

# GUYS READ: THRILLER

Discussion Guide

VOLUME 2  
IN THE GUYS READ LIBRARY OF GREAT READING

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Inspired by the Guys Read initiative, aimed at hooking up young guys with books and authors they love, Jon Scieszka's definitive library for boys continues with *Guys Read: Thriller*. A collection of ten mystery and thriller stories from some of the best authors writing for guys, *Guys Read: Thriller* delivers detectives, spooks, cryptids, snakes, pirates, smugglers, a body on the tracks, and one terribly powerful serving of fried pudding. What more could a guy ask for?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### THE OLD, DEAD NUISANCE

by M. T. Anderson

- Who names Josiah Smitch "The Old Nuisance," and why?
- At the beginning of the story, why does Paul not believe that the places filmed on *True Spook* are haunted? What makes him change his mind? Do you believe in ghosts and psychic abilities? Why or why not?

### BELIEVING IN BROOKLYN

by Matt de la Peña

- How do you know that Benny loves his grandma?
- What would you wish for if you had a wish machine? Even though Benny's wish machine isn't real, how can believing in something help it come true?

### THE DOUBLE EAGLE HAS LANDED

by Anthony Horowitz

- Why doesn't Nick trust Underwood? How are his instincts proven right?
- What is dry humor, and how is it used in this story?

### PIRATE

by Walter Dean Myers

- How is Abdullah Syed Hari different from most pirates you've heard of?
- Although the Somalian acts of piracy are unpardonable, how do the foreigners act as pirates in their own right? What do you think Abdullah means when he says, "I don't know if there is a right thing that fits everybody"? How does seeing the other side of a story change your understanding of it?

## **THAD, THE GHOST, AND ME**

by Margaret Peterson Haddix

- Why is the narrator trying to prepare Thad for middle school? How does he go about doing this?
- Why is the narrator at first disappointed when he can no longer see Harvey? What realization makes him feel better?

## **PUDDING**

by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

- Which parts of this story are told through art instead of dialog? Even though you're not always reading words, how do you *read* the art to follow the story line?
- What does the end of the story suggest?

## **THE SNAKE MAFIA**

by Gennifer Choldenko

- What significance do River's dreams have to the story?
- How are River, Niko, Mr. James, and Harpreet all heroes in their own way? How does each—even Harpreet—play a different role as part of the family unit?

## **NATE MACAVOY, MONSTER HUNTER**

by Bruce Hale

- Why is Nate convinced that Jeremy is missing for real, and not just with his dad? Why doesn't anyone believe him?
- What do you think Nate and Jeremy see in the photo at the end of the story?

## **BOYS WILL BE BOYS**

by James Patterson

- Why do Will and Fred consider keeping quiet about what they saw when the officer questions the driver? Why do they end up telling what they know—all of it?
- What does the story's title, "Boys Will Be Boys," mean? What is Officer Kronsky's "nice surprise," and why is she surprised by it?

## **GHOST VISION GLASSES**

by Patrick Carman

- Kyle lists three things that money can primarily be used for: candy, action figures, and weird stuff. If you were to make your own similar list, which three things would you put on it?
- How is Scotty Vincent a bully, and how does he get his comeuppance?

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**M. T. ANDERSON** is the author of *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing*, winner of the National Book Award, and *Feed*, a National Book Award finalist. He lives in Boston.

**PATRICK CARMAN** is the author of the bestselling *Skeleton Creek*, *The Land of Elyon*, and *Atherton* series and *Dark Eden*, a teen thriller combined with downloadable apps. He lives in Washington.

**GENNIFER CHOLDENKO** is the author of the Newbery Honor Book *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. She recently published *No Passengers Beyond This Point* and lives in San Francisco.

**MATT DE LA PEÑA** is the author of several ALA Best Books for Young Adults, including *Ball Don't Lie* and *Mexican Whiteboy*. His most recent novel is *I Will Save You*. He lives in Brooklyn.

**MARGARET PETERSON HADDIX** is the author of over thirty books for kids, including the bestselling *Missing* series and the *Shadow Children* series. She lives in Columbus, Ohio.

**BRUCE HALE** has written and illustrated over twenty-five books for kids, including the Edgar Award–nominated *Chet Gecko* mystery series. He lives in Santa Barbara, California.

**BRETT HELQUIST** has illustrated some of the most iconic children's books of the last fifteen years, including Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events* and *Chasing Vermeer*. He lives in Brooklyn.

**ANTHONY HOROWITZ** is the bestselling author of the *Alex Rider* series and a television screenwriter. He lives in England.

**JARRETT J. KROSOCZKA** won a Children's Choice Book Award for his *Lunch Lady* graphic novels. His *Platypus Police Squad* series will be available in 2012. He lives outside Boston.

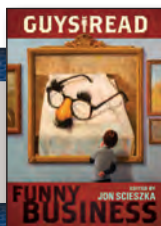
**WALTER DEAN MYERS** is a children's book legend, having won countless awards and accolades. His recent novel *Lockdown* was a National Book Award finalist. He lives in Jersey City, New Jersey.

**JAMES PATTERSON** is one of the bestselling writers of all time. His *Maximum Ride* and *Daniel X* series for kids won him a Children's Choice Author of the Year Award.

**JON SCIESZKA** is the author of some of the funniest books for kids, including the Caldecott Honor Book *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. The first National Ambassador for Children's Literature, he lives in Brooklyn.

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