

Punished!

By: David Lubar

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Genre: Fantasy/Humorous Stories

Summary: When Logan is caught running in the library, his *punishment* is to speak only in *puns* until he can collect enough oxymorons, anagrams, and palindromes to release him from a magic spell placed by the mysterious Professor Wordsworth.

BOOKTALK: Why do puns make us groan? Are they funny? Sort of funny? This book is full of them. In fact, our main character, Logan, can speak in nothing but *puns* until he has served out his *punishment* for running in the library. Get ready for strange oxymorons, palindromes and anagrams to come your way. As you follow Logan's story, you will be pulled into some *punny* examples of your own.

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

David Lubar is an author and a video game designer. He writes books and short stories for teen and young reader audiences. A New Jersey native, Lubar now lives in Pennsylvania and grew up with a mother who was a librarian. His video game accomplishments include *Frogger 2* and *Carmen Sandiego*.

To find out more about David Lubar and his books, check out his website at www.davidlubar.com

Other books written by the author:

Curse of the Campfire Weenies

Dog Days

Dunk

Flip

Hidden Talents - an ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

In the Land of the Lawn Weenies

Invasion of the Road Weenies

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie

True Talents

CHALLENGING WORDS (pronunciation, spelling, defining):

contradictory (p. 38) redundancy (p. 75) serendipity (p. 76)

*The challenging words: oxymoron, anagram, and palindrome, are defined within the context of the plot. .

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do puns make us groan? Are they funny? Sort of funny?
2. Do you think Professor Wordsworth assigned a fair punishment?
3. How do you think Logan felt about the punishment in chapter 4?
4. How do you think Logan felt about the punishment in chapter 8?
5. Logan's last name is "Quester". What kind of *quest* is Logan on?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

Language Arts:

1. Ask the students to continue the lists started by Logan. "Punish" them with new figures of speech such as similes, metaphors, homonyms, idioms, hyperbole, personification, etc.

Indiana's Academic Standards for English and Language Arts

4.1.2 Apply knowledge of synonyms (words with the same meaning), antonyms (words with opposite meanings), homographs (words that are spelled the same but have different meanings), and idioms (expressions that cannot be understood just by knowing the meanings of the words in the expression, such as *couch potato*) to determine the meaning of words and phrases.

4.3.5 Define figurative language, such as similes, metaphors, hyperbole, or personification, and identify its use in literary works.

5.3.5 Describe the function and effect of common literary devices, such as imagery, metaphor, and symbolism.

6.1.2 Identify and interpret figurative language (including similes, comparisons that use *like* or *as*, and metaphors, implied comparisons) and words with multiple meanings.

2. Give students digital or disposable cameras to take pictures of oxymorons, palindromes and anagrams. Insert digital photos into PowerPoint slides, Word documents, or Publisher documents. Students add text to explain the photos and pages are compiled into a class book.

Indiana's Academic Standards for English and Language Arts

4.4.9 Use a computer to draft, revise, and publish writing, demonstrating basic keyboarding skills and familiarity with common computer terminology.

5.4.6 Create simple documents using a computer and employing organizational features, such as passwords, entry and pull-down menus, word searches, the thesaurus, and spell checks.

6.4.7 Use a computer to compose documents with appropriate formatting by using word-processing skills and principles of design, including margins, tabs, spacing, columns, and page orientation.

Lifeskills: resourcefulness, active listening, problem solving, sense of humor

RELATED INTERNET SITES:

To find out more about parts of speech, the following link is a thorough academic website that offers definitions and examples:

<http://www.nipissingu.ca/faculty/williams/figofspe.htm>

Would you like to test your knowledge of parts of speech? The following online quiz hosted by Quia will present quite a challenge.

<http://www.quia.com/hm/80390.html>

Compiled by Debra Brown