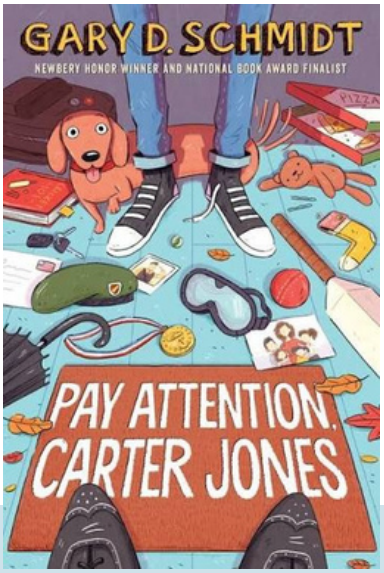
EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!



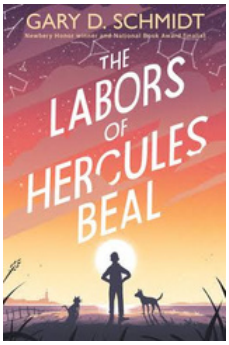


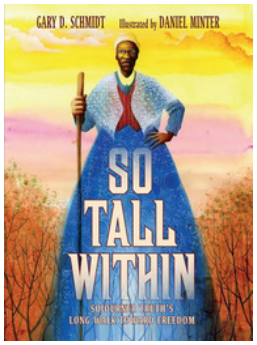
Meet Gary Schmidt

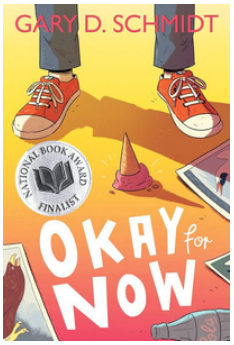
Gary Schmidt is a prolific author of children's and young adult literature. Many of his books are set in or inspired by Maine. He attended Gordon College in Massachusetts and earned a Ph.D. in medieval literature from the University of Illinois. Schmidt is a professor of English at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He lives on a 150-year-old farm in Alto, Michigan, where he splits wood, plants gardens, writes, and feeds the wild cats that stop by.

Read more from Gary:

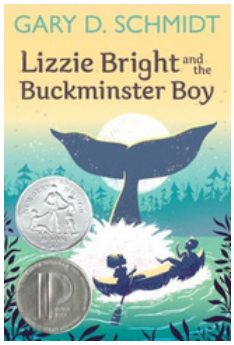
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EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE



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EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

LET'S BEGIN!

Before reading the book...

Use the Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

- What is going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)
- What more can we find?

Watch this VIDEO for a quick VTS demo. If you have any questions please email Alison Johnson at Island Readers & Writers, ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org.

LET'S BUILD BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE!

Before reading, explore vocabulary through discussion and activities to help students build understanding and prepare for the text.

- family
- grief
- forgiveness
- responsibility
- friendship
- perseverance
- butler
- habit
- accomplishment
- cricket



Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain

Try These Activities!

- **Act-it-Out-** Act it out.
- **Quick Sketch**- Draw the meaning.
- **Guess the Word**- Give clues.
- **Vocabulary Hunt-**Find words in text.
- **Word Map-** Connect ideas.
- **Word Builder-** Draw • Define • Use.

STANDARDS

Covered throughout this Explore More Book Guide:

SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

SL.3. Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.

R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.

R.5. Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.

R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

R.8. Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.

R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.

R.10. Evaluate the argument and specific claims in various texts.

LET'S TALK!

Discussion Questions

Read the first chapter carefully. Pay attention to the descriptions and details that help introduce the characters and setting.

1. Who is telling the story? What do we learn about the narrator in the first chapter?
2. How many characters are introduced in the first chapter? Who are they, and what do we learn about each one?
3. What key details do we learn about the setting?
4. How would you feel if a butler suddenly appeared at your doorstep? What would you say? What words would you use to describe your butler? What words does Gary Schmidt use to describe the butler in the story?

Work with a classmate to discuss at least <u>three</u> of the questions below. Take turns writing down the responses.
Go deeper by asking each other, "What did you read or hear that made you say that?"

1. On the first day, the Butler tells each child, "Make good decisions and remember who you are." What do you think he means? How might this advice apply to Carter? (pp. 13–14)

2. The Butler tells Carter, "Isn't it fortunate that habits may be changed with discipline." He is referring to walking and cleaning up after the dog, but does this idea apply to other parts of the story? Do you think Carter changes? (p. 21)

3. Why do you think the Butler lets Carter drive the eggplant?

4. How does Carter's relationship with his father's hat, goggles, and photograph change throughout the book? Why do you think the Butler asks him to write about these objects? (p. 33)

5. In Chapter 11, the Butler asks Carter how he liked the Turner exhibition and he replies, "He doesn't look like he's following the rules, and like he wants to tell us that everything has to leave us some time or another." What do you think Carter means? Why do the paintings make him want to hold the marble in his pocket more tightly? (p. 81)

6. In Chapter 21, Annie asks Carter if their father is not coming back because of something they did. Carter answers, "Not something you did." What do you think he means? Does he blame someone else? (p. 155)

7. Chapter 28 is titled "Milestones." Read the italicized passage beneath the title. How does it connect to the story? What do you think the author means by the statement, "Accomplishment of all stripes, in cricket as in life, is worthy of honor"? (p. 207)

What lessons does Carter learn through cricket? How do those lessons connect to challenges in his everyday life?

How does the Butler help Carter and his family?

LET'S CREATE!

Book-Inspired Art

1. Why do you think Gary Schmidt uses cricket terms as the headings for each chapter? Use words that relate to your own favorite sport and create a new set of chapter headings?



2. In the story, Carter is asked to write a one-paragraph description of his room that reveals something about him through connotation rather than direct statements, p.31. Try it yourself! Choose a few possessions from your room and think about what they reveal about your personality, interests, or experiences. Write a paragraph describing your room without directly explaining what these things say about you. Then, find or draw images to create a collage frame to put around your writing.

3. Plan an imaginary trip to the Blue Mountains of Australia. Which areas would you like to visit? How long would you stay, and what activities would you want to do? Research the equipment, clothing, food, and camping gear you might need. Create an itinerary and include a map of the places you would visit. Get started by visiting the Blue Mountains National Park WEBSITE.

4. Research the snakes of Australia. How many species are there? Which are venomous? What should someone do if they encounter a snake, or if someone is bitten? Use reliable sources, including this NATIONAL PARKS BLOG, to gather information. Write an article as a journalist for your local newspaper. Include drawings or images to illustrate your report.



Eastern Brown Snake - Australian Zoo
Wikimedia Commons, Pubilc Domain

Create Character Trading Cards

Choose a favorite character from *Pay Attention, Carter Jones* and create a cricket (baseball) style trading card. Include the following:

- **Character Name:** Who is featured on your card?
- **Illustration**: Draw a picture of the character.
- **Personal Connection:** Why do you like this character? Do you relate to them? Who do they remind you of?

Then, choose at least <u>two</u> details from the categories below to add to your card:

Description

- Appearance: What does the character look like?
- Personality: How would you describe the character?

Insights

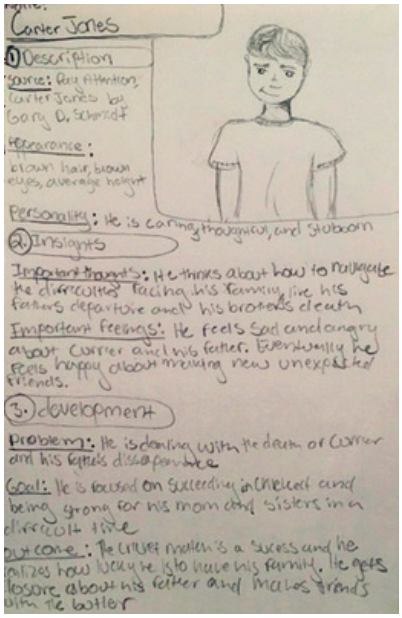
- Thoughts: What is on the character's mind?
- Feelings: What emotions does the character experience?

Character Development

- Problem: What challenge does the character face?
- Goal: What does the character want to happen?
- Outcome: Does the character reach their goal? What happens?

Memorable Moments

- Quote: What is a memorable statement the character makes?
- Action: What does the character do that catches your attention?
- Interaction: How does the character get along with others?



LET'S DIVE DEEPER!

Explore More

- <u>WATCH</u> this video to learn the basics of playing cricket.

- Learn more about author Gary D. Schmidt and what inspired him to write *Pay Attention, Carter Jones.* Read a brief <u>INTERVIEW</u> where he discusses the book, the Butler, and why he chose cricket for the story.

LET'S READ MORE!

Text to Text Connections

