

VAMPIRES DON'T WEAR POLKA DOTS



GRAPHIC NOVEL TEACHING GUIDE

Dear Teachers,

We're so excited to share

these activities for the *Vampires Don't Wear*

Polka Dots graphic novel. **The Adventures of the Bailey School Kids**

are continuing in a fun way. We hope this guide makes reading and writing even more exciting for your class. Enclosed you'll find:

Discussion guides

Writing lessons

Ready-to-use printables

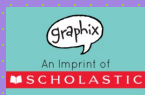
Common Core standards

Enjoy,

Marcia Thornton Jones, author

Debbie Dadey, author

Pearl Low, graphic novel author



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Thornton Jones

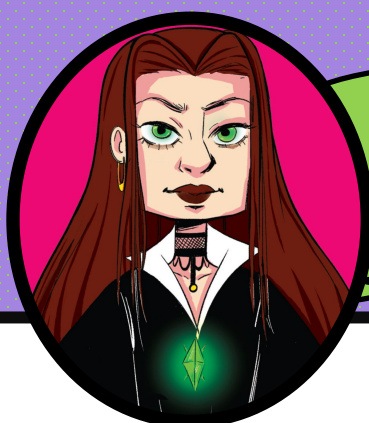


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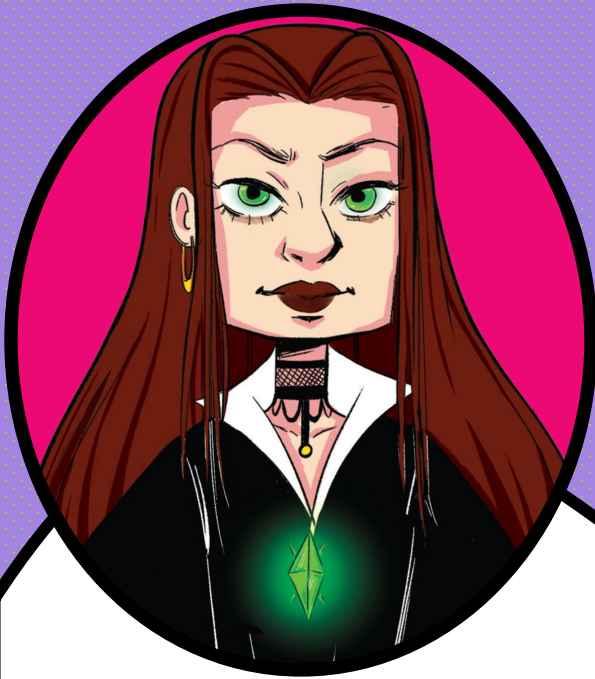
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*Bonus bookmark!

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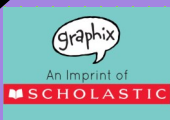


VAMPIRES DON'T WEAR POLKA DOTS

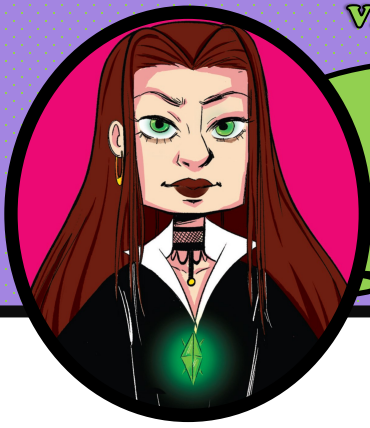
Pre-reading Activities

Welcome to Bailey Elementary!

- ◆ Bailey Elementary School is named after the fictional town of Bailey City. *Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots* doesn't say how Bailey City got its name. Learn how your school and local town or city got their names and then brainstorm how Bailey City and Bailey Elementary may have gotten their names.
- ◆ The third graders at Bailey Elementary are getting a new teacher. Have you ever had a substitute teacher or a new teacher? How did that make you feel?
- ◆ Some of the kids at Bailey Elementary thought it was funny to play practical jokes on other people. What do you think about practical jokes? Are they okay? What might be some things someone could do if something they thought was funny goes too far?
- ◆ The Bailey School Kids work together as friends to solve mysteries in their school and town. Mostly, they get along. But sometimes they don't. What makes a good friend a good friend (what are the attributes of a good friend)? How might good friends work together? What might good friends do if they have a disagreement?



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VOCABULARY WORDS

Try these activities with the words below:

Have a word race. Call out a word and let students race to find the word in a chapter.

Use a tray of shaving cream, paint, dirt or sand to trace the words.

Have a vocabulary 'bee' where kids are encouraged to use the new word in a sentence.

Chapter one:

Wrestler muscles introduce wonderful
mysterious Romania Transylvania brooch ancient

Chapter two and three

tomorrow coffin Count Dracula arithmetic pigtails
permission

terrified pretend basement budge latch

Chapter four:

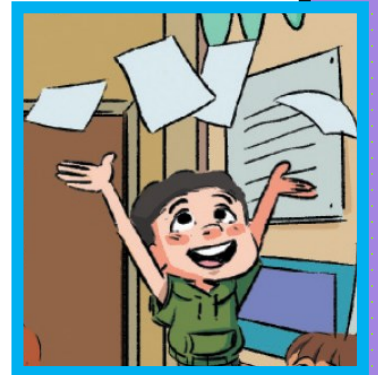
hypnotized husband excitement bracelet grouchy unfortunate

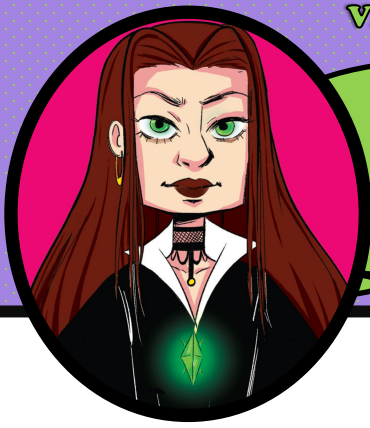
experience prowlers disturbed important respectful litter

slinging pranks problem request

Chapter five:

popsicle allergy custodian necessary imagine germy





Chapter 1 Comprehension Discussion Questions

Before reading chapter one:

Mrs. Jeepers, the new teacher, tells the kids they need to know a few rules. What do you think her rules might be? What are examples of school rules? How are rules different than laws? What are some laws? Who is responsible for making sure rules and laws are kept? Make If you were a teacher, what do you think would be appropriate and fair rules for a classroom? If you were in charge, what rules and laws would you make?



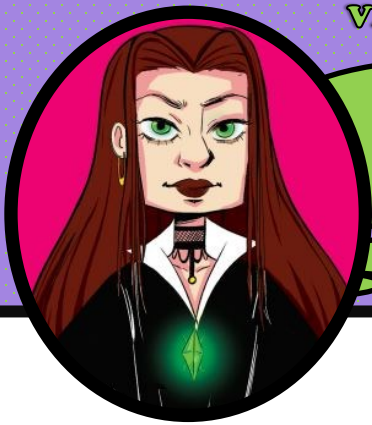
After reading chapter one:

The third graders at Bailey Elementary school are getting a new teacher. What happened to their former teacher? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)

How do you think the kids felt while waiting to meet their new teacher? Why? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2](#)

What did Melody mean when she said a teacher had muscles the size of beach balls? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.3](#)

Their new teacher is from another country. What are reasons that people move, or relocate, to another town, city, or country?



Name: _____

CHAPTER ONE

In *Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots*, Mrs. Jeepers grew up in a castle. European castles were built with inner and outer walls called baileys. The great hall was used for meetings, meals, and entertainment. The safest inner part of a castle was the keep. Tall towers built into walls, or turrets, were used to keep watch. Moats, a metal grate over the door called a portcullis, and drawbridges kept out invaders.

A trip to the library or Internet will help you find out more about castles. Type in *types of castles* or *famous castles* to find out some interesting things.

Things to try:

Design your own castle on the back of this page, labeling at least four parts. Color the outer bailey green and the inner bailey your favorite color.

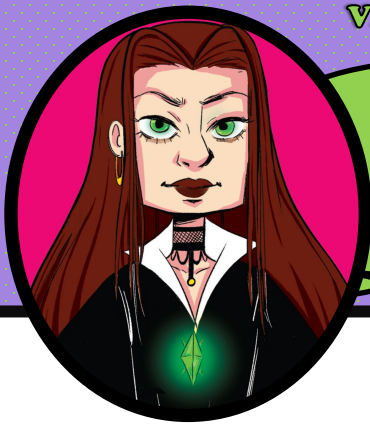
Use the paragraph above to answer these questions:

1. Why were moats, ditches filled with water, dug around some castles?

2. Why were turrets built as part of castles?

3. For research: find out why some castle walls had small slits in them.





Chapter 2 and 3 Comprehension Discussion Questions



After reading chapter two:

Eddie and Melody find out their new teacher is moving into a spooky house. Why do you think the kids think the Clancy Estate is spooky? How do you think the Clancy Estate got its name? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3](#)
The character of Count Dracula is from a famous book written by Bram Stoker in 1897. What information do the kids use from that famous story to start suspecting their teacher might have something to do with that folklore character? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2](#) [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)

After reading chapter three:

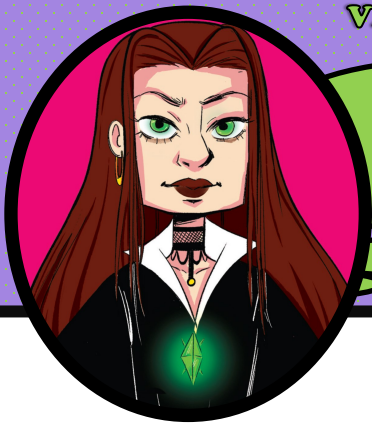
Melody thinks Eddie was terrified. How do you know when someone is terrified? How do you know someone is happy? Sad?

Howie dares Eddie and Melody to prove they're not afraid. What is a dare and do you think they are a good idea?

On pages 36-37 and on 42-43 there are very few words used. Why do you think the author chose not to include many words on those pages? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7](#)

The kids draw a conclusion on page 39. What other kinds of conclusions have the kids made and what information did they use to make those conclusions?

What conclusions can YOU make at the end of this chapter. What predictions can you make about what will happen the next morning at school? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.10](#)



Name: _____

CHAPTERS TWO AND THREE

What-if-ing...you can build an entire story by using two simple words: What if? For example: What if a teacher quit her job? What if you suddenly got a new teacher? What if the new teacher lived in a haunted house?

Try making your own “what if” story below and on the back. Your ‘what if’ will be your story’s plot!

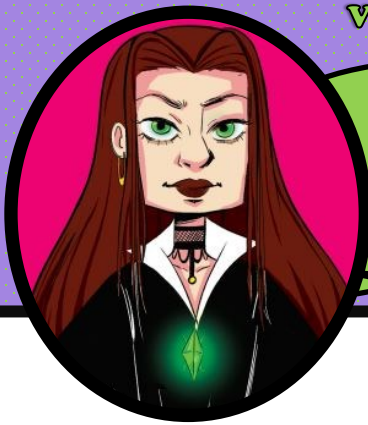
What if?

My ‘what if’ question: _____

Who will be in my story (characters):

Where will my story take place? _____





Chapter 4 Comprehension Discussion Questions

After reading chapter four:

Were your predictions right from the end of chapter three?

Mrs. Jeepers tells the kids things she was taught as a child. Do you think the grown-ups in your life were taught different things from what you are learning about behavior? Interview a grown-up to find out if what they learned—and how they learned—is different.

The kids are eating in the school cafeteria. What are your favorite lunch foods? If you were planning meals for the school what would you plan? Make a menu for the week.

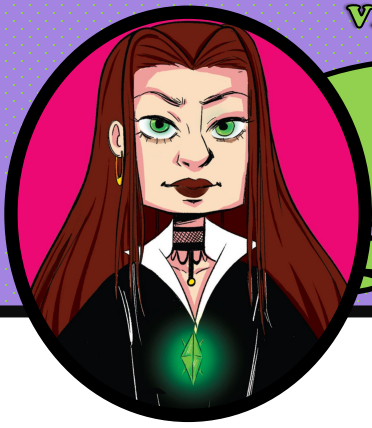
Ben challenges Eddie while they're in the cafeteria. What advice would you give Eddie?



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[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1](#)

Marcia T. Jones All



Chapter 5
Comprehension Discussion Questions:

After reading chapter five:

Howie uses research for a possible plan to prove whether or not their teacher is a vampire. Do you think it's a good plan?

What does Eddie do when his teacher starts sneezing? What advice would you give to Eddie?

Why do you think Mrs. Jeepers took Eddie to the hallway? What do you think happened?

What do you think happens the next day at school? Do you think Eddie will keep his promise?

Do you think Mrs. Jeepers's brooch was magic? Or was it the kids' imaginations?

Does your teacher wear any jewelry???

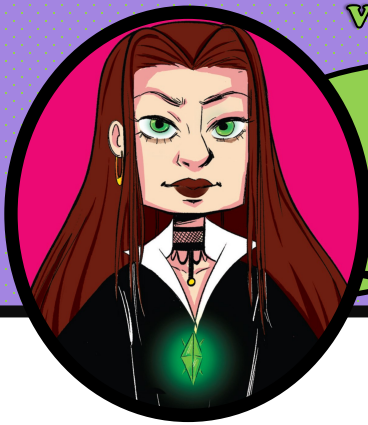
Now make your own:

Dialogue is the words that characters say. In graphic novels, many of the words included are the words that characters are speaking. The pictures tell the rest of the story. In chapter books, there is dialogue, too, but there are also sentences and paragraphs to describe places, feelings, and what is happening.

There are many panels in the story that have no words at all like on pages 34-37. Try writing a line for each of the panels with words that describe what is happening. How spooky can you make your descriptions? Can you find other panels with no words and add descriptions to them?

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.4](#) [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1.D](#)

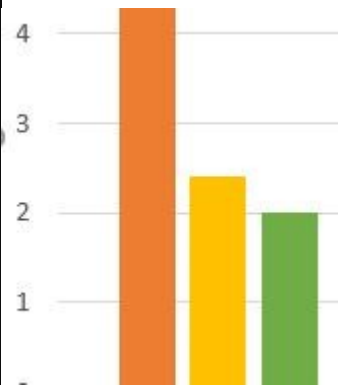
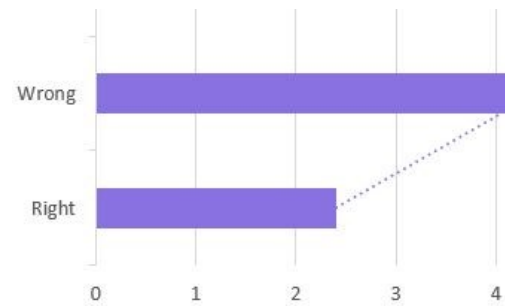
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Name: _____

CHAPTERS FOUR AND FIVE

In *Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots*, Eddie and Melody go into their teacher's basement without permission. Take a vote in your class to find out who thinks this is wrong and who thinks it is okay. Make a bar graph to show the results. Have a discussion about it and then vote again. Did the results change?



You can try another kind of graph with guessing what could be in the box in Mrs. Jeepers basement or what happened in the hall with Eddie. Break everyone into groups to discuss what could be in the box or what could have happened in the hallway. Use this type of column graph to chart what everyone thinks. You may have many columns for all the ideas!

Use the back for all your graphs.

Just for fun:

Research how to make paper airplanes and have a flight contest. What type of planes fly the farthest? Does the type of paper matter?

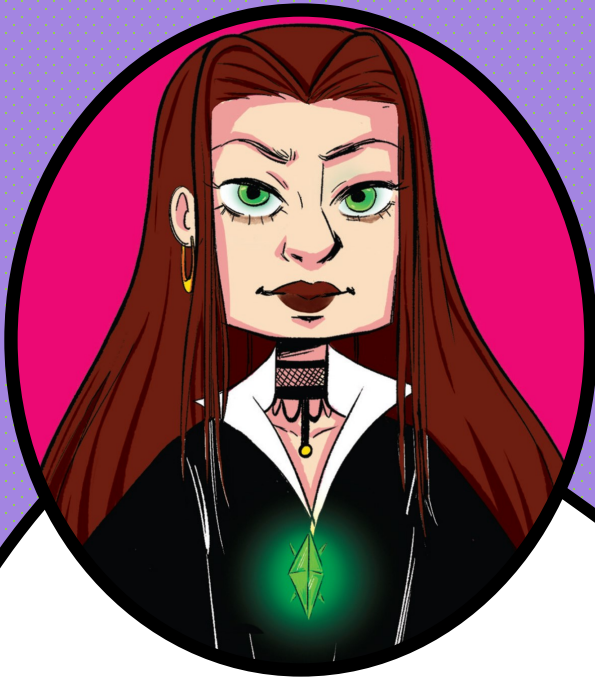
Have a bubble party. Can you make your own bubble wand and bubble solution?

Make your own bat bracelet or brooch using pipe cleaners, construction paper and your imagination!



[CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.MD.B.3](https://www.coreknowledge.org/standards/aligned/US/CCSS/MATH.CONTENT.3.MD.B.3)

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VAMPIRES DON'T WEAR POLKA DOTS

Post-Reading Activities

Folklore Fun:

Vampires and other characters like leprechauns, sea monsters, and the Frankenstein Monster are part of folklore; stories that are passed down from one generation to another. Different types of folklore stories include fairy tales, folktales, tall tales, fables, and myths.

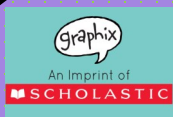
To do:

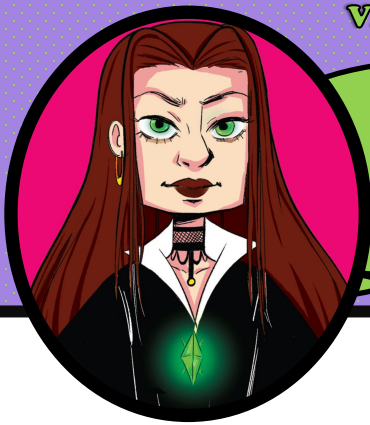
Encourage students to create their own folklore stories. Perhaps a tall tale about the kid who won every single race at field day? Or maybe a myth about how the giant maple tree that shades the playground is really a hidden doorway to the land of gnomes. Or how about a fable about the kid who never believed he had to do homework? Or a fairy tale about how your teacher is really a ...um....maybe it would be better if you decided that!

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.1.1](#) [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.3.A](#)

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.5.A](#)

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Name: _____

AFTER STORY FUN

Similes and Hyperboles: When Melody says she knew a teacher with muscles the size of beach balls, she was using one thing (a beach ball) to describe something (the size of a muscle). When someone exaggerates like Melody did, it's called hyperbole. A simile compares two things using words such as like, as, so or than. Complete the following similes using a word from the word box to exaggerate how something looked or was done. Try making your own hyperboles on the back.

lion hornet bee snail rock

He moved as slow as a _____.

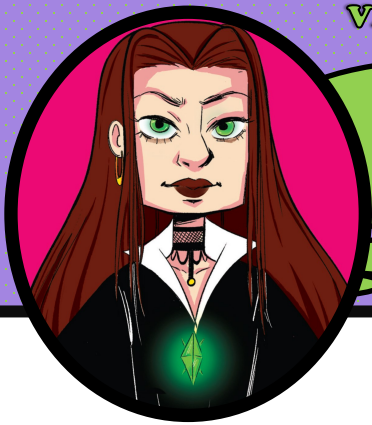
She was mad like a _____.

He was as busy as a _____.

The bread was as hard as a _____.

She was as brave as a _____.





Name: _____

MORE AFTER STORY FUN!

After reading the story, write a one-line description about each character's personality.



EDDIE

Eddie is _____



MELODY

Melody is _____



LIZA

Liza is _____

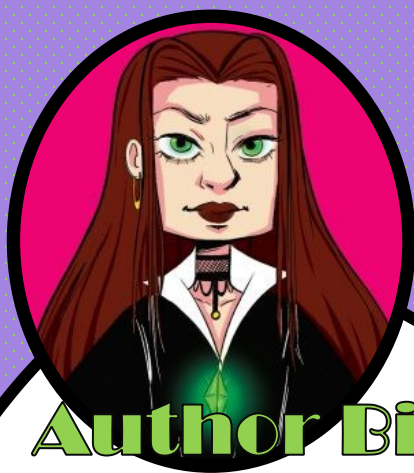
Howie is _____



HOWIE

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.8](#) [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.4](#)

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Author Bios

VAMPIRES DON'T WEAR POLKA DOTS

Marcia Thornton Jones has two rescue cats: Gemma and Izzy. They were lucky that a rescue organization found them when they were only one week old and bottle fed them until Marcia and her husband, Steve, adopted them seven weeks later. Now they each have a box on Marcia's desk where they can curl up and watch to make sure Marcia doesn't make any mistakes. They make frequent appearances during Zoom author visits and meetings.



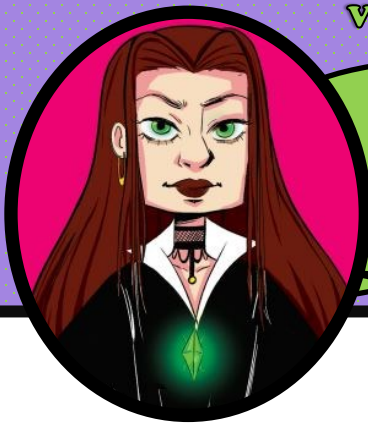
Debbie Dadey has two dogs, both Greyhound rescues. Blue is two-years-old and loves to jump on any human bed she can find. Carmen is eight-years-old, but can still beat Debbie in a race. They are both great writing assistants for Debbie and love to lay around her

desk in her log cabin office in Tennessee.

Pearl Low is an Afro Asian artist based in Vancouver, Canada. Her works are rooted in themes of self-love, acceptance, and Chinese and Jamaican Canadian experiences. She works in comics and animation and won an Oscar in 2020 for her work on the short film, *Hair Love*.



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Booklist

Two spin-off series of the Adventures of the Bailey School Kids are the Bailey School Kids Junior Chapter book series and the Bailey City Monsters.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots: | 27. Bogeymen Don't Play Football | 48. Dracula Doesn't Play Kick ball |
| 2. Werewolves Don't Go To Summer Camp | 28. Unicorns Don't Give Sleigh Rides | 49. Werewolves Don't Run for President |
| 3. Santa Claus Doesn't Mop Floors | 29. Knights Don't Teach Piano | 50. Abominable Snowmen Don't Roast Marshmallows |
| 4. Leprechauns Don't Play Basketball | 30. Hercules Doesn't Pull Teeth | 51. Dragon's Don't Throw Snowballs |
| 5. Ghosts Don't Eat Potato Chips | 31. Ghouls Don't Scoop Ice Cream | |
| 6. Frankenstein Doesn't Plant Petunias | 32. Phantoms Don't Drive Sports Cars | |
| 7. Aliens Don't Wear Braces | 33. Giants Don't Go Snowboarding | |
| 8. Genies Don't Ride Bicycles | 34. Frankenstein Doesn't Slam Hockey Pucks | |
| 9. Pirates Don't Wear Pink Sun Glasses | 35. Trolls Don't Ride Roller Coasters | |
| 10. Witches Don't Do Backflips | 36. Wolfmen Don't Hula Dance | |
| 11. Skeletons Don't Play Tubas | 37. Goblins Don't Play Video Games | |
| 12. Cupid Doesn't Flip Hamburgers | 38. Ninjas Don't Bake Pumpkin Pies | |
| 13. Gremlins Don't Chew Bubblegum | 39. Dracula Doesn't Rock and Roll | |
| 14. Monsters Don't Scuba Dive | 40. Sea Monsters Don't Ride Motorcycles | |
| 15. Zombies Don't Play Soccer | 41. The Bride of Frankenstein Doesn't Bake Cookies | |
| 16. Dracula Doesn't Drink Lemonade | 42. Robots Don't Catch Chicken Pox | |
| 17. Elves Don't Wear Hard Hats | 43. Vikings Don't Wear Wrestling Belts | |
| 18. Martians Don't Take Temperatures | 44. Ghosts Don't Ride Wild Horses | |
| 19. Gargoyles Don't Drive School Buses | 45. Wizards Don't Wear Graduation Gowns | |
| 20. Wizards Don't Need Computers | 46. Sea Serpents Don't Juggle Water Balloons | |
| 21. Mummies Don't Coach Softball | 47. Frankenstein Doesn't Start Food Fights | |
| 22. Cyclops Doesn't Roller Skate | | |
| 23. Angels Don't Know Karate | | |
| 24. Dragons Don't Cook Pizza | | |
| 25. Bigfoot Doesn't Square Dance | | |
| 26. Mermaids Don't Run Track | | |

Specials:

Aliens Don't Carve Jack-O-Lanterns
Swamp Monsters Don't Chase Wild Turkeys
Mrs. Claus Doesn't Climb Telephone Poles
Leprechauns Don't Play Fetch
Ogres Don't Hunt Easter Eggs
Super Specials:
Mrs. Jeepers is Missing
Mrs. Jeepers' Batty Vacation
Mrs. Jeepers' Secret Cave
Mrs. Jeepers in Outer Space
Mrs. Jeepers' Monster Class Trip
Mrs. Jeepers on Vampire Island
Mrs. Jeepers Scariest Halloween Ever
Mrs. Jeepers Creepy Christmas

Graphic Novels:

Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots Fall 2021
Frankenstein Doesn't Plant Petunias Summer 2022



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THE KIDS AT BAILEY SCHOOL



EDDIE



MELODY



HOWIE



LIZA



CAREY

All is not what it seems at Bailey Elementary, especially when a new teacher arrives from Transylvania. Could she really be a vampire?

Read the **VAMPIRES DON'T WEAR POLKA DOTS**

GRAPHIC NOVEL

to find out!

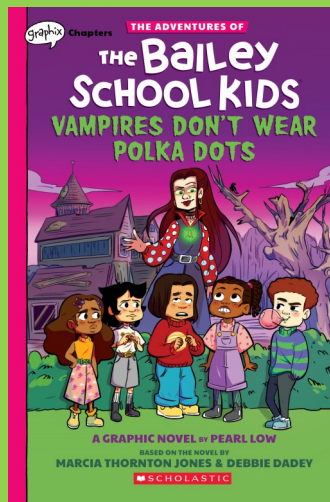
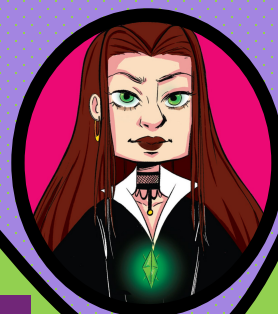
Available August 3rd from Scholastic/Graphix.



VAMPIRES DON'T WEAR POLKA DOTS



GRAPHIC NOVEL



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debbiedadey.com

carnegiecenterlex.org/about-us/meet-our-staff/#marcia

PearlLow.com

