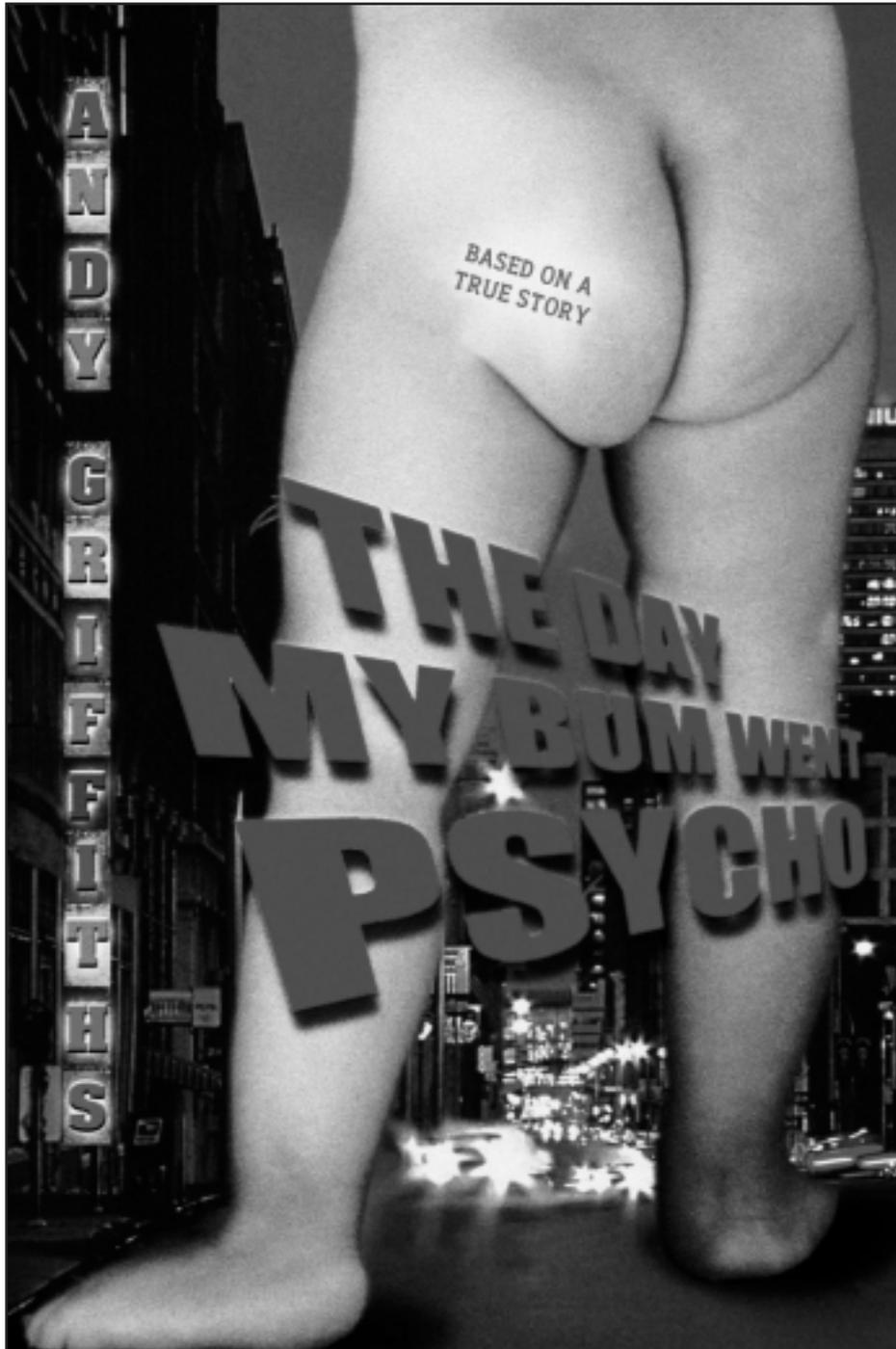




andy griffiths



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PAN MACMILLAN AUSTRALIA GIVES PERMISSION
TO PHOTOCOPY TEXT FROM THESE NOTES



the day my bum went psycho

The Day my Bum went Psycho offers both an enjoyable reading experience and enormous scope for creative writing and thinking exercises in the classroom. A few possible approaches are suggested here.

Note: The emphasis of the exercises can be shifted between talking, writing and thinking as desired. A writing exercise might be used as the focus activity for group talk and vice-versa. Exercises can be used as five-minute warm-ups, end of lesson fillers, a fun way of introducing a topic of study or as the basis for a whole lesson or even longer. Adapt the exercises to the size, interests and mood of the group, the time of day and the amount of time you have.

Quick guide to activities

1. The 'Is your bum psycho?' quiz
2. 'Join the B-team' job application letter
3. Design a bum-mobile
4. Draw a map
5. Rearrange a list
6. Design a safety pamphlet
7. Design a board game
8. Write a recipe
9. Draw a cartoon
10. Make a wanted poster
11. Read the original short story
12. Write your own story
13. Write a letter
14. Newspaper story
15. Bum-fighter trading cards
16. Write a manifesto
17. Bum crossword
18. Bum word search
19. Visit Andy's website
20. Bum beauty parade

1. THE 'IS YOUR BUM PSYCHO?' QUIZ

Is your bum psycho?

Take this test and find out

yes no

- Has your bum ever embarrassed you in public?**
- Is your bum always making noises and creating a big stink?**
- Do you feel like your bum has a mind of its own?**
- Does your bum grow little arms and legs, jump off your body and attend midnight bum rallies?**
- Has your bum ever tried to take over the world?**

Score: One point for each 'yes' answer.

- 3-5 Your bum is completely psycho. You should read this book.**
- 1-2 Your bum is not completely psycho but it's well on the way. You should read this book.**
- 0 Your bum is not psycho ... yet. You should read this book.**

2. JOIN THE B-TEAM

You have always wanted to be a bum-fighter and have found out the B-team are looking for a new member. Write a letter to the B-team explaining who you are and why you would be perfect for the job. What is your preferred method of bum-fighting? Create a name and a history for yourself as a famous bum-fighter. Good luck!

Things you might like to consider

- ✂ All bum-fighters have a particular specialty: what's yours?**
- ✂ What is your working name?**
- ✂ Describe your biggest success as a bum fighter**
- ✂ Describe your biggest failure**

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- ☞ What are your ambitions for the future?
- ☞ Why do you want to work for the B-team?

3. DESIGN A BUM-MOBILE

Design your own ideal bum-mobile. You can sketch it or, if you have time, make a three-dimensional working model. Make sure you include the full range of accessories that you will require and label them in detail.

Things you might like to consider

- ☞ What does it look like? (Inside and out)
- ☞ What colour and markings does it have?
- ☞ What types of terrain is your bum-mobile capable of handling?
- ☞ What special features does it have?
- ☞ What types of defence and/or attack systems does it have?

4. DRAW A MAP

Draw a map of the bum-infested territories that Zack passes through on his journey from his bedroom to the bumcano. Label each of the main landscape features. Feel free to add your own landmarks, even if they're not included in the story.

Locations you will need to include:

- ☞ The oval where the midnight bum rally is held
- ☞ The drain where Zack is captured
- ☞ The park where the bum-mobile is hidden
- ☞ Bum shelter #5
- ☞ The Great Windy Desert
- ☞ Ned Smelly's shack
- ☞ The Brown Forest
- ☞ The stink bog
- ☞ Stenchgantor's lair
- ☞ The Sea of Bums
- ☞ Siren Bums
- ☞ The bumcano island
- ☞ The bumcano

5. MAKE A LIST

There are many nasty fates awaiting the unwary in this novel. With a partner, arrange the following list in order from the very worst fate to the worst. NB: You and your partner must both agree on where each fate should appear on your list. Be prepared to justify and argue for your point of view.

- ☒ Blown up by a cluster bum
- ☒ Tortured by bums
- ☒ Methane madness
- ☒ Lost in the Great Windy Desert
- ☒ Sucked up into a stink tornado
- ☒ Stuck in a stink bog
- ☒ Gassed by Stenchgantor
- ☒ Eaten by bum-piranhas
- ☒ Drowned in the Sea of Bums
- ☒ Eaten by giant blowflies
- ☒ Submerged in the bumcano's brown lake
- ☒ Eaten by giant maggots
- ☒ Squashed by the Great White Bum

6. DESIGN A SAFETY PAMPHLET

Take a piece of A4 size paper and fold it in three parts. Use it to help you prepare a bum-safety pamphlet detailing the simple safety precautions that people can use to protect themselves from one (or a few) of the dangers listed in activity 5 above. Refer to the novel to help you discover the strategies and/or make up your own.

Things to consider:

- ☒ Clearly define the problem and/or danger
- ☒ Clearly and simply outline the solution—use numbered steps if necessary
- ☒ Include pictures or sketches

Refer to actual safety pamphlets for inspiration and ideas

7. DESIGN A BOARD GAME

Design a simple board game based on the novel. You might like to base it on Snakes and Ladders... 'Bums and Bladders' for example, with the bums

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leading you upwards to the final square and the bladders dragging you back down. Or perhaps you'd like to base it on a conventional board game with rewards and penalties. For example:

Some sample penalties:

- ☹ You get stuck in a stink bog: throw a six to get out.
- ☹ You get methane madness. Make the craziest face you are capable of, or miss a turn.
- ☹ You are squashed by Stenchgantor. You lose.

Some sample rewards:

- ☺ Ned Smelly gives you oxygen: do three star jumps and yell 'I feel great!' or miss a turn.
- ☺ You are rescued by pooppoises: go forward three spaces.
- ☺ You hit a direct bum's eye: go to finish. You win!

8. WRITE A RECIPE

Create your own unique recipe for catching and cooking one of the following:

- a) Needleweeds and stinkants
- b) Giant blowflies
- c) Stenchgantor

List the ingredients (where to find them and how to catch them), and give step-by-step instructions detailing how to prepare and serve them.

9. DRAW A CARTOON

Choose one of the chapters in the book and compress the events into a twelve-frame cartoon. If you can draw realistically, then draw realistically. If you can't, then stick figures will do fine. You can present your cartoon in conventional strip form, on a large poster or by folding three pieces of paper (approx 15 cm x 8 cm strips) in the middle to form a small book.

Things to include:

- ☹ speech bubbles
- ☹ thought bubbles
- ☹ vivid action

- 🔊 sound effects
- 🔊 captions summarising the action along the bottom of the frames

10. MAKE A WANTED POSTER

Reread the passages in the novel referring to Stenchgantor and the Great White Bum. Create a 'WANTED' poster for one of them.

Things to include:

- 🔊 Their name
- 🔊 A description
- 🔊 A brief biography
- 🔊 The crime (or crimes) they are wanted for. Feel free to make up your own.
- 🔊 A picture
- 🔊 The reward

11. READ THE ORIGINAL SHORT STORY

The Day My Bum Went Psycho is based on a short story written by Andy Griffiths in 1993. Discuss the differences and similarities between the short story and the novel. You can download a copy of the story from Andy's website at www.andygriffiths.com.au/psychobum.htm

12. WRITE YOUR OWN STORY

Write a story in which you tell of the day your bum (or any other part of your body) went psycho. Have fun and let your imagination run wild.

13. WRITE A LETTER

Write a letter to a part of your body that you haven't talked to in a while. Say hi to your heart! Good morning to your gall bladder! It doesn't matter whether it's on the inside or the outside. Ask it how it's going, whether it has any particular problems and whether there's anything you can do for it. Apologise for any recent behaviour that may have caused it any discomfort. After you have written the letter, write a reply to yourself on behalf of the body part concerned.

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14. NEWSPAPER STORY

You are a journalist and have stumbled across Zack Freeman's incredible story. Choose one of the events from the novel and use it to create the front page leading news article for your paper. Create an attention-grabbing headline and write a two hundred word report including all of the following information:

WHAT happened?

WHO was involved?

WHY did it happen?

WHEN did it occur?

WHERE did it happen?

Then, when these questions have been answered:

HOW did it happen?

Don't forget to include direct quotes from eyewitnesses, and photographs or sketches of the scene.

15. BUM-FIGHTER TRADING CARDS

- a) Design a set of bum-fighter trading cards (approx 10 cm x 8 cm) featuring the Bum Hunter, the Kicker, the Smacker, the Kisser, Ned Smelly, Eleanor and Zack. Alternatively you might like to feature legendary bad bums such as the Great White Bum and Stenchgantor. Include a picture of each character, a 50-100 word biography and a list of some of their greatest achievements. Feel free to make up your own original bum-fighter character cards.
- b) Give each member of the class a square of cardboard (10 cm x 8 cm) and invite them to produce their own original bum-fighter trading card along the lines described above. Collect them and put them together for an instant bum-fighter trading card collection.

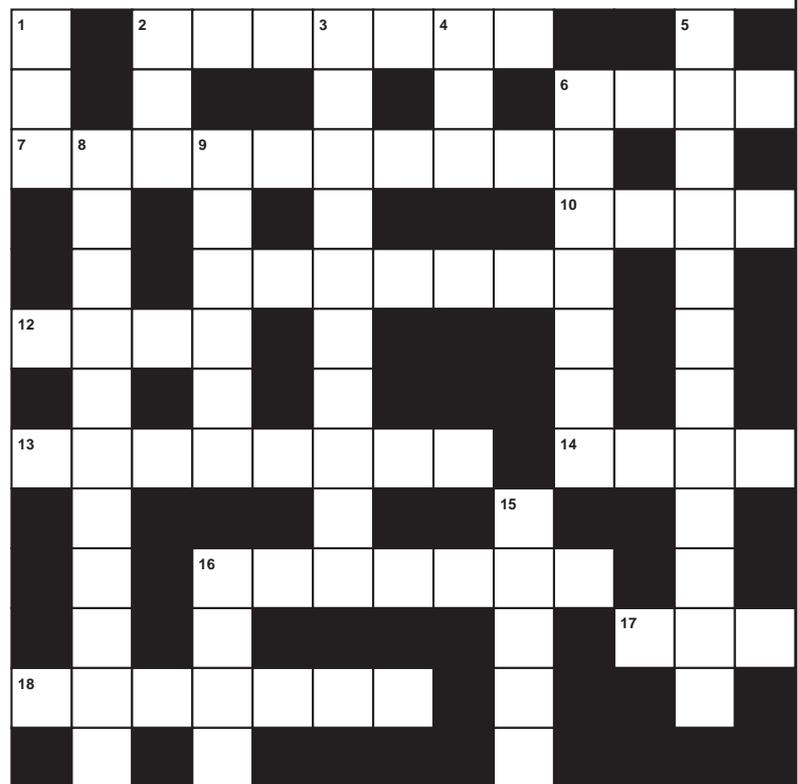
16. WRITE A MANIFESTO

With a partner or small group, imagine that you are a group of bums who are sick of being discriminated against by humans. Draw up a ten point **BUM MANIFESTO** which sets out clearly what rights you seek for yourselves, the ways in which you intend to gain them and what will happen if you don't get them.

17. CROSSWORD

Down

1. A way of throwing bog.
2. The two fleshy mounds above the legs and below the hollow of the back.
3. A self-destructive group of kamikaze bums.
4. The first name of the man who lives in the Great Windy Desert.
5. The Great Unwiped Bum.
6. A large collection of bum-fighting weaponry.
8. A belt worn by a bumcatcher to hold all his or her bum-fighting gear.
9. An anti-bum weapon.
15. A crack bum-fighting unit.
16. Patches of quicksand.



Across

2. An extinct volcano that has been colonized by bums.
6. Stink _ _ _ _ (Animals found in the Great Windy Desert.)
7. A boulder formed by bums.
11. The gas produced by bums.
10. What Siren Bums do.
12. Used to cork bums.
13. A type of quicksand found in the Brown Forest.
14. _ _ _ _ blower (Used for blowing bums away.)
16. The fruit of bumnut trees.
17. Another name for the constipator gun.
18. Brown _ _ _ (A sort of mist that occurs in the Brown Forest.)

see p.12 for solution

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18. WORD SEARCH

WORD LIST

BUMCANO
BUMGUARD
BUM
BUMGUN
BUMMERY
BUMNUTS
PONG
BUMPLUG
ELEANOR
ZACK

When you have found all the words there should be four letters left over.
Write these letters out to make a word.

D	R	A	U	G	M	U	B
S	F	K	E	B	O	A	B
T	G	C	L	U	N	N	U
U	N	A	E	M	A	U	M
N	O	Z	A	M	C	G	P
M	P	B	N	E	M	M	L
U	R	U	O	R	U	U	U
B	T	M	R	Y	B	B	G

— — — — (see p.12 for answers)

19. VISIT ANDY'S WEBSITE

www.andygriffiths.com.au

Features:

- 🍷 A toy monkey's head exploding
- 🍷 News and reviews
- 🍷 Everything you ever wanted to know about Andy Griffiths
- 🍷 A toy monkey's head exploding
- 🍷 A guide to the *Just* series—story summaries and extracts
- 🍷 Complete teacher notes for the *Just* series
- 🍷 Writer's and teacher's resources
- 🍷 Unpublished nonsense
- 🍷 Mind-blowing thoughts
- 🍷 Send an email to Andy
- 🍷 A toy monkey's head exploding

20. BUM BEAUTY CONTEST*

Encourage students to cut holes in the back of their pants and have a school bum-beauty competition. Bums can be judged under the following categories: biggest, cleanest, roundest, ugliest, hairiest etc.

Things to consider

- 🍷 Your career
- 🍷 Your sanity
- 🍷 Your standing in the community

* Just tricking!

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ANSWERS

