

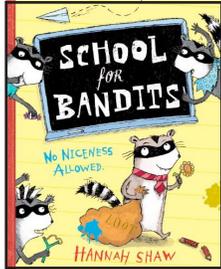


CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

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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SCHOOL FOR BANDITS



Hannah Shaw, Alfred A. Knopf, ©2011, 978-0-375-96768-9

Ralph Raccoon is too polite and too nice. His parents have to send him to Bandit School to learn to be a proper bad raccoon. How does Ralph use his "niceness" to succeed?

THE BEING BAD ALPHABET

Ralph Raccoon hasn't been bad enough so he has to brainstorm 26 words (one for each letter of the alphabet) that are ways of being bad. A could be for aggravating, B for bragging, C for cursing, and so on. X and Z are notoriously hard - encourage students to use two words if necessary to get them in. Examples: eXtra Noisy or Zealously irritating.

This can be an individual activity or a brainstorming activity to build vocabulary.

GOOD MANNERS

They are trying to teach Ralph bad manners. "I must not say please" is one of them. Ask students to start from a few of the bad manners they are trying to teach Ralph, and make a list of what makes good manners.

Why do we bother to have rules for behaviour at all? If you are going up a stair, what side do you walk on? Why? If you are riding in an elevator, why are you to be quiet and not make eye contact? Discuss in groups written and unwritten rules and why they might exist.

JOURNAL IDEAS

It's always valuable to use a picture book as a prompt to journal writing. Try to have at least three choices so that students can select the one about which they think they can write the most, or if they run out of steam, can write on a second topic as well. Some possibilities are:

- Bandits are taught to be rude. Tell a time when someone was rude to you; or you were rude to someone.
- Bandits collect loot. Tell a Halloween loot story.
- A story about breaking school rules (not you of course).

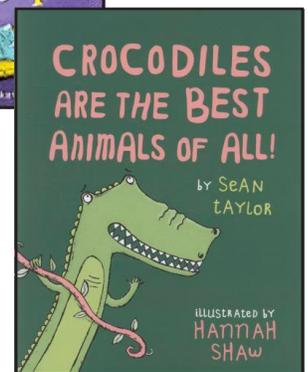
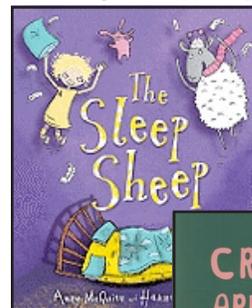
SYNONYM STUDY

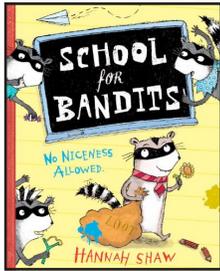
There are many synonyms for people who take things that don't belong to them. Students might find: *pirate, thief, robber, buccaneer, brigand, cheat, crook, con artist, rustler, looter, pilferer, shoplifter, gangster, highwayman, raider, racketeer*, etc. This could also be a good brainstorming activity to build vocabulary.

Once they have a list ask them to define each one in such a way that people could read the list of definitions and know which word was being referred to.

HANNAH SHAW

Hannah Shaw has written or illustrated many books among them *Evil Weasel*, *The Sleep Sheep (Have Other Ideas)* and *Crocodiles Are the Best Animals of All*. Her website has drawing activities at quite a primary level and so is not useful for the intermediate classroom.





SCHOOL FOR BANDITS, CONT.

THE RACCOON

Raccoons look adorable with their little masks and their nimble hands - but the adult raccoon is quite aggressive even toward humans, and bad tempered as well. In 1977 there was a popular cartoon series called *Rascal Raccoon*. It was enormously popular in Japan and the Japanese began to import them as pets. Of course, as they got older and aggressive, they were let loose by their owners and began to survive in the wild. They now exist in 42 of the 47 prefectures of Japan. Unfortunately, as with many introduced species, they are very destructive. They like the corn that is fed to cattle, raiding the fish farms, attacking owls' nests, vole, shrimp, and the yew tree. Most destructively to Japan's cultural heritage, they get through the air vents in old temples and shrines built of wood and are doing enormous damage.

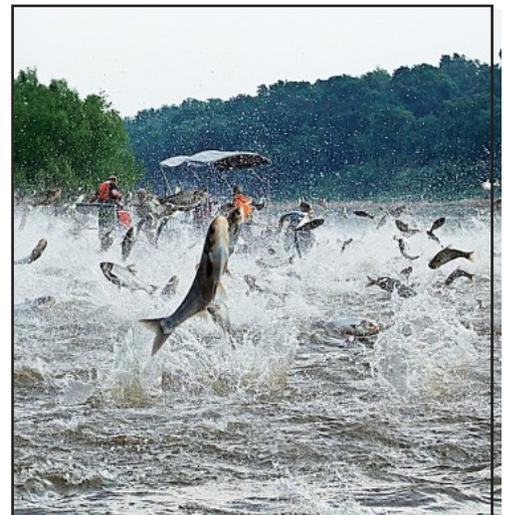
After telling students about the raccoon infestation in Japan (there are a lot of good pictures on the internet as well), it might be a good time to do a study of invasive introduced species and how destructive they are to the native flora and fauna. Divide the class into groups and give each one a particular invader to study and report (orally and in writing for two marks at once). This fits well with any environmental studies unit.

Some possible species are:

- Zebra mussel in the Great Lakes from the Black and Caspian Sea.
- Eurasian watermilfoil in North America from Europe.
- Asian carp from Asia.
- Rabbit in Australia from Europe.
- Dromedary camel in Australia from the Middle East.
- Nutria in North America from South America.
- Gypsy moth in North America from Europe.
- Asian long horn beetle from Europe.



Eurasian watermilfoil



Asian carp



Nutria

THE **BAD** LIST

A _____
B _____
C _____
D _____
E _____
F _____
G _____
H _____
I _____
J _____
K _____
L _____
M _____
N _____
O _____
P _____



Q _____
R _____
S _____
T _____
U _____
V _____
W _____
X _____
Y _____
Z _____