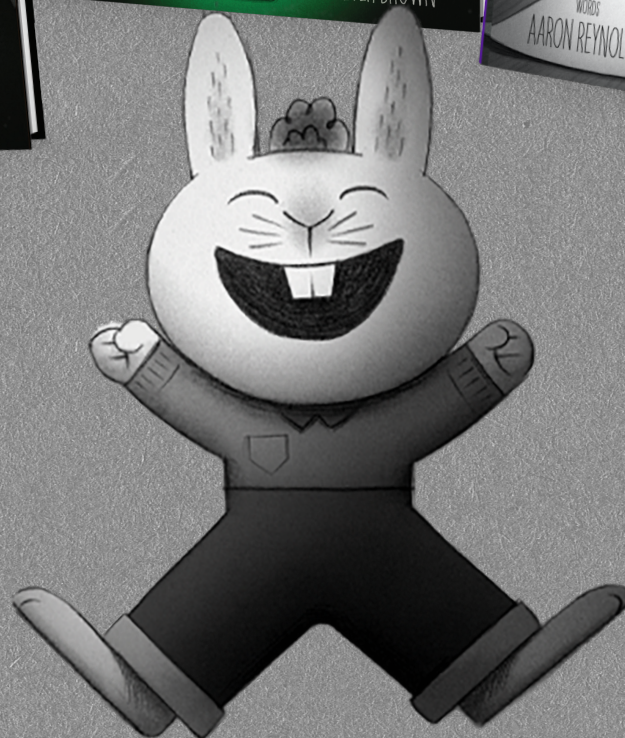
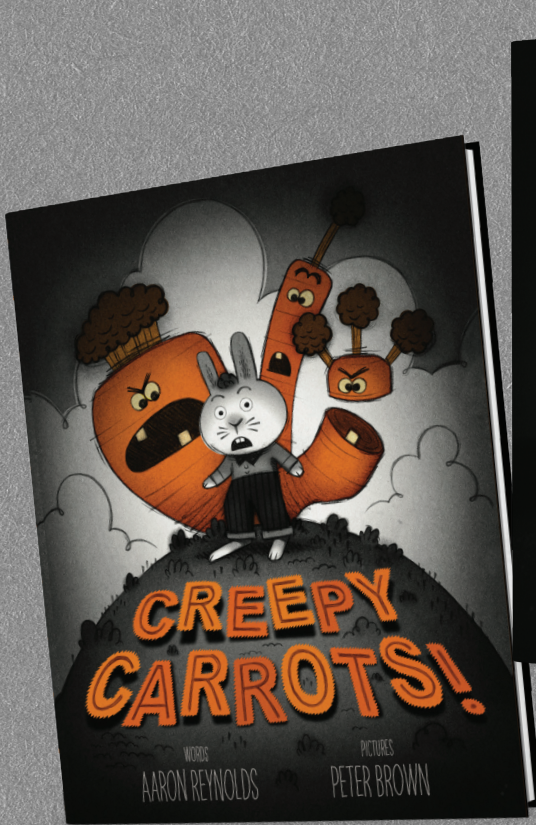
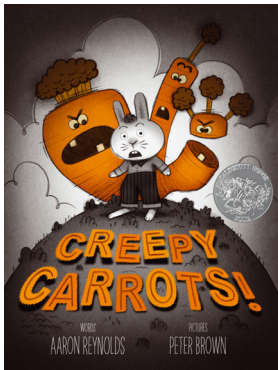


A Teacher's Guide for
The Creepy Tales!
series

By Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Peter Brown





Creepy Carrots

About the Book

Jasper Rabbit loves carrots—especially Crackenhopper Field carrots. He eats them on the way to school, going to Little League, and even walking home. Until the day the carrots start following him.... Or are they?



Discussion Questions

1. What tone does the author create in *Creepy Carrots!*? How does the black, white, and orange color scheme contribute to that?
2. When does Jasper first notice something strange?
3. Does Jasper's mom see the carrots? Why or why not?
4. What was Jasper's plan to keep the carrots in Crackenhopper Field? Did the plan work?
5. How do you think the carrots felt in the beginning, middle, and end of the book?
6. Do you think the carrots taught Jasper a lesson? Why or why not?

Give students a closer look at how Peter Brown created the art for *Creepy Carrots!* with this video. Discuss some of the techniques he used and the influences from movies and TV shows.

Peter Brown Process Video:

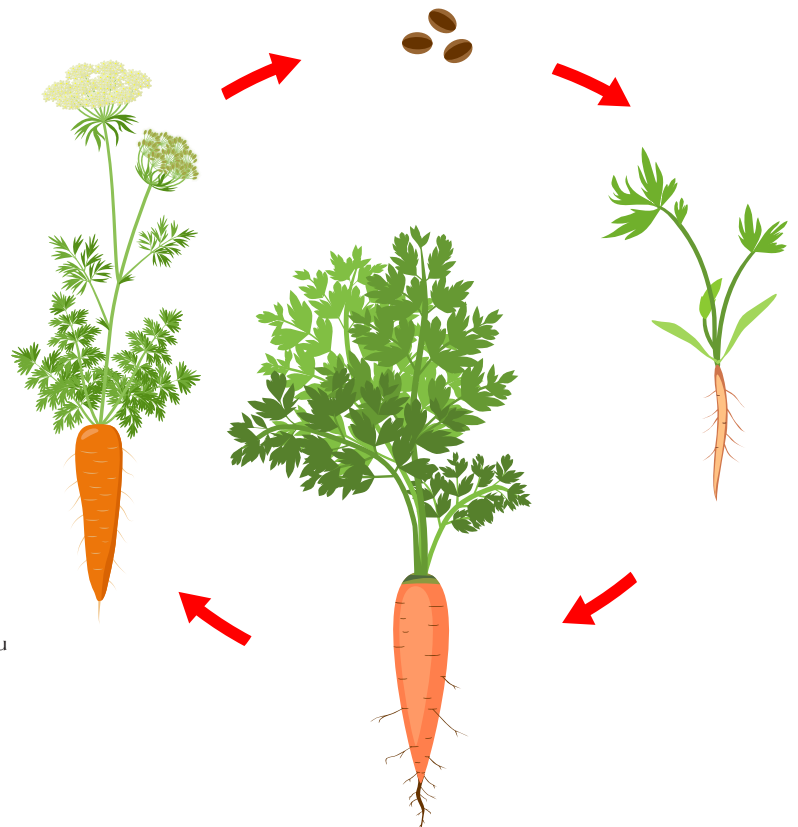
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ag0LPVYplu4>

Extension Activities

1. Learn to draw a creepy carrot!
Prepare drawing utensils and paper for each student, and set up the following video to project or pre-watch the video and go through the steps for students on a projection or board at the front of the class.
"How to Draw Creepy Carrot!" Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRsjylzlpzc&t=4s>
 2. Learn about the carrot life cycle, and plant a container carrot garden in your classroom.
 3. Become a carrot expert by reading up on carrot fun facts from the Carrot Museum.
<http://www.carrotmuseum.co.uk/index.html>
- Would you make an instrument out of a carrot or another vegetable? What instrument would you make, and what kind of music would you play in a vegetable band?
 - Check out the trivia section of the Carrot Museum website, and have students pick their favorite trivia fact. As an extension, have your students draw their favorite carrot trivia fact.

Other Books on This Theme for Your Class Library

- *Rot, the Cutest in the World!* written and illustrated by Ben Clanton
- *Rah, Rah, Radishes!* written and illustrated by April Pulley Sayre
- *The Garden We Share* by Zoë Tucker and illustrated by Julianna Swaney
- *Try It! How Frieda Caplan Changed the Way We Eat* by Mara Rockliff and illustrated by Giselle Potter





Creepy Pair of Underwear!

About the Book

Jasper Rabbit is not a little bunny anymore! He's not afraid of the dark, and he's definitely not afraid of something as silly as underwear. But when the lights go out, suddenly his new big rabbit underwear glows in the dark—a ghoulish, greenish glow. If Jasper didn't know any better, he'd say his undies were a little, well, creepy. Jasper isn't scared, he's just done with creepy underwear. But after trying everything to get rid of them, they keep coming back!



Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Peter Brown only uses a few colors in this book? Would the book be different if there were more colors? How?
2. How did Jasper's feelings about his underwear change throughout the story?
3. Was it easy for Jasper to solve his problem in the story? What did he do? Did it work?
4. Jasper becomes afraid of the underwear in this book. What is something you used to be afraid of? How did you overcome your fear?
5. Were you surprised by the ending of this story? Why or why not?

Extension Activities

1. Draw and write about a time when you were scared of something. What did you do to overcome your fears? Did it work? Have your feelings changed over time?

2. Foster a growth mindset with a class discussion about stretch mistakes and sloppy mistakes.

What kind of mistakes did Jasper make?

What are examples of stretch and sloppy mistakes we make?

Examine why mistakes are okay and how we can learn from them here:

<https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/42874/why-understanding-these-four-types-of-mistakes-can-help-us-learn>

Other Creepy Cute Books for Your Class Library

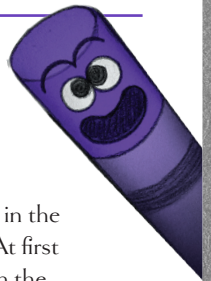
- *Zombie in Love* by Kelly DiPucchio and illustrated by Scott Campbell
- *The Spider and the Fly* by Mary Howitt and illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi
- *Skelly the Skeleton Girl* written and illustrated by Jimmy Pickering



Creepy Crayon!

About the Book

Jasper Rabbit has a problem: he is NOT doing well in school. But one day, he finds a crayon lying in the gutter. Somehow it looks happy to see him and wants to help with Jasper's homework dilemma. At first Jasper is excited, because suddenly he's doing great, and he doesn't have to do any work! But then the crayon starts acting weird, and it wants to do everything, not just homework. Now Jasper must find a way to get rid of it before it takes over his life!



Discussion Questions

1. How does Peter Brown use the color purple in the story?
2. Does the crayon help Jasper? How?
3. What does Jasper do to stop the crayon? Does it work?
4. What does the author mean when he says, "Things were spinning out of control!"
5. Choose an image of Jasper from the story and discuss three thoughts you think he might be having.
6. What did you think about the ending of this story? How is the ending of this story different from the other Creepy Tales! stories?

Extension Activities

Continue the Creepy Tales! adventures by writing the plot for the next book in this series.

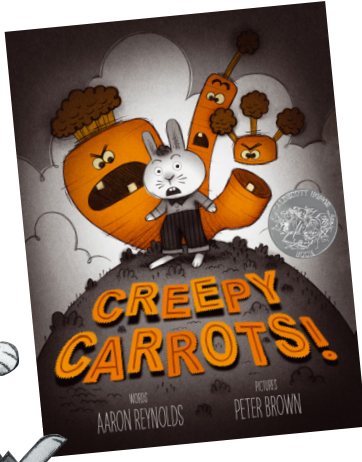
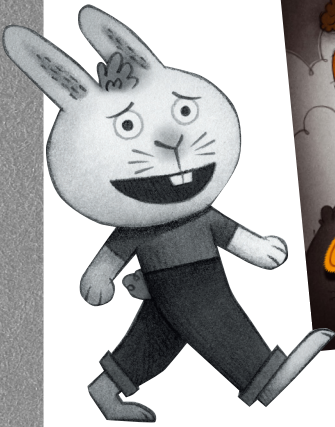
Who is Elliot Pelican?

What will happen when he meets the Creepy Crayon?

Students can draft and workshop their stories and share with the class.

Consider These books for Your Class Library

- *I Will Not Eat You* by Adam Lehrhaupt and illustrated by Scott Magoon
- *I Don't Draw, I Color!* by Adam Lehrhaupt and illustrated by Felicita Sala
- *Warning: Do Not Open This Book!* by Adam Lehrhaupt and illustrated by Matthew Forsythe
- *Crayon* written and illustrated by Simon Rickerty



Classroom Activities

Students will love reading about Jasper Rabbit and all his creepy encounters. Consider these classroom activities after reading *Creepy Carrots!*, *Creepy Pair of Underwear!*, and *Creepy Crayon!* by Aaron Reynolds and Peter Brown.

1. Host a “Creepy” Classroom Puppet Show!

Students create simple puppets and practice retelling the story in their own words using the prompts *First*, *Next*, *Then*, and *Last*.

Challenge students to include dialogue in their writing and to practice using quotation marks.

Resource for easy puppet making:

<https://missmaryliberry.com/2014/08/03/puppets-an-early-literacy-tool/>

Use a template like this to help students organize and write their script.

First (Scene 1)

Next (Scene 2)

Then (Scene 3)

Last (Scene 4)

Classroom Activities

2. Take a deep dive into character motivations with an “iceberg” character study.

Using an iceberg image, facilitate a conversation about the differences between the character’s “outside” traits (traits we can see, like the tip of the iceberg) and “inside” traits (traits we cannot see, like what is below the surface).

Create one “iceberg” as a shared writing activity, and then have students create their own iceberg on a different character.

Differentiate this activity for younger students by discussing inside and outside traits using a character trait map. (image below)

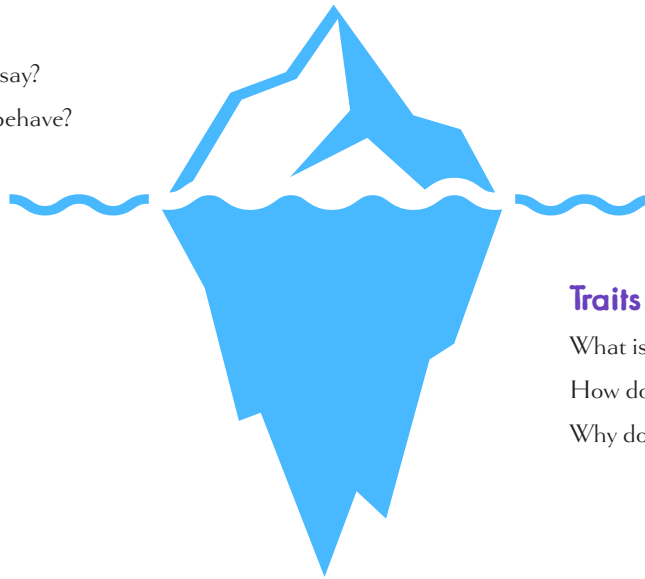
Iceberg character motivation graphic organizer

Traits we can see:

Physical appearance:

What does the character say?

How does the character behave?



Traits we can't see:

What is the character thinking?

How does the character feel?

Why do they act this way?

Outside:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Inside:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Classroom Activities

3. Creepy Tales! Series STEM Challenge

Students devise their own strategy to stop the Carrots, Underwear, or Crayon from returning to Jasper. Use these general steps to help students design their projects.

- **ASK:** What is the problem you are trying to solve?
- **IMAGINE** the best way to solve it by brainstorming ideas and making a sketch.
Include the materials you will need, the basic design of your idea, and what possible challenges you might have with this design.
- **PLAN** by making a detailed drawing of your design and explaining how it will work.
- **CREATE** by building your project (if possible).
- **EXPERIMENT** by testing out your project (if possible).
- **IMPROVE** on it by analyzing what you like about your design and what aspects could be improved.

4. Fear Not!

Use the Creepy Tales! books to launch a class discussion about fears your students may have. If students are shy to name their fears, have them write one on a piece of paper (anonymously) and put them in a hat. Students can take turns pulling fears out of the hat, discussing them along with strategies for overcoming them.

This book list and articles may help.

<https://childmind.org/article/help-children-manage-fears/>
<https://www.weareteachers.com/help-students-with-anxiety/>

5. How It's Made

Pair each Creepy Tales! book with a nonfiction book or short video to give students a deeper, more technical understanding of the item. Encourage active listening by posing questions (details to listen for) before viewing.

Pair *Creepy Carrots!* with this video about carrots from the Farm to Trail series on the *Eat Happy Project* YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pf74rrnluLk>

Questions

- What part of the carrot plant do we eat?
- What are other root vegetables?
- When are carrots planted? When are they harvested?
- What happens to the carrots at the factory?

Pair *Creepy Pair of Underwear!* with this Mystery Doug video about why some things glow in the dark:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sZlysEQWxw>

Questions

- What happens inside a glow stick to make it glow?
- What organisms do we find in nature that are luminescent?
- How is phosphorescent different from luminescent?

Pair *Creepy Crayon!* with a video about how Crayola crayons are made:

For Younger Kids

ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/959d7d86-78fa-44e1-91a1-dcfa163ce7a0/how-people-make-crayons/?student=true&focus=true

Questions after watching this “Crayola tour with Victoria” video:

- How do crayons start out?
- What gives crayons their shape?
- What does the label machine do?
- How do the crayons get packaged into boxes?

OR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oV-f14UurZI>

For Older Students

- What is America’s favorite color?
- How many crayons does Crayola make each day? Each year?
- What are crayons made of?
- How many Crayola colors are there?

6. Create a “Creepy” Word Wall

Use the vocabulary from the Creepy Tales! books (*creeping, sinister, jittery, ghoulish, terrified, scared*) as a starting point to build an interactive word wall. Encourage students to come up with other vocabulary words that fit this theme (*mysterious, eerie, frightening, alarming, chilling*) and illustrate the words with a drawing on a sticky note. Reward students for using the words in their writing or discussions.

