Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Rodrick Rules

By

Jeff Kinney

A Novel Study
by Nat Reed
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Rodrick Rules
By Jeff Kinney

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About the author: Nat Reed has been a member of the teaching profession for more than 30 years. He is presently a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program. For more information on his work and literature, please visit the websites www.reedpublications.org and www.novelstudies.org.

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This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on a part of a chapter (Month) of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* and is comprised of four different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Activities

**Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)**

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to:

a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
c) compare and contrast two characters;
d) determine how characters . . . respond to challenges;
e) drawing inferences from the text;
f) determining a theme of a story . . . and many others.

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A portfolio cover is included (p.7) so that students may organize their work and keep it all in one place. A Student Checklist is also included (p.6) so that a record of completed work may be recorded.

**Themes** which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include humor, growing up, family, making difficult choices, friendship and loyalty, peer pressure and conformity.
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Rodrick Rules

List of Skills

**Vocabulary Development**

1. Locating descriptive words / phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homophones
3. Identifying / creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *foreshadowing*.
7. Use of expressions
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create *similes*
14. Identify *analogies*.

**Setting Activities**

1. Summarize the details of a setting

**Plot Activities**

1. Complete a *sequence chart* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Predict upcoming events
4. Complete a 5 *W’s Chart*
5. Identify the climax of the novel.
6. Create a synopsis

**Character Activities**

1. Determine character traits
2. Relating personal experiences

**Creative and Critical Thinking**

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Complete an Observation Chart
5. Conduct an interview
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review

**Art Activities**

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Create a comic strip
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Rodrick Rules

Synopsis

Greg Heffley is trying desperately to make his mark at school and cope with the perils of living in the highly demanding and competitive world of Middle School. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*, continues the misadventures of Greg as he copes with swimming lessons; spending the weekend with his grandfather; covering up for his brother, Rodrick; and tolerating the peculiar tastes of his best friend, Rowley.

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* continues the humorous and engaging story of an imaginative con-artist, and some of the hard-won lessons he learns as he charts a troubled course through middle school.

A complete summary can be found on the website [www.bookrags.com/notes/aiw/SUM.html](http://www.bookrags.com/notes/aiw/SUM.html)

Author Biography

*Jeff Kinney*

Jeffrey Patrick Kinney was born in College Park, Maryland in 1971. Jeff Kinney is a full-time online game designer, as well as the author of the immensely popular *Wimpy Kid* books. Jeff also developed the *Poptropica* website for kids ([http://www.poptropica.com/](http://www.poptropica.com/)).

Jeff Kinney attended the University of Maryland at College Park in the early 1990s. It was here that he developed the comic strip *Igdoof* for the college newspaper. Although he was unsuccessful in getting his comic strip syndicated, his writing career got off to a tremendous start with the publication of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* in 2007. Since then he has had three additional novels in the series published as well as a do-it-yourself book.

In 2009 Kinney was named one of *Time* magazine’s 100 "Most Influential People".
### Diary of a Wimpy Kid
#### Rodrick Rules

**Student Checklist**

**Student Name:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Grade / Level</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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Before you read the chapter:

How might it be a disadvantage to be a wimp in elementary or middle school.

Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>disaster</th>
<th>destined</th>
<th>potential</th>
<th>concept</th>
<th>quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>skimpy</td>
<td>hypothermia</td>
<td>civil</td>
<td>decoy</td>
<td>critical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. When Sara fell through the ice on the river she almost perished from ____________.

2. It is ___________ that everyone on board the ship has a life jacket handy.

3. The collapse of the tower was the worse ___________ the townspeople ever experienced.

4. The two duck hunters placed a life-like ____________ out on the pond and then retreated to the shoreline.

5. I did not expect the meal to be so ______________, considering the price I paid.

6. My grandmother predicted that I was ____________ for greatness.
7. All of the scouts agree that Tommy had the most ____________ of all the players on the ball team.

8. "If you can't be ______________ to your brother, Ramona, then please remain quiet," her mother suggested.

9. The ___________ that all men are created equal is important to consider.

10. The company based its success on manufacturing products of high ____________.

Questions

1. Describe the reaction of Greg's brother, Rodrick, to Greg writing in a journal.

2. What is the setting for much of what happens on the opening day (Monday) of Greg's diary?

3. How did Greg get off to a rather rocky start at his first swimming meet?

4. Greg ended up winning the ________________ award at the banquet because there was a ________ minute difference between his ________ race and ________ one.

5. How did the Water Jazz class make things difficult for the swim team?

6. Why did Greg walk home from swimming instead of taking a ride home with Rodrick?
7. How was Greg affected by the Cheese Touch and what did he do about it.

8. What was Greg's philosophy about how kids became the smartest in the class. Give your reaction to this theory.

9. During the month of September the author introduces a number of different characters. In the chart below give one important piece of information about each person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Greg</th>
<th>Rodrick</th>
<th>Mr. Huff</th>
<th>Manny</th>
<th>Greg's Mom</th>
<th>Rowley</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

10. What made Greg think that he could get a seventeen-year-old girl for his pen-pal?

11. How had Greg's dad accidentally embarrassed Rodrick when he was a sophomore?

12. Describe how each boy got into the *bad books* of their friend's father:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Greg</th>
<th>Rowley</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

10
**Language Activities**

**A.** Choose **ten** words from this section with two or more **syllables**. Indicate the syllables by drawing a line between each syllable. **Example:** some / time.

- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________

**B.** The author, Jeff Kinney, enjoys using a variety of literary devices in this novel. One such device is **onomatopoeia**. An example is “GAAAH!” - the sound Greg makes when sliding around in the back of Rodrick's van. Define **onomatopoeia**, and think of one more example of this device.

- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________
- __________________________

**Bonus: Find two more examples of onomatopoeia from this section.**

- __________________________
- __________________________

**C.** Place the following words from this chapter in **alphabetical order**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>last</th>
<th>1.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>locked</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>land</td>
<td>3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>lanes</td>
<td>4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>live</td>
<td>5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>late</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>locker</td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>life</td>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>like</td>
<td>9.</td>
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<tr>
<td>letters</td>
<td>10.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
D. Interview at least three other students for their views of this novel so far. (Try to get both positive and negative comments.) Write a brief report putting these views together.