



CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.

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TEN RULES YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT BREAK IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THE SCHOOL BUS



James advises his brother on the 10 things you must not do if you ride the school bus. In the course of the day, his brother inadvertently breaks all 10 but discovers rule 11 - you don't have to pay attention to the rules.

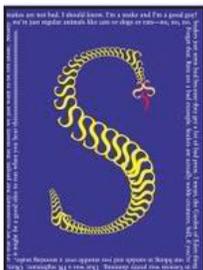
John Grandits, Houghton Mifflin, ©2011, 978-0-618-78822-4

STEREOTYPES

What stereotype in particular does James pass on to his brother? (girls talk too much). Do you think this is OK in a children's book?

CONCRETE POETRY

Grandits is a concrete poet and has several books of concrete poetry in print. Every month he also puts one on the website. There are many less sophisticated versions on line that you can introduce students to and ask them to try to create their own. The book *Love That Dog* also has a part where the students experiment with the concrete poem. As well, *Doodle Dandies* is a picture



This concrete poem by John Grandits is called *Snake*. It consists of a series of s's linked in a long sinuous curve to create the sound of a snake in the scales. The poem itself is printed around the outside as a "frame".

The next page has his poem *The Autobiography of Murray the Fart* which is much less socially acceptable, but interesting.

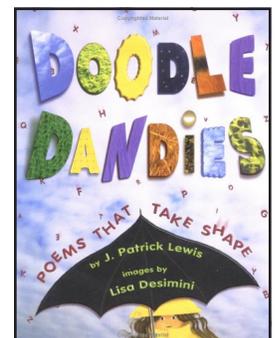
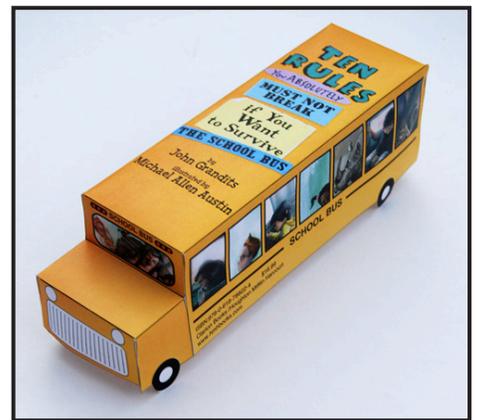
JOURNAL WRITING

Picture books lend themselves to a journal response, because they are really short to read and because they are often also useful for other writing purposes. Here are four suggestions for *Ten Rules*:

- A story about giving someone advice.
- A school transportation story - bus ride, field trip, ride with a friend, bus trip to a game, etc.
- A bully story.
- The perfect school lunch and why you would love it.
- A story about a brother or a sister.

THE FOLDING SCHOOL BUS

There's a full-colour pattern for a bus on John Grandits' website which students can cut out, fold, and tape. With no instructions, it's still not difficult, but it might be fun to have students work together to try to do it quickly. It could be printed in black and white on yellow cardstock to get the bus effect without the expense of printing in colour.

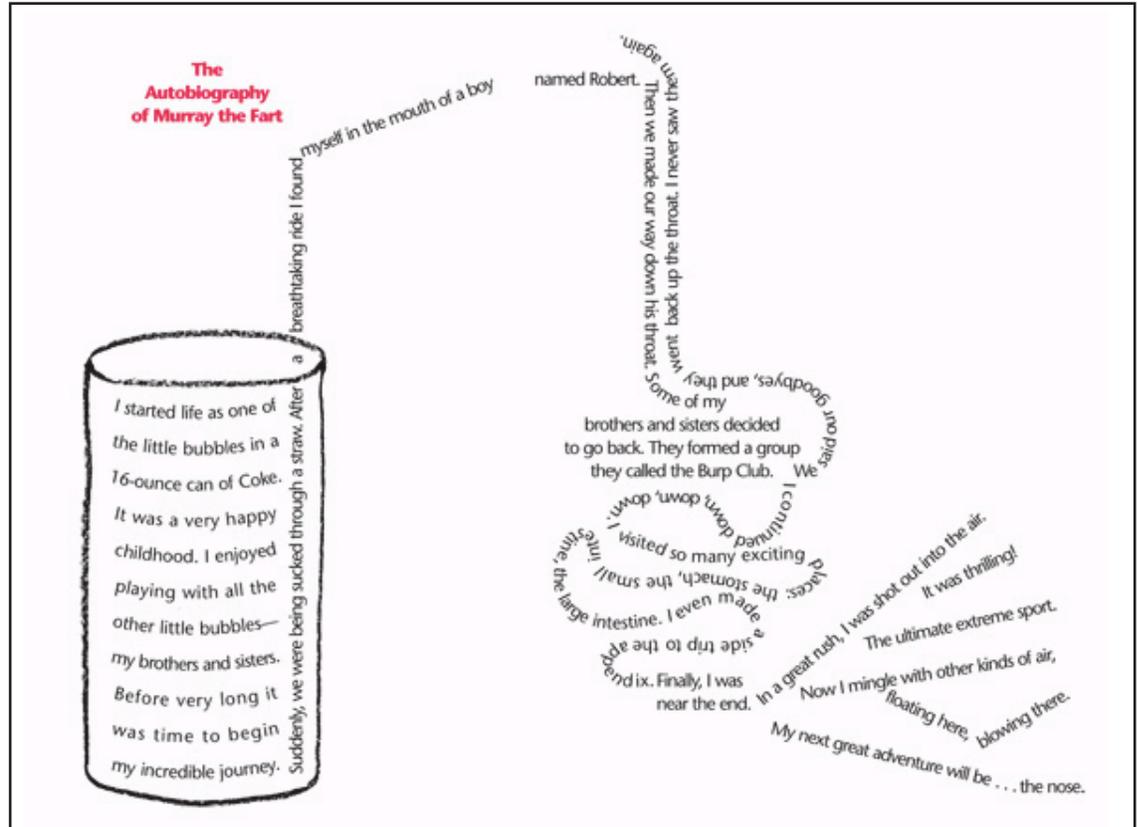




TEN RULES YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT BREAK IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THE SCHOOL BUS, CONT.

LISTENING

Attached is a listening chart with the 10 rules on it. The second time you read the story students could note how these rules are broken. For each one, ask if it is a sensible rule, and why.



WRITE THE 10 RULES YOU MUST NOT BREAK IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE.... BOOK

Brainstorm other topics that James might give advice on, and then ask students to choose one to try to write using the model. Remember that they are all things you must NEVER do. Students could write a straightforward suggestion of rules and why they are there. More advanced students could write a story where the rules are stated, only to be broken one at a time. Some possibilities are *Ten Rules You Must Not Break If You Want to Survive*:

- Doing your homework.
- Packing a school lunch.
- Riding your bicycle.
- Playing in the schoolyard.
- Using the library.

SIMILES

This is a good time to teach students the structure of a simile. Each of the 7 similes in the book is reflected in the illustration, which cleverly reflect the perception of the narrator. You may want to project the illustrations as you point out the similes in the book and discuss their meaning. The only simile missing is that of the bus driver, although the illustration of her is of a predator bird.

- A dog...sounded like an arctic wolf that hadn't eaten all winter
- School bus...charging at me like a giant yellow rhinoceros
- Staring at me...I felt like a zebra at a lion party
- Big kid...up close, he was the size of a grizzly bear
- Girls...as mean as snakes
- Bus driver...illustration of a predator bird, no simile
- Brother...jumping up and down like a spider monkey



TEN RULES YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT BREAK IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THE SCHOOL BUS, CONT.

LISTENING CHART

The Rule	How the Rule was Broken
1. Never sit in the first row	
2. Never sit in the last row	
3. Never, ever make yourself stand out in any way	
4. Never make eye contact	
5. Never touch anyone's stuff	
6. Never talk to big kids	
7. Never talk to girls	
8. Never mess with the bully	
9. Never be the last one on the bus	
10. Never, absolutely never, mess with the bus driver	

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