Diary of a Wimpy Kid

EVENT KIT

ART PROJECTS! MAKE YOUR OWN COMIC!
CHEESE-TOUCH TAG! WIMPY KID BINGO!
. . . AND TONS MORE GAMES AND ACTIVITIES!

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO CELEBRATE
THIS WIMPY KID MONTH

Amulet Books
An imprint of ABRAMS

This Party Kit is also available for download at www.wimpykid.com/wimpykidmonth and www.amuletbooks.com
HAPPY WIMPY KID MONTH! THANKS FOR CELEBRATING WITH US.
The ideas in this party kit are certainly perfect for a Wimpy Kid Month event (www.wimpykid.com/wimpykidmonth), but will also work for a themed gathering any time of the year. And while most of the activities are designed for a home setting, they can easily be adapted for bookstores or libraries.

Feel free to choose the games and activities that work best for your group.

MUSIC PLAYLIST
Consider a playlist with tracks that sound like they could be by fictional Wimpy Kid artists such as Joshie (The Ugly Truth), Krisstina (The Third Wheel), or Löded Diper (Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Rodrick Rules). Or feature some unexpected choices, and challenge guests to identify the connection between the song and a character or scene from the books (e.g., Frank Heffley and a classical music selection, or “Haunted House” by Jumpin’ Gene Simmons as a reference to Greg and Rowley turning Rowley’s basement into a haunted house (Diary of a Wimpy Kid).

FOOD AND DECOR
Think about using a visual theme from one of the series’ many get-togethers and events featured in the series, then put your own spin on it. A school dance perhaps, complete with punch, or a “Lock-In”-style slumber party (The Ugly Truth)? For decorations, consider making banners or posters borrowed from the books themselves, such as the “Reading Is Fun” club (Dog Days). For food, you can serve Drummies (Cabin Fever), the frozen chicken drumsticks that Greg is so crazy about. Or serve chocolate chip cookies, but for fun mix in some oatmeal raisin cookies—the kind that frustrates Greg in Cabin Fever.

And of course you can always screen one or more of the Wimpy Kid movies, complete with popcorn and other movie-related snacks.

USING THIS PARTY KIT
While the suggestions in this kit can be used in many ways, it may be helpful to make one or two ideas the centerpiece of your event. The Trivia Game or an art project could make a great activity to focus on, while other, less formal games can be played in between. Also, you’ll want to keep age range in mind. Wimpy Kid Bingo (p. 7) may be fun for kids in grades 3 and 4, while those in or approaching middle school might enjoy more challenging activities such as Future Shock (p. 14).
NAME TAG NONSENSE
This is a riff off on a common icebreaking activity. Guests are given name tags to wear on their backs or foreheads—somewhere that they can’t see—and have to ask other guests questions to try to determine who they are. The twist here is that all the names should be of characters in the Wimpy Kid universe. Of course if you want to make things extra challenging, you can include animals, like Sweetie the dog (Dog Days), or even inanimate things, like chicken pox (The Third Wheel).

NAME THAT BOOK
Gather all the books in the series, and select a reader to choose a passage and read it to the group (all of whom should have their eyes closed during the reading). Who can name that book first? Keep switching readers for more fun.

CHEESE TOUCH TAG
If you think about it, “Cheese Touch” (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) is really just a never-ending game of tag. So all you have to do to play a modified Cheese Touch game is head outdoors. Start with the picture of the infamous cheese on the following page, and have the person who is “it” touch it to signal the start of each round.
Wimpy Kid Game Show

It’s way easier than you might think to set up and play a TV-style trivia game that provides some memory-teasing fun.

PREP
What you’ll need:
• Some clear wall space
• Printout (or handwritten index cards) of trivia questions and answers (see below for samples)
• Sticky notes (a variety of colors would be nice, but is not necessary)
• Large sheet of construction paper or poster board
...oh, and of course some questions. See below for some samples.

PLAY
Divide the group into two teams, each of which should appoint an official “spokesperson” who delivers the final answer on behalf of the group. Write the trivia questions on sticky notes and arrange them in categories on a hanging sheet of paper or poster board. Clearly mark the category headings and display point values. Cards should be placed in ascending order from top to bottom, in vertical columns under the headings. The board should resemble a “Jeopardy!” board. Flip a coin to decide which team chooses the opening question. Let the team with the first raised hand get the first shot at answering that question, and let the other team try to answer it if the first team gets it wrong. As teams answer questions correctly, they get to keep the sticky notes. At the end, tally up the final score by adding the point values on the sticky notes.

(Tip: You can write the answers right on the back of the sticky notes—if they won’t show through.)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE PROBLEM WITH PARENTS</th>
<th>100</th>
<th>What type of money does Mrs. Heffley use to try to bring Greg and Rodrick closer together? (Mom Bucks)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>What does Mrs. Heffley use to keep track of both Greg and the pig? (a GPS chip)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>What outdoors group brings Greg and his father together in The Last Straw? (Boy Scouts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>400</td>
<td>What does Greg’s Dad ask him to do every morning to try to make him more responsible? (wake himself up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>500</td>
<td>What is the name of the magazine that gives Mom the idea to go on a family road trip? (Family Frolic)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### HEFFLEY FAMILY HISTORY

| 100 | Who gets married for a fourth time? (Uncle Gary) |
| 200 | Who are Gretchen, Audra, Veronica, and Cakey? (Greg’s Mom’s sisters—Greg’s aunts) |
| 300 | Who writes handwritten letters—and always expects one in return? (Gammie Heffley) |
| 400 | What kind of animal does Manny win while on their family road trip? (a pig) |
| 500 | What did Greg lose on a beach vacation when he was younger? (Tickles, the stuffed animal) |

### BULLIES, RIVALS, AND MORONS

| 100 | What do the Whirley Street kids throw at Rowley and Greg? (snowballs) |
| 200 | Who forms a couple with Abigail immediately after she is Greg’s date for the Valentine’s Day dance? (Rowley) |
| 300 | Whom does Greg bully by getting kids to pretend he’s invisible? (Chirag) |
| 400 | What annoying character and pint-size bully must Greg babysit? (Wesley Stringer) |
| 500 | What nickname does Greg give the family they keep running into while on their road trip? (The Beardos) |

### RANDOM GROSS THINGS

| 100 | What does Greg have on his pants that embarrasses him at church? (chocolate) |
| 200 | What does a pulled fire alarm cause students to avoid while in school? (washing their hands-going to the bathroom) |
| 300 | What does Julian eat to make himself sick enough to leave camp early? (deodorant) |
| 400 | When Greg falls asleep in the closet of the motel room in *The Long Haul*, what is the source of the awful smell he breathes in all night? (Rodrick’s dirty shoes and socks) |
| 500 | Why do some kids pay Nolan a dime at lunchtime? (to smell the French fries on his breath) |
Wimpy Kid Bingo

Setting Up:
WIMPY is a wimpified version of the game BINGO. Photocopy enough copies of the “WIMPY” game board on the following page to distribute to everyone at the event.

How to Play:
Before you start, distribute one WIMPY game board to each player and ask him or her to write one word, or phrase from the Word Box at the bottom of the game board in each of the empty board spaces. Players can place them in any box and in any order they choose, but they should not repeat any words or phrases.

To play, ask the players the questions listed below. Each answer corresponds to a word/phrase from the Word Box. Ask the kids to mark the space on their game board that has the correct answer.

To the first person to mark off a full row, column, or diagonal line wins! Remember, the middle space is a FREE spot. Check to make sure the answers are correct and award a prize. If the answers are not correct, game play continues until there is a winner.

Questions:
1. What fried food do Greg and Rodrick eat at the county fair? (Butter)
2. In book one, Greg decides to run for what position in student government? (Treasurer)
3. What’s the name of the dog that chases Greg and Rowley on their way to school in Hard Luck? (Rebel)
4. What’s the name of the four-page paper that Greg writes in The Last Straw? (Chimps)
5. In The Third Wheel, whom didn’t Greg want to get paired up with for ballroom dancing? (Ruby Bird)
6. In The Last Straw, what did the conversation heard on Rowley’s valentine to Greg say? (Fresh)
7. What kind of animal does Greg feed by throwing cheese curls out the car window in The Long Haul? (Seagull)
8. What’s the name of the amusement park ride that Greg rides in Dog Days? (Cranium Shaker)
9. What is Manny’s nickname for Greg in the first book? (Bubby)
10. In The Ugly Truth, what’s the name of Rowley’s “big brother?” (Brian)
11. What does Mom use in Rodrick Rules to reward Greg and Rodrick for doing chores and good deeds? (Mom Bucks)
12. Who comes to stay with the Heffleys in The Third Wheel? (Uncle Gary)
13. What long lost friend does Greg rediscover in Cabin Fever? (Alfrendo)
14. What is Rodrick’s science project about in Rodrick Rules? (Plants)
15. Who teaches health class in The Ugly Truth? (Nurse Powell)
16. What’s Rowley’s last name? (Jefferson)
17. In The Long Haul, Manny correctly guesses the weight of what animal which results in winning a piglet for the family? (Hog)
18. What’s the name of Greg’s mom’s beauty salon? (Bombshells)
19. Where do the Heffleys usually go when they go out to dinner? (Corny’s)
20. What does Greg wrap himself in to stay warm while hiding in the boys’ bathroom during swim practice? (toilet paper)
21. In Dog Days, the scary movie Rowley and Greg watch is about a muddy _________? (Hand)
22. Who do Greg and Rowley go to the dance with in The Third Wheel? (Abigail)
23. What game does Greg like to play in Cabin Fever? (Net Kritterz)
24. Who’s the teacher in charge of safety patrol in the first book? (Mr. Winsky)
WORD BOX

BUTTER  TREASURER  REBEL  CHIMPS  RUBY BIRD  ABIGAIL
FRESH  NET KRITTERZ  JEFFERSON  BUBBY  TOILET PAPER  HAND  BRIAN
BOMBSHELLS  NURSE POWELL  MR. WINSKY  CRANIUM SHAKER  SEAGULL
ALFREndo  HOG  CORNY’S  PLANTS  MOM BUCKS  UNCLE GARY
Jeff Kinney’s art style is based on how kids draw, so having guests draw various Wimpy Kid characters should be a natural. Grab guests’ attention by showing a three-minute video tutorial in which the author shows his step-by-step process. You can access it at www.wimpykid.com/videos/ under the title “Jeff Kinney’s Cartoon Class,” or use the step-by-step guide on the next page.
How to Draw Greg, Step-by-Step

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6.
Most people enjoy newspaper comic strips, but “Li’l Cutie” (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*) is one that Greg and Dad really can’t stand. Striking them as both too sweet and painfully unfunny, “Li’l Cutie” is a simple, single-panel “gag” cartoon that attempts to show how a young child looks at the world. Have your guests come up with their own “Li’l Cutie” comics and share them with the group.

For a bigger challenge, invite them to create a multi-panel comic strip for “Zoo-Wee Mama!” (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*), Rowley’s widely admired comic appearing in the school newspaper.

In this activity, partygoers take turns pretending to be TV reporters interviewing other guests who pretend to be characters from the books. To make this activity more interesting and fun, prompt kids to select characters who appeared in perhaps only one or two books.

**Questions can include things like:**

- What have you been doing since we last saw you?
- What is something you’ve done since we last saw you that you’re really proud of?
- What do you think you’ll be doing ten years from now?

This activity can be funny, serious, or a little of both. Most important, it’s a chance for guests to practice improvising while drawing on their knowledge of the books.
A journal is the perfect favor for a Wimpy Kid-themed party. If you decide to give one to each of your guests, a nice cool-down activity might be setting aside time for guests to personalize them. All you need to do is provide an array of stickers, markers, tubes of glitter glue, and other arts-and-crafts supplies so that kids can transform these blank books into items that really reflect their personalities.

FOR YOUNGER PARTYGOERS:
YOUR PERFECT SUMMER

Sometimes kids just like to daydream. Encourage this by making paper and art supplies available so that they can turn these daydreams into art. For example, Rowley and Greg spend a lot of time trying to have the perfect summer. Spark guests’ imaginations by asking, “What’s your idea of the perfect summer?” Greg would rather sit inside and play games while Rowley prefers family vacations (Dog Days), but there are plenty of other possibilities. Guests can draw what they like to do when not in school, and you can help boost their creativity by providing some glossy magazines from which they can cut images (sports, travel destinations, food) to make a “Perfect Summer” collage.
ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS

When Greg Heffley and his friends give up technology in Old School, they have fun the old-fashioned way. In this Wimpified version of the classic game, players have a choice among the cheese touch from Diary of a Wimpy Kid (a flat hand, palm down), the Muddy Hand from Dog Days (bending fingers like a claw, palm out), and a snowball from Cabin Fever (making a fist). Players say “Hand, Cheese, Snow, shoot!” then make one of the three gestures. The Muddy Hand beats snowball, snowball beats the cheese touch, and cheese touch beats the Muddy Hand.

Hand, Cheese, Snow, Shoot!

muddy hand  cheese touch  snowball

Cheat sheet

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{muddy hand} & \text{cheese touch} & \text{snowball} \\
\text{muddy hand} & = & \text{prod}
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{cheese touch} & \text{snowball} & \text{cheese touch} \\
\text{cheese touch} & = & \text{snowball}
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{snowball} & \text{cheese touch} & \text{muddy hand} \\
\text{snowball} & = & \text{muddy hand}
\end{array}
\]
More Fun and Games

**GUTBUSTERS**
Remember the card-based board game that Greg’s grandfather plays with him? Well, there’s no reason why “Gutbusters” (*Rodrick Rules*) can’t be improved so that guests actually laugh rather than just roll their eyes. The object remains the same—although no board is really necessary, because sharing funny jokes, sayings, riddles, or even impressions and daring others to keep a straight face is a game that kids love playing. On cards, ask guests to write down jokes, funny situations, people to impersonate, or anything else they think will make people laugh. Then have guests take turns drawing the cards from a stack, and reading or acting out whatever is on the cards. Whoever can avoid cracking up through the most rounds wins. (Or, to save time, just skip the cards completely and have guests simply take turns delivering their own “gutbusters” without writing them down.)

**CHARADES**
Chances are, most guests will be familiar with the basic rules of charades: The group divides into Team Greg and Team Rowley (or any other Wimpy Kid name they’d like). Each team writes down a series of words or phrases on slips of paper and puts them in a hat. During each round, a member from Team Greg chooses a slip of paper from Team Rowley’s hat, then acts out what is on the paper while his or her teammates try to guess the word or phrase within a certain time limit. Then, Team Rowley chooses a slip of paper from Team Greg’s hat, and so on. You can easily Wimpify this classic game by letting the teams select words that have special significance, such as Sweetie from *Dog Days*. (To make things easier during game play, you can allow the actor to mention the book or books in which the word appears.)

**WIN, LOSE OR DRAW!**
This is a variation on Pictionary, in which the two teams draw the items instead of acting them. You’ll need some kind of flip board (or an easel with large sheets of paper) and some markers, but otherwise the rules are pretty much the same as the rules of Charades.
W.W.G.D.? “WHAT WOULD GREG DO?”

Greg Heffley often does the outrageous things readers only dream of doing. So, just for fun, ask guests to imagine various uncomfortable scenarios in real life, ones that could have or actually have taken place. These might include doing chores, trying nervously to impress someone, or being unprepared for a school or social event . . . in short, situations where Greg would attempt some lazy or selfish shortcut. Then:

- Divide guests into two-person teams.
- Have one partner from each team leave the room while the remaining group collectively comes up with three possible options for what Greg might do.
- After the group arrives at a consensus for three possible outcomes, the absent person’s partner then makes a prediction about which option their teammates will choose.
- Their partner then returns to the room and selects one of the three actions Greg could take.
- If the absent teammate chooses the option the present teammate predicted, and therefore guesses “what Greg would do,” the team gets a point.

EGG HUNT!

Throughout *Hard Luck*, author Jeff Kinney hid a bunch of eggs for adventurous readers to discover. Now you can do the same thing at your party, challenging guests to find them indoors or outdoors (or both). They can work in teams or individually—it doesn’t matter because the goal is the same, to find as many eggs as they can. You can also hide things inside the eggs, so that everyone who finds one wins something. These prizes can be coins, treats, stickers, or small items that you pick up at a party or dollar store. Or you can just place folded-up pieces of paper inside the eggs that name some larger prize. And to make your hunt a bit wilder, consider breaking the group into two teams—each team then takes turns hiding the eggs for the other team.
I MUST CONFESS
This fun and easy game is one that the Heffleys play on their family road trip in *The Long Haul*. Take turns going around in a circle saying something unique you’ve done. You could say anything, such as “I must confess I’ve eaten something that’s fallen on the floor,” or “I must confess I’ve crashed my bike.” If the statement also applies to someone else in the car, he or she earns a point. If the statement does not apply to anyone else in the car, the confessor gets a point. The first person to reach ten points wins!

GUESS THE WEIGHT OF THE HOG
In *The Long Haul*, Mom and Manny happen across a Guess the Weight of the Hog contest at a local county fair. To Mom’s dismay, Manny correctly guesses the exact weight of the hog, winning a piglet for the family, which joins them for their road trip. Create your own Guess the Weight of the Hog game, without having to bring in any barnyard animals. Cut out the pig illustration on the next page and tape it to a container such as a vase, jar, or bowl. Then, fill the container with candy and have your guests guess how many candies are in the container. The closest guess can win the candy inside, or another fun Wimpy Kid prize!
CUT ME OUT!
Still More Fun

FUTURE SHOCK
The Diary of a Wimpy Kid series takes place in the kind of timeless universe that is common to enduring classics. But what would happen if these characters actually aged? Guests can act out, draw a comics scene depicting, or draw a poster of what a college-aged Chirag or Holly might be like . . . or a middle-aged Rowley or Rodrick. Making predictions has never been so wacky.

Further Resources

An Activity Packet has been created especially for Wimpy Kid Month. It’s full of activities that can be adapted to a party setting.

Another free resource is The Wimpy Kid Movie Diary Party Kit. Although this is geared toward the screen trilogy and a behind-the-scenes look at filmmaking, many of its ideas can easily be transferred into a book-oriented party—especially if the guests have seen one or more of the films, which is highly likely. Its art and acting activities include making storyboards and posters as well as delivering crazy monologues and “elevator pitches” for made-up movies.

Do you know any teachers looking to integrate Wimpy Kid into their classroom? There are tons of tools to help. Check out the official Teaching Guides for both the books and the movies, which corelate to national standards and benchmarks.

Developed by Peter Gutiérrez.