



THIS PRODUCTION IS
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emc
INSURANCE

DIARY
of a
Wimpy Kid
THE MUSICAL

Jan. 17–Feb. 2, 2025

Spotlight: Literacy is a Playhouse program
with original funding provided by Joanne and Milt Brown.



Meet the Cast

Greg's older brother, Rodrick, is the rebellious, drum-playing mastermind behind his band Löded Diper, a hilariously over-the-top group with questionable talent but plenty of enthusiasm.

If you and your friends started a band, what would your band name be? Let your imagination rock and roll!



Kyle Bochart (*Frank Heffley*) My band would be called I.D.S.F.A. (It Doesn't Stand For Anything).



Lydia Kinney (*Ensemble*) If my friends and I started a band, it would be called Give it a Shot because we are always up for trying new things and always give 100%!



Ben Borness (*Manny Heffley*) For my band name I'd go with The Delinquents!



Spencer Mayfield (*Teen Hooligan Two/Overgrown Kid*) I would probably have my band name be ducTRUC because that is the band I'm already in with my friend Theo.



Mila Bowen (*Yvette*) If I had a band, my friends and I would name it Sol and Luna which translates to sun and moon. I would want our band to demonstrate how both are equally beautiful and neither is worth more than the other.



Jacob McBride (*Lionel James*) My friends and I would name our band The Magicians because we love magic and it would be fun to incorporate magic into our music.



Lydia Davis (*Teen Hooligan One/Overgrown Kid*) Our band name would be The Gibbons because we jokingly like to make the whooping noise they make, and it would be funny to turn it into music.



Maverick Mundt (*Fregley*) I would name my band Flipside Up because my friends and I all do gymnastics and we all love flipping and going upside down.



Wesley Goerend (*Greg Heffley*) My band name has to be Super Swift. My friends and I like Taylor Swift so it's a subtle nod to her.



Chloe O'Neil (*Pauline*) I would name my band Deep Fried Grippers!



Liliana Haaland (*Christine Hosey*) If I started a band with my friends it would be called The Rats because I have a joke with my friends that we are rats.



Alex Onken (*Bryce Anderson*) I would call my band Chaos because my friends and I would be problematic anywhere.



Stella Hogan (*Patty Farrell*) My band would be called Waterslide Warriors!



Joel Peterson (*Charlie Davis*) I would name my band Antimatter because the word is kind of renegade and an outlier, two things that some rock bands are musically and spiritually.



Eliana Pitkin (*Ensemble*) My band would be called Elle's Belles and we'd be an all-girl band set on smashing the patriarchy one note at a time.



Charlie Syverson (*Rowley Jefferson*) If my friends and I started a band it would be called The Band because our band would be so good that no further clarification would be needed.



Raunak Raman (*Chirag Gupta*) My choice for my band name is The Band to Rule Them All.



Maia Talarico (*Joshie/Mr. Underwood/Löded Diper Band/Neighbor*) My chosen band name is Bat Cheeks! The name almost sounds like butt cheeks plus bat butt cheeks are spooky and adorable.



Lou Ramsey (*Mr. Winsky /Bill Walter/Mr. Huff*) If I had a band, it would have to have some great costuming and a coherent theme. I want an excuse to dress up as a clown and be really loud, and there would be an obscene amount of people on stage playing with me. I'm going to have to name my band The Clown Car Crew. We'd play ska and the worst performing singles of 2003 and that's it.



Annie White (*Claire*) If my friends and I had a band, it would be called What's Poppin' because we love to make popcorn and watch movies together!



Katie Saldanha (*Susan Heffley*) My band name would be The Burrito Bowls because they are my favorite things to eat!



River Wilber (*Rodrick Heffley*) I'd probably name my band The Cheddar Cheese Square Kids! It has been a running joke in my family for a while now.



Kalyani Stone (*Ensemble*) My band would be named Dark Souls. My friends and I are wannabe goths and we listen to emo music.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How does this version of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* compare to other versions you've read or watched? What similarities and differences did you notice?
2. What message or lesson do you think this story aims to share with its audience? What moments in the play helped make this message clear?
3. Do you think Greg truly deserves the label "wimpy" in this play? How does his self-perception differ from how others see him?
4. How did Greg's relationships with the other characters evolve during the play? Would you say these relationships grew stronger or weaker?
5. Did any events or experiences in the play remind you of something from your own life or something you've observed? How did the play exaggerate these situations for dramatic or comedic effect?

About the Author



Jeff Kinney, the author of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, was born in 1971 in Maryland and discovered his passion for cartooning while attending the University of Maryland in the early 1990s. During college, Jeff created a comic strip called *Igdoof* for the campus newspaper, which inspired his dream of becoming a professional cartoonist.

After graduating, Jeff faced challenges in getting his comic strip syndicated. Undeterred, he began jotting down ideas for *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* in 1998, intending to turn it into a book. Over the course of six years, he developed the story and published it in daily installments on Funbrain.com.

In 2006, Jeff signed a multi-book deal with Harry N. Abrams, Inc., bringing *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* to print. The first book was released in April 2007, quickly becoming a *New York Times* bestseller. Two years later, in 2009, Jeff was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

In addition to his work as an author, Jeff founded Poptropica.com in 2007, where he continues to serve as the creative and editorial director. He currently lives in southern Massachusetts where he is preparing to open his own bookstore.

Solutions for Tough Situations

Greg encounters plenty of challenges—some of which he creates for himself! While he tries to solve these problems, his solutions often lead to even more trouble.

Now it's your turn: If you were in Greg's shoes, how would you handle these situations? Look at the chart of Greg's problems.

1. Write down how Greg tried to solve each issue.
2. Come up with your own solution for each problem and write it down.
3. Predict what the outcome might be.

Compare your approach to Greg's and see if your solutions might work better—or create even more chaos!

Greg's Problem	His Solution	Your Solution
Protecting himself from the "Cheese Touch."		
Making sure on one knows his nickname.		
Having to audition and perform in the school play.		
Defending himself from the teenage bullies.		
Wanting to get totally bulked up.		

Create Your Own Comic Strip!

It's time to explore your creativity just like Greg Heffley! In the story, Greg expresses himself by creating cartoons for his school paper. One of the most popular lines in his comics is "Zoo-Wee Mama!," a fun, expressive punchline used to show excitement, amusement, or shock.

Now it's your turn to practice storytelling and illustration!

Here's what to do:

1. Use the comic strip template provided and think of a funny or exciting mini-story to tell.
2. Draw your comic and add dialogue for your characters. Feel free to get creative with expressions and actions!
3. End your comic with the punchline "Zoo-Wee Mama!" just like in the play.

Have fun creating your comic masterpiece—you can even act it out with your friends and family!

Comic Title: _____ **By:** _____

The comic strip template consists of five panels arranged in two rows. The top row contains two panels, and the bottom row contains three panels. Each panel is a rounded rectangle with a thick black border, intended for drawing and adding dialogue.

School Survival Kit

What helps you feel confident, organized, and ready to tackle the school day? It could be items you carry, actions others take, or routines you follow.

Here's How to Brainstorm:

1. **Think** about what makes you feel prepared and successful at school.
 - What physical items do you always need?
 - What actions from friends, teachers, or family make a difference?
 - What routines or habits help you stay on track?
2. **Draw** your ideas in the sections of the backpack provided.
3. **Share** your survival kit ideas with your friends—you might inspire someone else!

Your survival kit is all about what works best for YOU!



This is a journal, NOT a diary!

Keeping a journal is a great way to express your thoughts, feelings, and ideas. It's like having a conversation with yourself!

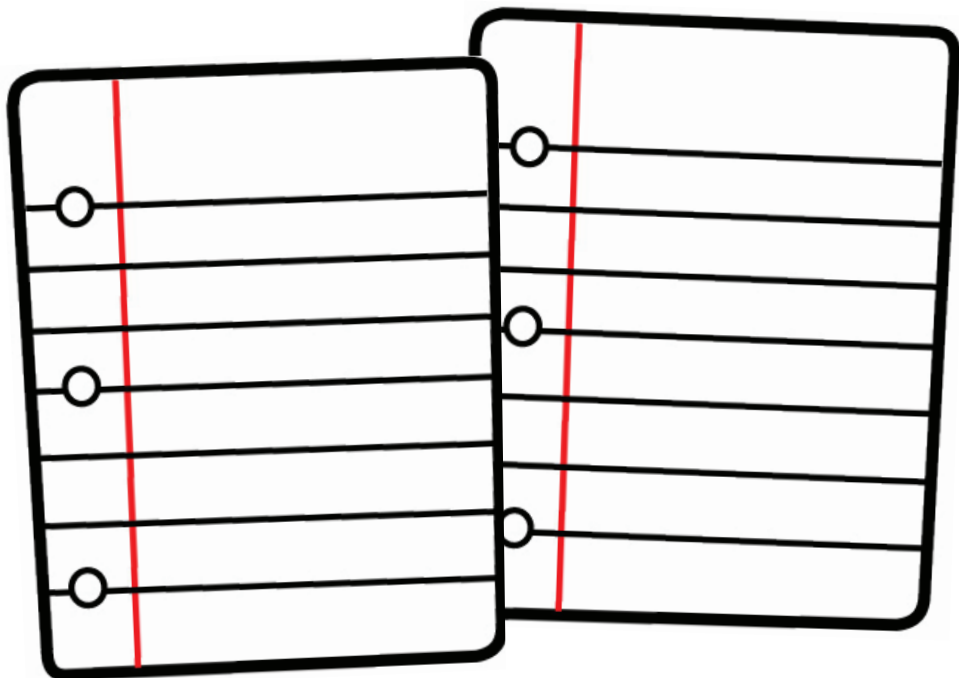
Why Keep a Journal?

- A journal is a private space to write down your thoughts and work through your feelings.
- It helps you remember important moments or reflect on challenges.
- Writing in a journal can also spark creativity and help you understand yourself better.

How to Write a Journal Entry:

1. **Find a quiet place.** Grab a pen or pencil and get comfortable.
2. **Write the date.** It's fun to look back and see when you wrote something!
3. **Start with a topic.** You can write about your day, a funny moment, something that made you feel excited, frustrated, or proud.
4. **Be honest.** Your journal is just for you, so write what's on your mind without worrying about what others might think.
5. **Get creative.** Add doodles, lists, or even pretend you're writing to a future version of yourself.

Ready to Try? Write about a time you faced a challenge and how you handled it. Or write about a fun or embarrassing moment like Greg might! Keep it light, silly, or serious—it's up to you!



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AUTOGRAPHS