A *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER

"Discover the coolest library in the world."
— James Patterson,
#1 New York Times bestselling author

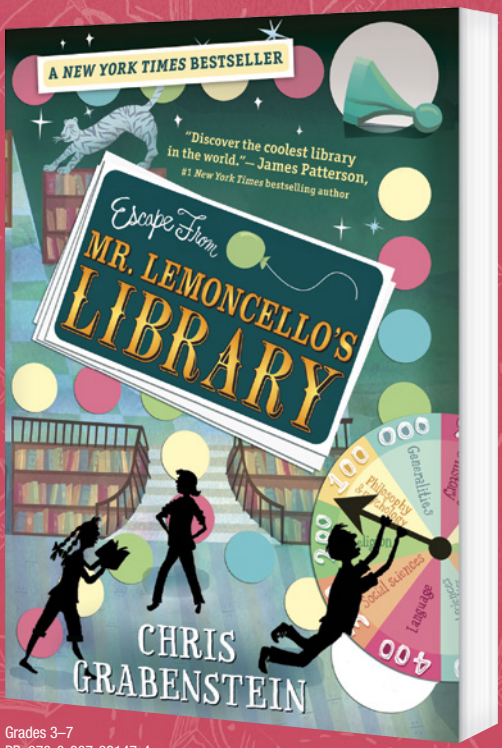
Escape From MR. LEMONCELLO'S LIBRARY

Teach the book that's on 14 state award nomination lists—and counting!

CHRIS GRABENSTEIN

EDUCATORS' GUIDE

INCLUDES COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS CORRELATIONS



Grades 3–7
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ABOUT THE BOOK

Kyle Keeley is the class clown, popular with most kids (if not the teachers), and an ardent fan of all games: board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative game maker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the building of the new town library.

Lucky Kyle wins a coveted chance to be one of the first twelve kids in the library for an overnight of fun, food, and lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors remain locked. Kyle and the other winners must solve every clue and secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route. And the stakes are very high.

In this cross between *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *A Night in the Museum*, *New York Times* bestseller and Agatha Award winner Chris Grabenstein uses rib-tickling humor to create the perfect tale for his quirky characters. Old fans and new readers will become enthralled with the crafty twists and turns of this ultimate library experience.

TEACH THE BOOK THAT'S ON 14 STATE AWARD NOMINATION LISTS—AND COUNTING!

- FLORIDA Sunshine State Young Readers Award Nominee
- GEORGIA Children's Book Award Nominee
- HAWAII Nene Award Nominee
- MAINE Student Book Award Nominee
- MARYLAND Black-Eyed Susan Book Award Nominee
- NEW HAMPSHIRE Great Stone Face Book Award Nominee
- NORTH DAKOTA Flicker Tale Children's Book Award Nominee
- OHIO Buckeye Children's and Teen Book Award Nominee
- PENNSYVLANIA Young Reader's Choice Award Nominee
- RHODE ISLAND Children's Book Award Nominee
- TENNESSEE Volunteer State Book Award Nominee
- SOUTH CAROLINA Children's Book Award Nominee
- UTAH Beehive Book Award Nominee
- VERMONT Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Nominee

★ "A worthy successor to the original madman puzzle-master himself, Willy Wonka."
—Booklist, Starred

★ "This solid, tightly plotted read is a **winner**."
—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Like Kyle Keeley in *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, board games are a part of the lives of many children. Have your students sit in a circle and share one or two sentences about their favorite board game without mentioning the name. Students can try to guess which board game their classmate is talking about.

Have students bring in their favorite board games to class. Give them time to play the games with their classmates. Have students share what makes a board game great.

In groups, have students talk about times they had success working as a team, and times that teamwork didn't go so well. Have students create a list of things that make teams successful and a list of things that make teams unsuccessful.

Share the book trailer for *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, which is available at **ChrisGrabenstein.com**.

"**Book** and **game lovers** alike will delve into this **delicious tale** and put on their thinking caps."
—*School Library Journal*

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

How would the book have been different if it had been told from Kyle's perspective?
Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standard CCRA.R.6.

Kyle's team made him the leader. What made Kyle a great leader?
Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standard CCRA.R.1.

Haley switched teams late in the game. If you were on Kyle's team, explain how you would have reacted to someone switching teams so late in the game. How would you have felt if you were on Charles's team?
Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standard CCRA.R.3.

Mr. Lemoncello could have opened his library in a more traditional way. Why do you think he chose such an elaborate game? What did he want the contestants to take away from the experience?
Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standard CCRA.R.2.

Mr. Lemoncello believes that the library helped make him the man he grew up to be. If you had to name one person that has helped you become the person you are today, who would you pick? Explain.
Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standard CCRA.R.2.

Charles Chillington is not the nicest character. Why do you think he acts the way he does? Do you think he will learn from the mistakes he made during the game?
Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standard CCRA.R.3.

It is easy to see the faults in Charles. But if we look hard enough, we can find good qualities in anyone. What are some of his?
Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standard CCRA.R.3

ACTIVITIES

Chris Grabenstein chose to write *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* in third-person omniscient. Have students select a favorite scene from the novel and rewrite it in first person from a character of their choice. Have students share with a partner and discuss how the scene read differently when the point of view was changed.

Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standards CCRA.R.6, CCRA.W.3.

After your class has finished reading the book, have students conduct post-game interviews. Partners will select a character from the book and interview them as a local television reporter. After they have written out and discussed the interview, have them record it using a digital camera, webcam, iPad, or other device.

Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standards CCRA.W.4, CCRA.W.6, CCRA.SL.1–2, CCRA.SL.5.

Have students prepare a presentation on what they learned about the Dewey Decimal System from *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* and their own research. Invite a local librarian in to hear the presentation and to share the great things they have going on in the library that might interest students.

Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standards CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4–5, CCRA.W.2, CCRA.W.6.

Titles of children's books appear throughout *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. Have students write a letter to author Chris Grabenstein including as many book titles as they can weave into the letter. Email letters to: author@chrisgrabenstein.com

Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standards CCRA.W.4–6.

Contestants in *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* attempt to solve rebus puzzles to help them escape from the library. Have students each create a rebus puzzle based on the title of a book, and encourage students to try to solve as many as they can.

Mr. Lemoncello spends $500 million to build his dream library. While your hometown may not be in dire need of a new library, there is probably something that could be built to make it a better community for kids. Have your students write letters to your local leadership (city council members, township trustees, etc.) with the purpose of convincing them to make the addition to the city. Mail the letters or have students speak at the public meeting.

Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standards CCRA.W.1, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.W.9, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.SL.6

Host a school reading night with a Dewey Decimal System theme. Each classroom in the school can select a class from within the system to use to decorate their room. Each class can create a flyer based on their Dewey class to share with the community members that visit during reading night. On the night of the event, the room will be decorated based on the Dewey class, students will dress based on the class, and books from within that class will be out for visitors to browse.

Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standards CCRA.SL.1–2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.W.6

Let students select one class from the Dewey Decimal System that they would like to explore. After learning more about the class, have the students select a career relevant to that class to research further. For example, if they are studying the 700 class, they may choose to learn more about architecture. Have students create interview questions for an architect and then set up in-person, Skype, or written interviews for the students to administer.

COMMON CORE ANCHOR STANDARDS ADDRESSED IN THIS EDUCATORS' GUIDE

READING

CCRA.R.1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCRA.R.2: Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

CCRA.R.3: Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

CCRA.R.6: Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

WRITING

CCRA.W.1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

CCRA.W.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

CCRA.W.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details and well-structured event sequences.

CCRA.W.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

CCRA.W.6: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

CCRA.W.9: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

CCRA.SL.1: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CCRA.SL.2: Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

CCRA.SL.4: Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

CCRA.SL.5: Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

CCRA.SL.6: Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Nerdy Book Club features teachers and librarians from all over the world doing some pretty neat stuff with *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*.
NerdyBookClub.wordpress.com/2014/06/25/mr-lemoncello-and-the-nerdy-nation-thinking-outside-the-book-by-chris-grabenstein

A Quick Guide to Rebus Puzzles
Fun-with-Words.com/rebus_puzzle_explain.html

How to use the Dewey Decimal System
MCPL.info/childrens/how-use-dewey-decimal-system

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CHRIS GRABENSTEIN is the Agatha and Anthony Award–winning author of *The Crossroads* and *The Hanging Hill*, as well as several adult thrillers and *I Funny*, a #1 *New York Times* bestseller that he coauthored with James Patterson. Chris also used to do improv, wrote TV and radio commercials, and has written for *The Muppets*. Chris was born in Buffalo, New York, and moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee, when he was ten. After college, he moved to New York City to become an actor and writer. Chris and his wife, JJ, live in New York City with three cats and a dog named Fred, who starred in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* on Broadway.

Visit **ChrisGrabenstein.com** to learn more about the author and to download materials to run a Lemoncello-style scavenger hunt in your classroom!

ALSO BY CHRIS GRABENSTEIN

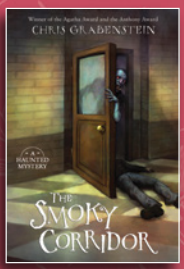
COMING MARCH 2015!

The Island of Dr. Libris
HC: 978-0-385-38844-3

A HAUNTED MYSTERY

#1: *The Crossroads*
PB: 978-0-375-84698-4

#2: *The Hanging Hill*
PB: 978-0-375-84700-4



#3: *The Smoky Corridor*
PB: 978-0-375-86510-7

#4: *The Black Heart Crypt*
PB: 978-0-375-87301-0

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Prepared by Colby Sharp, third-grade teacher in Michigan and cofounder of the Nerdy Book Club.
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