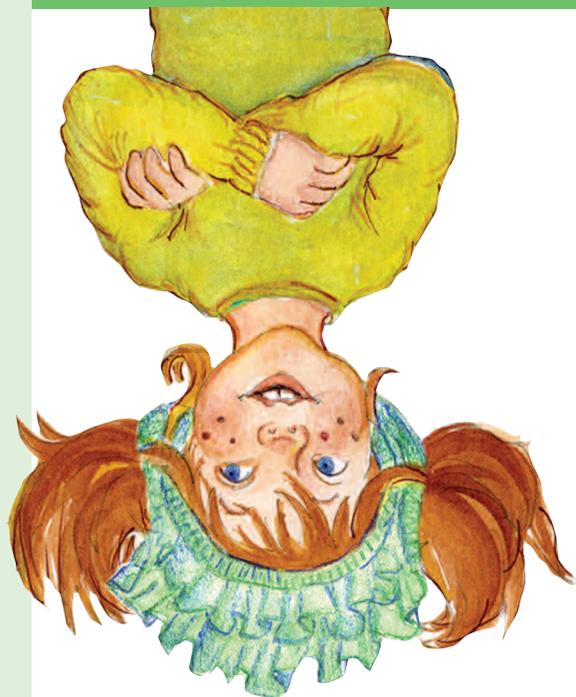


Gooney Bird Greene

by Lois Lowry
illustrated by Middy Thomas



About the series:

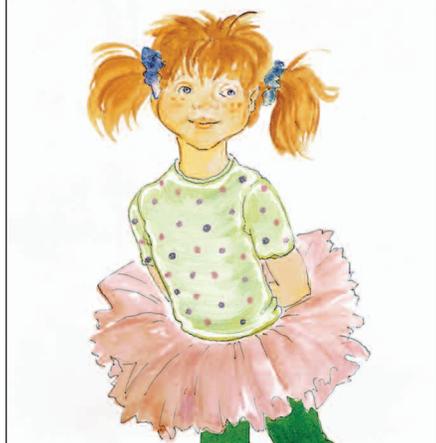
Gooney Bird is not your average second-grader. First there are her marvelous outfits—like the pajamas and cowboy boots she wore on her first day at Watertown Elementary. But there are also the amazing stories she tells and her excellent ability to accessorize all while being a good friend. Join Mrs. Pidgeon's classroom and learn along with Gooney Bird and her colorful classmates.

About the author and illustrator:

The two-time Newbery Award-winning author Lois Lowry has been friends with the illustrator, Middy Thomas, for many years. They laughed so much and for so long while working on the Gooney Bird Greene books they had a hard time getting completed! They are thrilled to share these books with children.

Gooney Bird Greene

LOIS LOWRY Illustrated by Middy Thomas



Gooney Bird Greene

Gooney Bird Greene

Discussion guide:

1. Describe Gooney Bird Greene. How would she fit into your class? Do you, like Gooney Bird, like to be “smack dab in the middle of everything”?
2. Mrs. Pidgeon's class is talking about how to write or tell a good story. What do all stories need?
3. What makes Gooney Bird Greene a great storyteller? Is there a difference between good storytelling and good writing?
4. Which of the stories that Gooney Bird tells is your favorite? Why?
5. Who are the main characters in this story? How do you get to know them?

As you read *Gooney Bird Greene* complete the following graphic organizer based on the stories that she tells.

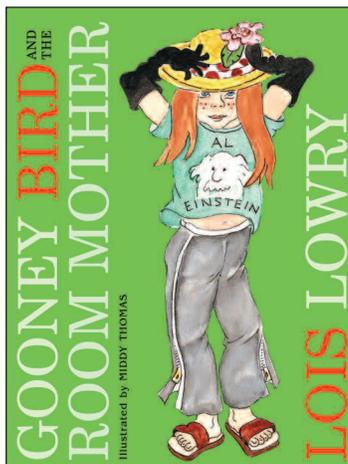
Story	Characters in the story	In the beginning...	In the middle...	In the end...
How Gooney Bird Greene Got Her Name				
Magic Carpet Ride				
Prince, Palace and Diamond Earrings				
Why Gooney Bird Was Late For School				
Catman Consumed by a Cow				

Project:

Find out the story of how you got your name. Then, as a class, take turns sharing your stories. Be sure that each one has all the important parts of a story!

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

A DISCUSSION GUIDE



Gooney Bird and the Room Mother

Gooney Bird and the Room Mother

Discussion guide:

1. What holiday is Mrs. Pidgeon's class preparing for?
2. What problem does Mrs. Pidgeon's class have? How does Gooney Bird Greene solve it?
3. Would you like to have a lead role in a play or not? Why?
4. How did the second grade class get new dictionaries?
5. Do you know how to look up words in a dictionary? Give three tips on how to find words.

There are lots of new words in this Gooney Bird book! As you read, color or place a check mark in the box that best describes how well you know the word.

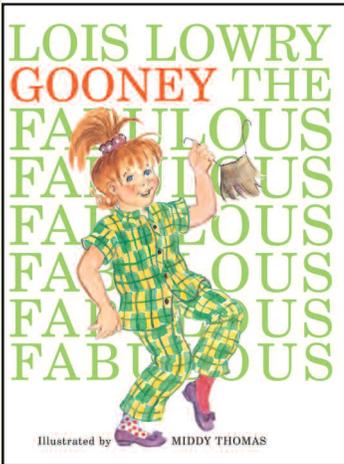
New Word:	This word is brand new to me!	I have heard this word before.	I could use this word in a sentence:
Ennui			
Obsolete			
Enterprising)			
Indefatigable			
Mural			
Weary			
Dissatisfied			
Cajole			
Admonition			
Reward			
Incognito			
Authentic			
Fiasco			
Slapdash			
Provide			
Imitation			
Underestimate)			
Interpreter			
A word you found:			

Project:

Try to use three of the new words from the list above in the next week. Be prepared to share an example of when you used them with the class! Or, illustrate the meaning of three of the words.

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT CHILDREN'S BOOKS

A DISCUSSION GUIDE



Gooney the Fabulous

Gooney the Fabulous

Discussion guide:

1. What is a fable? What animal would you choose to write a fable about? What animal name starts with the same letter as your name? What lesson or moral would you try to teach?
2. Barry says that having a teddy bear is a "baby thing." How do Mrs. Pidgeon and the class set him straight? Do you have a special animal too?
3. How did the second graders in Mrs. Pidgeon's class help Beanie and Barry to revise their fables? What did each of them need?
4. How did the Chihuahua fable have an open (or ambiguous) ending? Do you like these kinds of endings?
5. What was Nicholas so upset about all week? How did Gooney Bird help him solve his problem?

As you read *Gooney the Fabulous* fill out the following graphic organizer about the fables as you read them.

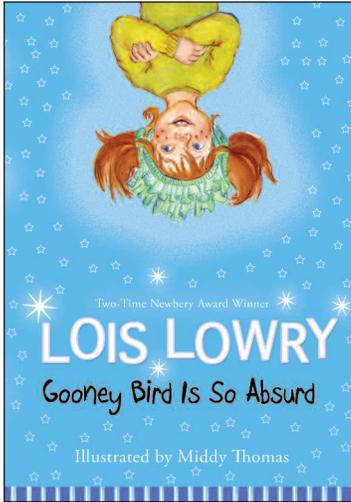
Animal	Retell in one sentence	Moral of the story
Panda	Ex: Panda leaves the woods to eat a new food with deer but then feels sick and scared.	Sometimes what you already have is the best thing.
Kangaroo		
Bear		
Flamingo		
Tyrannosaurus rex		
Bunny and Tortoise		
Bison		
Chihuahua		
Mandrill		
Gnus		

Projects:

Write your own fable. Be sure that it has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Try to use dialogue and build suspense. Don't forget to use the word **SUDDENLY!**

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT CHILDREN'S BOOKS

A DISCUSSION GUIDE



Gooney Bird is So Absurd

Gooney Bird is So Absurd

Discussion guide:

1. Describe Gooney Bird Greene's fashion choices. What is the most surprising? Would you wear a brain-warming hat or not?
2. What is a couplet? How does each couplet tell us something about the writer? Can you write one too?
3. Mrs. Pidgeon brings in the poems her mother wrote as mentor texts for the children. What other poets do you like to read?
4. Which of the poetic forms (list, haiku, or limerick) is your favorite? Why? Which poem from the story is your favorite?
5. Why does Mrs. Pidgeon miss school? How do the children help?

Type of poem	Definition	Helpful writing tips
Limerick		
List poems		
Haiku		

Project:

Try your hand at a haiku, a list, and a limerick. After revising, choose your favorite poem and illustrate it for a bulletin board display.