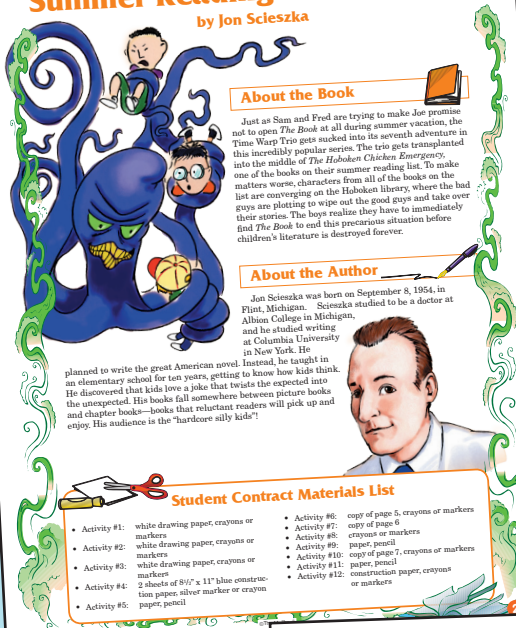


# Summer Reading Is Killing Me!

by Jon Scieszka



## About the Book

Just as Sam and Fred are trying to make Joe promise not to open *The Book* at all during summer vacation, Joe and Time Warp Trio gets sucked into its seventh adventure in the middle of *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency*, into the middle of the Hoboken library, where the bad guys are converging on the Hoboken library, where the bad guys are plotting to wipe out the good guys and take over the Hoboken library. The boys realize they have to immediately find *The Book* to end this precarious situation before children's literature is destroyed forever.

## About the Author

Jon Scieszka was born on September 8, 1954, in Flint, Michigan. Scieszka studied to be a doctor at Albion College in Michigan, and he studied writing at Columbia University in New York. He

planned to write the great American novel. Instead, he taught in an elementary school for ten years, getting to know how kids think. He discovered that kids love a joke that twists the expected into the unexpected. His books fall somewhere between picture books and chapter books—books that reluctant readers will pick up and enjoy. His audience is the “hardcore silly kids”!



## Student Contract Materials List

- Activity #1: white drawing paper, crayons or markers
- Activity #2: white drawing paper, crayons or markers
- Activity #3: white drawing paper, crayons or markers
- Activity #4: 2 sheets of 9 1/2" x 11" blue construction paper, silver marker or crayon
- Activity #5: paper, pencil
- Activity #6: copy of page 6, crayons or markers
- Activity #7: copy of page 6, crayons or markers
- Activity #8: paper, pencil
- Activity #9: copy of page 7, crayons or markers
- Activity #10: paper, pencil
- Activity #11: construction paper, crayons or markers
- Activity #12: construction paper, crayons or markers

# Summer Reading Is Killing Me!

Independent Contract

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of activities to be completed: \_\_\_\_\_

<h3>Language Arts</h3> <p>“What building has the most stories?” It’s not the Empire State Building! It’s the library! Sam, the joke and riddle brainiac, shows off his talent when he quizzes his audience with some of his jokes. Reread the jokes he shares in chapters 1, 2, and 7. Then make a joke book in which you write and illustrate your ten favorite jokes.</p>	<h3>Writing</h3> <p>Sam, Joe, and Fred are quite overwhelmed when they see some of the characters from books they have read. Imagine seeing Frog and Toad, or Charlotte from <i>Charlotte’s Web</i>. Which character would you most like to meet? Create a comic strip about a meeting you have with your favorite storybook character. Include all of the details about this exciting meeting.</p>
<h3>Art</h3> <p>In chapter 6, Joe compares seeing all the storybook characters wandering around to the way a person usually visualizes a character in his mind when reading about him. Have you ever read a story in which a character is described so well that you form a mental picture of that character without seeing any illustrations? Draw a picture of a character you have visualized. On the back of the paper, write the character’s name and the title of the story in which he belongs. Then ask several classmates to guess who it is.</p>	<h3>Social Studies</h3> <p>A book that Joe’s uncle gives him is the source of the boys’ adventures. Whenever they open <i>The Book</i>, they go places—from the Stone Age to the future. There is magic inside the dark blue book with strange silver writing on it. All books are magical because they take you on journeys in your imagination. Write an imaginative story about time travel. Then make a special book cover for it, modeling the cover of <i>The Book</i>. Use a silver crayon or marker to decorate and title it.</p>
<h3>Writing</h3> <p>A key element in this zany book is the summer reading list. It is the source of all the characters that come to the Hoboken library. Had Fred not stuck it in <i>The Book</i>, all the crazy events that take place would never have happened. It should not come as a surprise, then, that the list itself is a bit zany. Carefully reread the summer reading list on the last four pages of <i>Summer Reading Is Killing Me!</i> to see what surprises you discover. Then come up with your own summer reading list of at least ten titles that you would highly recommend. Include a few surprises of your own!</p>	<h3>Language Arts</h3> <p>In chapter 9, Joe, Sam, and Fred encounter a girl. They are not sure who she is because they haven’t read any girls’ books. Perhaps they believe that all girls’ books are boring. Many readers would strongly disagree with this view of girls’ books, but there might be other types of books they think are boring. Obtain a copy of page 8 from your teacher to find out whether some categories of books are enjoyed more than others.</p>

# Summer Reading Is Killing Me!

Independent Contract

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of activities to be completed: \_\_\_\_\_

<h3>Language Arts</h3> <p>Jon Scieszka, author of <i>Summer Reading Is Killing Me!</i>, cleverly incorporates characters from the books on the trio’s summer reading list into the story. The boys can identify some of the characters quite easily, but others are unknown to them. How many could you identify if you were in their place? Obtain a copy of page 6 from your teacher to test your knowledge of books, authors, and characters!</p>	<h3>Writing</h3> <p>This latest Time Warp Trio adventure looks dramatically different from the others. It is the first time that characters from many books come together in one place. Joe quickly realizes the danger of the situation. What if an evil character from one story decides to destroy that would be created by a character from one book finding his or her way into another book? Use your imagination and write a mixed-up character story with illustrations.</p>
<h3>Writing</h3> <p>The Hoboken Public Library is the scene of a near disaster the day the book characters escape from their books and gather to change the whole landscape of literature. Mr. Bear, the fuzzy teddy bear looking for a new image, is trying to eliminate all of the nice characters working quietly in a back corner of the library. You are an eyewitness to the entire event. Write a front-page news article describing what you saw and heard in the library that day. Give your article an attention-getting title.</p>	<h3>Critical Thinking</h3> <p>Fred is crazy about street skating. In chapter 2, when Sam tries to convince Fred and Joe to get their summer reading done right away, Fred counters with all the skating moves he wants to practice. Although Fred doesn’t get to practice his skating moves exactly as he thinks he does a “one-eighty monkey plant to an alley-oop fishbrain into a mistyflip rocket air” to grab <i>The Book</i> and save the day. If this sounds like a foreign language, obtain a copy of page 7 to master skating lingo.</p>
<h3>Writing</h3> <p>In <i>Summer Reading Is Killing Me!</i> all of the characters from the summer reading list have come together in the Hoboken Public Library. The story is told from the viewpoint of Joe, Sam, and Fred, who are trying to get the characters back in their own books. But how would this story be described from the viewpoint of one of the storybook characters? Rewrite one of the scenes from the book from the point of view of one of the storybook characters, such as Mr. Bear, Long John Silver, or Eeyore.</p>	<h3>Art</h3> <p>In chapter 8, the reader learns that the teddy bear is the mastermind behind this terrible plot. The bear, Mr. Bear to you, is tired of being cute, cuddly, and dumb. He wants respect, so he tries to take over and make himself and the bad characters the new main characters of the well-known books. Choose four of your favorite books. How would they change if Mr. Bear became the main character of each book? Make a poster illustrating the four new book covers, showing Mr. Bear as the new main character of each.</p>

## Reader’s Choice Survey

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Reading Is Killing Me!

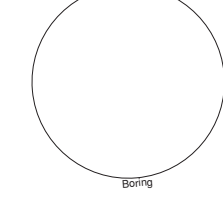
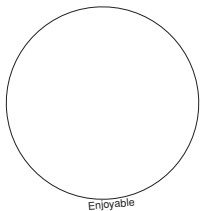
Find out what types of books interest your friends and family with this reader’s choice survey.

Directions: Read the types of books listed in the table below. Then survey your friends and family to find out if they think each type of book is enjoyable or boring. Make a tally mark in the appropriate column for each response. Then, in the last two columns, calculate the total for each row.

Book Types	Enjoyable	Boring	Enjoyable Total	Boring Total
Humor				
Fantasy				
Mystery				
Adventure				
Historical Fiction				
Realistic Fiction				
Science Fiction				

Use the totals from above to complete the pie graphs below.

Directions: Create a pie graph by dividing the first circle below into appropriate divisions according to your enjoyable totals above. Color the pie so that each section is a different color. Then lightly color the corresponding box above to match. Create a second pie graph by repeating the directions for your boring totals.



## Literary IQ

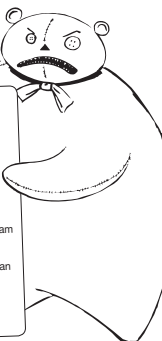
Test your knowledge of titles, authors, and characters.

Fill in as many as Joe, Sam, and Fred?

Read the list of titles and characters in the boxes below. In the spaces provided, write the book title and character next to the corresponding author.

Title	Character
<i>The Trunchbull</i>	
Henrietta	
Red Queen	
Captain Ahab	
Long John Silver	
Mr. McGregor	
Sheriff of Nottingham	
White Witch	
Headless Horseman	
Injun Joe	
Eeyore	
Cyclops	

Author	Title	Character
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____



## Street-Skating Lingo

Become a master of street-skating lingo by solving the crossword puzzle below. Each word in the box will be used once.

stride	cadence	toe-flicking	fakie
scissor	crossover	drifting	glide

Across

- Skating behind another skater to lessen the amount of wind resistance.
- Pushing off with your toe at the end of a stride.
- To place one skate directly in front of the other.
- A pushing of one leg behind the other in order to turn quickly and speed up while turning.

Down

- The speed (rate) of a skater’s strides.
- A prefix added to a term for a trick and meaning “to do the trick backward.”
- To roll on one skate while the other skate recovers from the stride.
- To push outward to the side to increase speed.

Picture of what you think these eight street-skating tricks look like.

1. plant	2. mistyflip rocket air	3. alley-oop fishbrain	4. glide
5. _____	6. drifting	7. crossover	8. scissor

## “Summer Reading Is Killing Me!” Answer Keys

Title	Character
<i>The Witch</i> , and <i>the</i>	White Witch
<i>of Peter Rabbit</i>	Mr. McGregor
<i>of Sleepy Hollow</i>	Sheriff of Nottingham
	Headless Horseman
	The Trunchbull
	Captain Ahab
	Long John Silver
	Red Queen
	Eeyore
	Henrietta
	Injun Joe
	Cyclops

Summer Reading is Killing has been added to your Cart. Add to Cart. Turn on 1-Click ordering for this browser. Other Sellers on Amazon. Add to Cart. \$8.48 + Free Shipping. Sold by: Wordery Specialist. I read this book and didn't find it particularly engaging, a bit disjointed and overall not entertaining in the least. Not all kids like graphic images or writing and it seems somewhat inappropriate for this age group. Read more. 3 people found this helpful. Helpful. Not Helpful. |Comment|Report abuse.