

## Diary of a Wimpy Kid Read-Alikes

**Amato, Mary** *Snarf Attack, Underfoodle, & the Secret of Life: the Riot Brothers Tell All* (first in the series)

Narrated by fifth-grader Wilbur and featuring his third-grade brother, Orville, this hilarious story follows the antics of two boys with overactive imaginations and a comfortable sibling relationship. The action is divided into three "books," with six chapters each. In the first, the brothers are determined to catch a crook. They make a windfall by giving lessons in being annoying to their classmates, are reprimanded by the principal (who is also their mother), and still manage to foil a bank robber on the way home from school.

**Angleberger, Tom** *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* (first in the series)

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.

**Asch, Frank** *StarJumper: Journal of a Cardboard Genius*

Alex has had enough of his little brother, Jonathan. In order to escape Jonathan's weird questions and being a brother, Alex builds a cardboard spaceship to blast-off to a brother-free planet.

**Barshaw, Ruth McNally** *Ellie McDoodle: have pen will travel!* (first in the series)

Ellie writes and doodles in a journal of her family's move to a new home and her struggle to make friends, which gets a lot easier as she leads a nonviolent protest about long lunch lines at school.

**Benton, Jim** *Dear Dumb Diary: Let's Pretend this Never Happened* (first in the series)

Read the hilarious, candid (& sometimes mean) diaries of Jamie Kelly, who promises that everything in her diary is true...or at least as true as it needs to be. In this book, Jamie contends with Angeline, the school's prettiest, most popular girl (who Jamie thinks is a goon!) and the impending visit of her troll-like little cousin. Will Jamie survive? Will she go mad? Will she send her mom's nasty casserole to starving children in Wheretheheckistan? You'll just have to read the first installment of Dear Dumb Diary to find out!

**Benton, Jim** *Franny K. Stein, Mad Scientist: Lunch Walks Among Us* (first in the series)

Franny K. Stein is not your average girl -- she's a mad scientist. She prefers poison ivy to daisies, and when Franny jumps rope, she uses her pet snake. The kids in Franny's class think she's weird, wacky, and just plain creepy. Tired of being stared at, Franny decides to attempt her most dangerous experiment yet -- she's going to *fit in*. but when a giant Monstrous Fiend attacks the class, everyone knows it's up to a *mad scientist* to save the day.

**Berry, Julie Gardner** *The Rat Brain Fiasco* (first in Splurch Academy series)

Cody Mack's misdeeds land him a boarding school, where he soon discovers that the principal and teachers are actual monsters with a sinister plan to alter the boys' brains.

**Child, Lauren** *Clarice Bean: that's me* (first in series)

When your annoying little brother shares your room, your older brother is in the tunnel of adolescence, your dad hides in his office swaying to Frank Sinatra, and your mother listens to foreign language tapes in the bathtub, what can you do to get away from it all? Meet the irrepressible Clarice Bean on her search for a little peace and quiet amid the wonderfully wacky chaos of a large extended family.

**Clements, Andrew** *Frindle*

When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, Clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

**Clements, Andrew** *Jake Drake Bully Buster* (first in the series)

When Jake was three years old at Miss Lulu's Dainty Diaper Day Care Center, what did he know about bullies? Nothing. But he learned fast! Why? Because Jake was kind of smart and not a tattletale, and he had no big brother to protect him. He was a perfect bully magnet. But everything changed the year Jake was in second grade. That's when SuperBully Link Baxter moved to town. Jake had his hands full just trying to survive, until class project time. Who did the teacher assign to be Link's partner? You guessed it.

**Codell, Esme Raji Vive La Paris**

Paris has come for piano lessons, *not* chopped-liver sandwiches or French lessons or free advice. But when old Mrs. Rosen gives her a little bit more than she can handle, it might be just what Paris needs to understand the bully in her brother's life...and the bullies of the world.

**Cowell, Cressida How to Train Your Dragon (first in the series)**

This is the story of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third as he tries to pass the important initiation test of his Viking clan, the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans, by catching and training a dragon.

**Fine, Anne The Diary of a Killer Cat (first in the series)**

Poor Ellie is horrified when her cat, Tuffy, drags a dead bird into the house. Then a mouse. Before long, another apparent victim arrives through the cat-door. Can softhearted Ellie get her beloved pet to change his wild, wild ways before he ends up in even deeper trouble? Especially when Tuffy can't understand what all the fuss is about?

**Greenburg, Dan Great Grandpa's in the Litter Box (first in the Zach Files series)**

Zack plans to adopt a kitten but instead acquires a cantankerous talking cat that claims to be the reincarnation of his great-grandfather. The stories have a whacked-out, off-the-wall humor that is reminiscent of the work of Daniel Pinkwater. At the same time, they neatly poke fun at the conventions of popular horror series.

**Greenwald, Tommy Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading (first in the series)**

Middle schooler Charlie Joe is proud of his success at avoiding reading. This year he will do anything and everything to avoid reading a book from cover to cover, but eventually his schemes go too far.

**Guibert, Emmanuel Sardine in Outer Space (first in the series ;*Call Number: JGraphic Guibert*)**

In the goofy space adventures of a little girl called Sardine, encounters aren't always friendly: weird creatures, cosmic squids, masters of the universe, talking clouds, and evil beings abound. In this volume of twelve stories, Supermuscleman, the chief executive dictator of the universe, is on

a mission to make all the galaxy's kids behave. Sardine must enlist the help of her cousin Lou and her pirate uncle, the gruff Captain Yellow Shoulder, to outwit him and his evil plans.

**Gutman, Dan** *The Homework Machine* (first in the series)

Four fifth-grader students - a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker - as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.

**Holm, Jennifer** *Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: a year told through stuff*

The first year of middle school can be exciting, or scary, just ask Ginny.

**Holm, Jennifer** *Babymouse: Our Hero!* (second in the series)

An imaginative young mouse is terrified to face her enemy in dodgeball, but with the help of her best friend and support from her mother, she not only plays the game, she proves herself a hero.

**Ignatow, Amy** *The Popularity Papers: research for the social improvement and general betterment of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang* (first in the series).

Two best friends embark on a project to study the behavior and taste of the popular girls at their elementary school so that by the time they get to middle school they too will be in the right crowd. Novel appears in the form of a scrapbook.

**Kelly, Katy** *Lucy Rose: here's the thing about me* (first in the series)

I'm Lucy Rose and here's the thing about me: I am eight and according to my grandfather I have the kind of life that is called eventful, which means NOT boring. According to my mom and my grandmother I'm what they call a handful. And according to my dad I am one smart cookie.

**Kerrin, Jessica Scott** *Martin Bridge: ready for takeoff*

Meet Martin Bridge -- a boy whose well-meant plans sometimes go awry. In three illustrated stories, Martin encounters two bus drivers with very different ways of relating, makes a tough decision about a friend's pet and takes on an extremely competitive model rocket project that almost costs him a friendship. The daily rhythms, struggles and triumphs of childhood --

at home, at school and with friends -- are evoked with warmth, understanding, honesty and humor.

**Mazer, Anne** *The Amazing Days of Abby Hayes: every cloud has a silver lining*  
(first in series)

When you're average, in a family of superstars, life can be overwhelming. So fifth grader, Abby, vows to be a star athlete this year if it kills her, but this might not be what she is good at. Follow Abby's diary entries as she tries to find the one thing she is great at.

**McDonald, Megan** *Stink: the incredible shrinking kid* (first in series)

The shortest kid in the second grade, James Moody, also known as Stink, learns all about the shortest president of the United States, James Madison, when they celebrate Presidents' Day at school.

**McMullan, Kate** *School!: Adventures at the Harvey N. Trouble Elementary School*

Each morning, student Ron Faster hurries to Harvey N. Trouble School, where he encounters such staff members as science teacher Ms. Roxanne Pebbles, music instructor Mrs. Doremi Fasollatido, and the resigning janitor Mr. Iquit.

**Moss, Marissa** *Amelia's Most Unforgettable Embarrassing Moments* (15<sup>th</sup> in the series)

Amelia records in her diary a nightmare come true when her older sister tags along on a sixth-grade class trip, and Amelia must deal with her snoring and disgusting eating habits.

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds** *Roxie and the Hooligans*

*Lord Thistlebottom's Book of Pitfalls and How to Survive Them* has taught Roxie Warbler how to handle all sorts of situations. But Lord Thistlebottom has no advice to help Roxie deal with Helvetia's Hooligans, the meanest band of bullies in school. Then Roxie finds herself stranded on a deserted island with not only the Hooligans but also a pair of crooks on the lam, and her survival skills may just save the day -- and turn the Hooligans into surprising allies.

**Papademetriou, Lisa *Sixth Grade Glommers, Norks and Me***

As Allie Kimball starts sixth grade, she discovers that middle school is a very different world, populated with glimmers - those girls who cling to each other in groups, norks - a combination of a nerd and a dork, and worst of all squashes - crushes that make you feel like your heart has been stepped on. Keeping a journal of words that help her define her world, Allie tries to navigate through the strange world of sixth grade. With the help of her soccer team, a few new friends, and some shocking surprises from old friends, Allie soon discovers she does have the strength to be herself.

**Paulsen, Gary *Mudshark***

Principal Wager confidently deals with a faculty washroom crisis, a psychic parrot, and a terrorizing gerbil, but when sixty-five erasers go missing, he enlists the help of the school's best problem solver and locator of lost items, twelve-year-old Lyle Williams, aka Mudshark.

**Peirce, Lincoln *Big Nate: in class by himself* (first in series)**

Supremely confident middle school student Nate Wright manages to make getting detention from every one of his teachers in the same day seem like an achievement.

**Pennypacker, Sara *Clementine* (first in series)**

Clementine is having not so good of a week. On Monday she's sent to the principal's office for cutting off Margaret's hair. Tuesday, Margaret's mother is mad at her. Wednesday, she's sent to the principal...again. Thursday, Margaret stops speaking to her. Friday starts with yucky eggs and gets worse. And by Saturday, even her mother is mad at her. Okay, fine. Clementine is having a DISASTROUS week.

**Pilkey, Dave *The Adventures of Captain Underpants* (first in series)**

When Geroge and Harold hypnotize their principal into thinking that he is the superhero Captain Underpants, he leads them to the lair of the nefarious Dr. Diaper, where they must defeat his evil robot henchmen.

**Russell, Rachel *Dork Diaries: tales from a not-so-fabulous life* (first in series)**

Fourteen-year-old Nikki Maxwell writes in her diary of her struggle to be popular at her exclusive new private school, then of finding her place after she gives up on being part of the elite group.

**Sachar, Louis Wayside School is Falling Down (second in series)**

"Watch closely," said Mrs Jewls. "You can learn much faster using a computer instead of paper and pencil." Then she pushed the computer out of the window. The children all watched it fall thirty floors. "See?" said Mrs Jewls. "That's gravity " That's the way things happen at Wayside School. There are twenty nine kids in Mrs Jewls' class and this book is about all of them. There is Todd, who is in trouble every day, until he gets a magic dog. Paul, whose life is saved by Leslie's pigtails. Ron, who dares to try the cafeteria's mushroom surprise and all the others who help turn a day at Wayside School into one madcap adventure after another.

**Scieszka, Jon & Francesco Sedita Spaceheadz (first in series)**

On his first day at Brooklyn's P.S. 839, fifth-grader Michael K. is teamed with two very strange students, and while he gradually comes to believe they are aliens who need his help, he has trouble convincing anyone else of the truth.

**Stauffacher, Sue Donuthead (first in series)**

Franklin Delano Donuthead is a fifth grader with a lot of problems: For starters, his last name is Donuthead. He considers himself handicapped because one arm and leg are shorter than the other (by less than half an inch), his mother is trying to poison him with non-organic foods (like salami), he doesn't have a father, and Sarah Kervick, the new girl, who's mean and totally unhygienic, is attached to him, warts and all, like glue.

**Tashjian, Janet My Life as a Book (first in series)**

Dubbed a "reluctant reader" by his teacher, twelve-year-old Derek spends summer vacation learning important lessons even though he does not complete his summer reading list.

**Vernon, Ursula Dragonbreath (first in series)**

Danny Dragonbreath and his friend Wendell get an up close underwater tour of the Sargasso Sea from Danny's sea-serpent cousin, encountering giant squid and mako sharks - and learn about standing up to bullies in the process.

**Warner, Sally It's Only Temporary**

It's only temporary, twelve-year-old Skye McPhee writes in her sketchbook after being shipped off to her gran's in Sierre Madre, California. After all, her parents have their hands full taking care of her older brother, who's

been severely injured in a car accident. So now Skye is in a new school sketching new kids and trying to stay invisible until she can return home.

**Wight, Eric** *Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom* (first in series)

Fourth-grader Frankie Piccolini has a vivid imagination when it comes to cleaning his disastrously messy room, but eventually even he decides that it is just too dirty.

**Winkler, Henry** *Hank Zipper: Niagara Falls or does it* (first in series)

For Hank, fourth grade does not start out on the right foot. First of all, he gets called to the principal's office on the very first day of school. Then the first assignment his teacher gives him is to write five paragraphs on "What You Did This Summer." Hank is terrified-writing one good sentence is hard for him, so how in the world is he going to write five whole paragraphs? Hank comes up with a plan: instead of writing what he did on vacation, he'll show what he did. But when Hank's "living essay" becomes a living disaster, he finds himself in detention. Strangely enough, however, detention ends up becoming a turning point in his life.

**Young, Karen Romano** *Doodlebug: a novel in doodles*

Moving is tough. But the hardest thing of all about the move that Doreen "Dodo" Bussey's family is making is that she suspects it might be because of her. Her mother gives Dodo a blank notebook, which she uses to chronicle the move and the first days in a new city.