation, (C) relaxation.
- _____ 10. **Snickered** means *laughed* (A) *in a mocking or disrespectful manner*, (B) *loudly and with exaggerated body movements*, (C) *and cried at the same time*.
- _____ 11. A **scowl** is a facial expression that indicates (A) confusion or puzzlement, (B) anger or displeasure, (C) happiness and joy.
- _____ 12. Which of the following is something *not likely* to be described as **tattered**? (A) a pair of jeans, (B) a collection of very old books, (C) an antique vase.

Chapter 1 *In which we observe a hair-raising event*
Chapter 2 *Wherein the prince cannot write his name*
Pages 1-6



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

- _____ 1. The young prince was known as Prince Brat.
- _____ 2. The king laughed when, during a grand feast, his son tied the guests' wigs to the backs of their chairs, causing them to flip off when they stood for a toast.
- _____ 3. It was forbidden to spank a prince.
- _____ 4. A common boy was kept in the castle to be punished in the prince's place.
- _____ 5. The prince said Jemmy was the worst whipping boy he ever had because he didn't bawl when he was whipped.
- _____ 6. Jemmy did not want to be kicked back into the poverty of the streets and sewers of the city where he had once lived as an orphan.
- _____ 7. Jemmy's father had been a rat-catcher.
- _____ 8. As the prince's whipping boy, Jemmy wore fine clothes.
- _____ 9. The prince was a good student.
- _____ 10. Because he always had to be close at hand for the prince's daily lessons, Jemmy learned to read, write, and do sums.

Chapter 3 *The runaways* **Chapter 4** *Containing hands in the fog*
Pages 7-11

Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. The prince wanted to run away because (A) he was afraid of his father, (B) he was bored, (C) he didn't like school.
- _____ 2. Which of the following was **not** something the prince had done? He (A) hid his father's crown, (B) put bullfrogs in the moat, (C) hog-greased the knights' saddles.



- _____ 3. The prince chose Jemmy to run away with him because (A) Jemmy knew his way around the kingdom, (B) he had no friends to run off with, (C) he liked Jemmy.
- _____ 4. Jemmy knew the king would (A) hunt them down, (B) not blame him for his son's misdeeds, (C) probably not search for his son.
- _____ 5. The boys ran away (A) in a horse-drawn cart, (B) on foot, (C) double-mounted on a horse.
- _____ 6. By dawn, the boys were (A) in the center of town, (B) wishing they were back home, (C) hopelessly lost.
- _____ 7. The boys strayed from the road because (A) they fell asleep, (B) there was a dense fog, (C) the prince was trying to lead the way.
- _____ 8. Jemmy thought about running away and hiding (A) in the forest, (B) in a cave near the river, (C) in the sewers of the city.
- _____ 9. What happened to the rats Jemmy and his father caught? (A) They were sold to be used in dog-and-rat fights. (B) They were sold as food. (C) They were kept as pets.
- _____ 10. Before Jemmy could carry out his plan of escape, (A) the prince figured out what he was doing, (B) they were attacked by two men, (C) it started to rain.

Chapter 5 *Hold-Your-Nose Billy and Cutwater*
Pages 12-15

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

_____ 1. Did Jemmy think he remembered hearing songs about Hold-Your-Nose Billy?



- _____ 2. Was Hold-Your-Nose Billy also a murderer?
- _____ 3. Were Jemmy and Prince Brat carrying gold with them?
- _____ 4. Did the two men frighten the prince so badly he couldn't talk?
- _____ 5. Did the prince follow Jemmy's warning and keep his identity a secret?
- _____ 6. Did Jemmy try to convince the two thieves that Horace was a muddle-headed son of a rat-catcher?
- _____ 7. Were Cutwater and Hold-your-Nose Billy about to let Jemmy and Prince Horace go until they saw the saddle?
- _____ 8. Was the king's crest on the saddle?
- _____ 9. Did Jemmy try to save the day by claiming that he and Prince Horace had stolen the horse and saddle?
- _____ 10. Did the thieves decide that the prince was worth at least his weight in gold?

Chapter 6 *In which the plot thickens*
Chapter 7 *Being an account of a great mix-up*
Pages 15-22



the timbered hut
garlic bulbs
the wicker basket
the golden crown

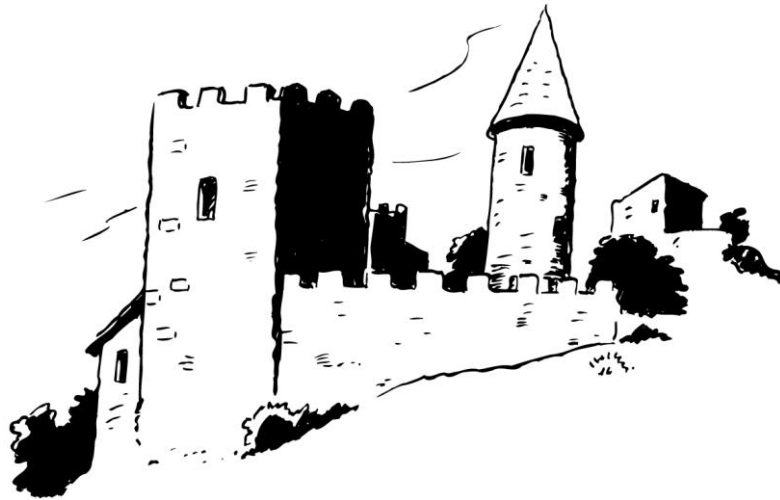
bread and herring
Cutwater
Hold-Your-Nose Billy
the black oak chest

Prince Horace
a hawk's feather
fifty-five pounds
a scrap of paper

Jemmy
a beet root
writing

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

- _____ 1. Prince Horace said he would sooner eat mud than to eat this.
- _____ 2. He decided that the boys had mixed themselves up to fool him and Cutwater.
- _____ 3. Based on its contents, Jemmy thought pickings had been slim for Billy and Cutwater.
- _____ 4. He told the outlaws that he couldn't read or write, but his whipping boy could.
- _____ 5. When he first revealed it to Jemmy and the prince, Hold-Your-Nose Billy said it was the outlaw's castle.
- _____ 6. He thought maybe Billy and Cutwater weren't as smart and clever as the song sellers made out.
- _____ 7. Cutwater made a writing instrument from one of these.
- _____ 8. He scratched himself as if his shirt were crawling with fleas.
- _____ 9. They were hanging from the rafters of the outlaw's hideout.



Think, Write, Create **Chapter-by-Chapter Activities**

Chapter 1 *In which we observe a hair-raising event*

Chapter 2 *Wherein the prince cannot write his name*

At his father's feast, the Prince tied the wigs worn by the attending lords and ladies to the backs of their oak chairs. When they stood up to toast the king, their hair pieces were yanked from their heads. Neither the king nor the lords and ladies were amused. The prince alone enjoyed his practical joke.

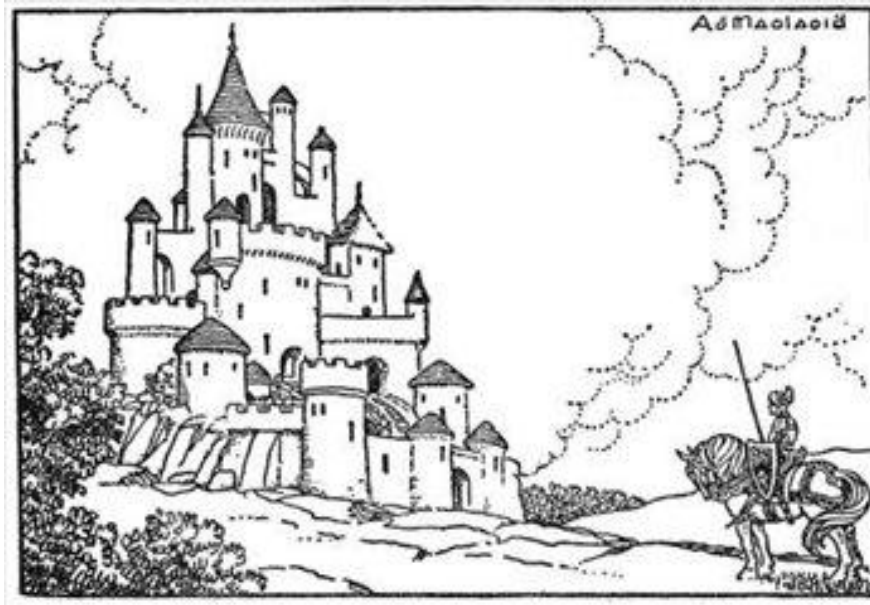
- What is the difference between a joke that somebody tells and a practical joke. Which do you think is better? Explain your choice.
- Do you think the Prince deserved the title of Prince Brat or did he just have a good sense of humor?
- If you had been in the room when the lords and ladies stood up, would you have laughed along with the prince? Why or why not?

Jemmy, the son of a rat-catcher and an orphan, had been plucked from the streets and sewers of the city to serve as royal whipping boy.

- Can you explain why no one tried to rescue Jemmy when he was removed from his home in the city and taken to the palace? Is *kidnapped* a good word to describe what happened to Jemmy? Explain your thinking.
- Write the story of Jemmy's capture as you imagine it might have happened.
- Do you think anyone ever volunteered to be a whipping boy? Were there any advantages to the job?

Jemmy refused to bawl when he was being whipped for the prince's misdeeds. *He was determined never to spring a tear for the prince to gloat over.* The prince complained that Jemmy was no fun because he didn't yelp and bellow.

- Why do you suppose the prince didn't like Jemmy's method of handling the whippings?
- Would you say that Jemmy, in refusing to bawl, was being *stubborn* or *courageous*? Add details to explain your answer.



Think, Write, Create **Whole Book Activities**

Before they came together as the prince and a whipping boy, Jemmy lived a life as a rat catcher and Prince Brat lived a totally different life as a prince.

- What skills and knowledge did Jemmy need for survival when he was the son of a rat catcher? How did the things he learned help him cope with his new life as the prince's whipping boy?
 - As the son of a king living inside a castle, how was Prince Horace's need for skills and knowledge different from Jemmy's?
 - Explain how the presence or lack of *challenge* played a part in each boy's life in the castle.
 - How did an overabundance of *challenge* change the boys' behaviors when they were faced with survival outside the castle?
-

At the end of the story, Jemmy and Prince Horace were true friends.

- How do you suppose the two boys will create *challenge* and *fun* as a team?
 - Can you think of a way for the king himself to get involved in some of the fun? What are some of your suggestions?
 - How might Prince Horace and Jemmy use their experiences as runaways to be of service to the people of the kingdom? What program might they start even though they are children and not adults? How could they enlist the help of Captain Nips and Betsy?
 - If Prince Horace and Jemmy were on Twitter, what do you think they would be doing today?
-

Yum and Yuck and Maybe

The prince thought the salt herring and bread Hold-Your-Nose Billy and Cutwater served was repulsive. On the other hand, Jemmy declared that he had eaten much worse.

What food(s), even without the varmints that Jemmy knew about, would you absolutely refuse to eat under any circumstances? What food(s) would you be willing to taste? What item(s), given a choice, would you want on the menu every single day?

Organize your choices and preferences in the spaces below. Then use your notes to write a composition about **Yum and Yuck and Maybe**.

Absolutely Never!!!



Food(s) _____

because

Maybe??



Food(s) _____

because

Every Day!!



Food(s) _____

because