In Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library, readers meet Kyle Keeley, the class clown and a huge 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 construction of the new town library. Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot as one of twelve kids invited for an overnight sleepover in the library, hosted by Mr. Lemoncello and riddled with lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route!

In Mr. Lemoncello’s Library Olympics, Mr. Lemoncello has invited teams from across America to compete in the first-ever Library Olympics. But something suspicious is going on . . . books are missing from Mr. Lemoncello’s library. Is someone trying to censor what the kids are reading?! Now it’s just a game—can Mr. Lemoncello find the real defenders of books and champions of libraries? In between figuring out mind-boggling challenges, the kids will have to band together to get to the bottom of this mystery.

In Mr. Lemoncello’s Great Library Race, Mr. Lemoncello is organizing his own new Fabulous Fact-Finding Frayday! Kyle can make it through the first round of the competition, he and the other lucky finalists will go on a great race—by bicycle, skateboard, and even Mr. Lemoncello’s corporate banana jet to find fascinating facts about famous Americans. The first to bring their facts back to the library will win SPECTACULAR prizes! But when a few surprising “facts” surface about Mr. Lemoncello, it might be GO TO JAIL and LOSE A TURN all at once! Could Kyle’s hero be a FRAUD?!

In Mr. Lemoncello’s Great Library Race, Kyle gets to ride on Mr. Lemoncello’s private plane during the Great Library Race. If you could take this plane and fly to the setting of any book, where would you go?

In Mr. Lemoncello’s Library Olympics, Kyle thought he was. What would you do if someone told you that someone you respected and admired wasn’t the person you thought they were?

ABOUT THE BOOKS

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

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INTERNET RESOURCES

Nerdy Book Club features teachers and librarians from all over the world doing some pretty neat stuff with the Lemoncello books. NerdyBookClub.wordpress.com

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

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Discover the coolest library in the world.”
—James Patterson, #1 New York Times bestselling author of I Funny
Share CHRIS GRABENSTEIN’S fantastically fun, puzzle-packed adventures with your students!

MORE MIDDLE-GRADE FUN FROM CHRIS GRABENSTEIN

“Outrageous hijinks and nonstop hilarity—five stars! Kids who check into this madcap motel will want to stay forever!” —Lincoln Peirce, author of the Big Nate series

EDUCATORS’ GUIDE

Act 1: House Street Motel
RC: 978-0-385-38845-0
“Effortlessly readable and a whole lot of fun.”
—Booklist

MORE MIDDLE-GRADE FUN FROM CHRIS GRABENSTEIN

• Host a school reading night focused on the Dewey Decimal System. Each classroom in the school can select a class from within the system as a theme to decorate their room and create a flyer about that theme to share with the community members who attend the event. Students can dress accordingly and share books from the class with visitors.

• Let students select one class from the Dewey Decimal System that they would like to explore. After learning more, 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 questions for an architect, and then set up in-person, Skype, or written interviews with experts or people in the field so the students can ask their questions.

• In Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library, 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 an addition to the city. Mail the letters, or have students speak at a public meeting.

• Celebrate a banned book! Mr. Lemoncello’s Library Olympics celebrates books that have been banned in certain places. Have students check the American Library Association’s list of the ten most-banned books to see if they have read any over the last several years. Have students choose a book that they know from the list and write a persuasive essay about why the book shouldn’t be banned. ala.org/books/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10

• In Mr. Lemoncello’s Great Library Race, Kyle and his friends learn about how many extremely successful people experienced a lot of failure that eventually led to their success. Have students research a successful person who they find interesting, and make a presentation to the class showing how that person learned from their failures.

• Most readers of the Mr. Lemoncello books would love to be able to participate in one of Mr. Lemoncello’s games. Have students create something that would convince Mr. Lemoncello that he should consider them the next time he hosts one of his contests. Students could make a commercial (think Survivor videos), write a letter, or create a poster.

• Have students select a scene from one of the books that includes Charles Chiltington. In groups, ask them to discuss and rewrite the scene from Charles’s point of view. Ask for volunteers to share their scene.