

al capone does my shirts

al capone does my shirts is a captivating historical fiction novel that has engaged readers of all ages with its unique setting, memorable characters, and exploration of complex themes. Set against the backdrop of Alcatraz Island during the 1930s, this book by Gennifer Choldenko offers a glimpse into the life of Moose Flanagan, whose family moves to the infamous prison island. Throughout the story, readers encounter the challenges Moose faces, particularly in caring for his sister Natalie, who has special needs. The novel skillfully weaves in references to Al Capone, blending historical facts with imaginative storytelling. In this comprehensive article, we will delve into the plot summary, character analysis, major themes, historical context, and critical reception of “al capone does my shirts.” Whether you are a student, educator, or literature enthusiast, this guide provides valuable insights and essential information to deepen your understanding of the book and its cultural significance.

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Plot Summary of al capone does my shirts

The story of “al capone does my shirts” unfolds in 1935, as Moose Flanagan moves with his family to Alcatraz Island, where his father has accepted a job as a prison guard and electrician. The family’s relocation is driven by the hope that Moose’s sister, Natalie, can attend a specialized school in San Francisco designed for children with developmental challenges. Moose grapples with the responsibilities of being an older sibling, the complexities of his new environment, and the pressure to help his family adjust.

Alcatraz is not just a prison; it’s also home to the families of prison staff. Moose quickly befriends other children on the island, including Piper Williams, the warden’s clever and mischievous daughter. Piper devises a money-making scheme involving the prison’s most notorious inmate, Al Capone, claiming that Capone can launder shirts for a fee. The children’s antics lead to humorous and tense situations as they attempt to navigate life among criminals while dealing with their personal struggles.

As the story progresses, Moose’s efforts to help Natalie are met with obstacles, including

misunderstandings and institutional challenges. The Flanagan family's journey is one of resilience, hope, and the quest for acceptance. The narrative skillfully combines real historical elements with fictional drama, culminating in Moose's bold attempt to seek help from Al Capone himself.

Main Characters and Their Roles

"al capone does my shirts" features a diverse cast of characters, each contributing to the novel's rich tapestry. Their interactions and personal growth form the backbone of the story.

Moose Flanagan

Moose is the protagonist, a thoughtful and responsible twelve-year-old boy. He struggles to balance his duty to his family with his desire for normalcy and friendship. Moose's relationship with his sister Natalie is central to the narrative, showcasing his compassion and determination.

Natalie Flanagan

Natalie is Moose's older sister, whose developmental disorder presents unique challenges for the family. Her portrayal is nuanced, reflecting both her vulnerabilities and her talents. Natalie's journey is a significant theme, as the family strives to find the right support and acceptance for her.

Piper Williams

Piper is the warden's daughter, known for her charisma and knack for trouble. She is a catalyst for many of the island's adventures, including the infamous shirt-washing scheme. Piper's actions often blur the line between rebellion and leadership.

Other Notable Characters

- Theresa Mattaman: A friendly and supportive island resident who becomes one of Moose's closest friends.
- Annie: An athletic and competitive girl who joins Moose and his friends in their adventures.
- Mr. and Mrs. Flanagan: Moose's parents, whose dedication to their children is

evident throughout the novel.

- Warden Williams: Piper's father and the authority figure on Alcatraz, responsible for maintaining order on the island.

Themes and Motifs in al capone does my shirts

The novel explores a range of themes that resonate with readers and contribute to its emotional depth. These themes are interwoven with motifs that enrich the narrative and provide layers of meaning.

Family and Responsibility

Family is a central theme in "al capone does my shirts." Moose's sense of duty toward Natalie and his parents highlights the complexities of familial love and sacrifice. The novel examines how families adapt to challenges, especially when caring for a child with special needs.

Acceptance and Inclusion

Natalie's experiences reflect broader societal issues of acceptance and inclusion. The story advocates for understanding and embracing differences, emphasizing the importance of compassion and advocacy for those with disabilities.

Friendship and Loyalty

Moose's relationships with the other children on Alcatraz demonstrate the value of friendship and loyalty. The bonds formed among the island's residents help Moose navigate his new life and cope with adversity.

Historical Reality vs. Imagination

By blending real-life figures like Al Capone with fictional events, the novel explores the tension between historical reality and imagination. This motif encourages readers to reflect on how history is interpreted and reimagined through storytelling.

Historical Context: Alcatraz and Al Capone

“al capone does my shirts” is grounded in the rich historical context of Alcatraz Island and the infamous gangster Al Capone. The setting provides authenticity and intrigue, immersing readers in the atmosphere of 1930s America.

Life on Alcatraz Island

Alcatraz was not only a maximum-security prison but also a community for the families of prison staff. Children living on the island experienced an unusual childhood, marked by strict rules and proximity to notorious criminals. The novel’s depiction of daily life on Alcatraz is informed by historical research, capturing the uniqueness of this environment.

Al Capone’s Legacy

Al Capone, one of America’s most notorious gangsters, was incarcerated on Alcatraz from 1934 to 1939. His presence looms large throughout the book, symbolizing both danger and fascination. The fictionalized accounts of Capone’s interactions with the island’s residents add a layer of excitement and mystery.

Special Education in the 1930s

The story also sheds light on the challenges faced by families seeking appropriate educational resources for children with disabilities during the 1930s. Moose’s family’s efforts to find a school for Natalie reflect broader social issues and the limited understanding of special education at the time.

Critical Reception and Awards

Since its publication in 2004, “al capone does my shirts” has received widespread acclaim for its engaging narrative, well-developed characters, and sensitive portrayal of complex issues. The book has been recognized with multiple awards and nominations, solidifying its place in contemporary children's literature.

- 2005 Newbery Honor Book: A prestigious recognition for outstanding contributions to children's literature.
- ALA Notable Children's Book: Selected by the American Library Association for its literary excellence.
- California Young Reader Medal: Honored for its popularity and impact among young

readers.

- School Library Journal Best Book of the Year: Acknowledged for its quality and relevance.

Critics have praised the novel for its authentic voice, historical accuracy, and ability to address challenging topics with warmth and humor. “al capone does my shirts” remains a favorite in classrooms and libraries, inspiring discussions about history, disability, and family dynamics.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main plot of “al capone does my shirts”?

A: The novel follows Moose Flanagan, a boy who moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 with his family. Moose navigates life as the sibling of Natalie, who has special needs, while adapting to the challenges of living among the families of prison staff and notorious inmates like Al Capone.

Q: Who is the author of “al capone does my shirts”?

A: “al capone does my shirts” was written by Gennifer Choldenko, an acclaimed American author known for her contributions to middle-grade and young adult fiction.

Q: What are the major themes in the book?

A: Major themes include family responsibility, acceptance and inclusion, friendship, loyalty, and the interplay between historical fact and fiction. The story also touches on the challenges of special education in the 1930s.

Q: Is “al capone does my shirts” based on a true story?

A: While the setting and some characters, such as Al Capone, are based on real historical figures and events, the main story and characters are fictional creations by the author.

Q: What awards has “al capone does my shirts” won?

A: The novel received the 2005 Newbery Honor, was named an ALA Notable Children’s Book, awarded the California Young Reader Medal, and selected as a School Library Journal Best Book of the Year.

Q: How does the book portray Alcatraz Island?

A: The book provides a detailed depiction of life on Alcatraz Island, emphasizing its dual role as a prison and a community for families. It explores the everyday experiences of children living in this unique environment.

Q: What age group is “al capone does my shirts” best suited for?

A: The novel is primarily targeted toward middle-grade readers, typically ages 10–14, but its themes and storytelling can appeal to older readers and adults as well.

Q: Are there sequels to “al capone does my shirts”?

A: Yes, Gennifer Choldenko has written sequels, including “Al Capone Shines My Shoes” and “Al Capone Does My Homework,” which continue Moose Flanagan’s story on Alcatraz.

Q: How does the novel address disability and special education?

A: The book sensitively portrays Natalie’s struggles and the family’s efforts to secure appropriate educational opportunities. It highlights both the challenges and the importance of advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

Q: Why is the book titled “al capone does my shirts”?

A: The title refers to a scheme devised by the children on Alcatraz, in which they claim that Al Capone launders shirts for profit. The phrase symbolizes the intersection of historical reality and imaginative storytelling throughout the novel.

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Al Capone Does My Shirts: A Deeper Dive into the Novel

and its Legacy

Have you ever wondered what life might be like working for one of history's most notorious gangsters? "Al Capone Does My Shirts," by Gennifer Choldenko, isn't just a children's book; it's a poignant exploration of family, resilience, and finding hope in the most unexpected places. This post delves into the novel, examining its themes, characters, and lasting impact, providing you with a comprehensive overview of this compelling story and its relevance today. We'll uncover why this book resonates with readers of all ages and explore its enduring appeal beyond the captivating title.

A Glimpse into Alcatraz: Setting the Scene

The novel's setting, Alcatraz Island, immediately establishes a powerful atmosphere. It's not just a prison; it's a symbol of isolation, confinement, and the stark realities of a life lived in the shadow of infamy. Choldenko masterfully paints a picture of the island's imposing presence, the chilling sounds of the sea crashing against the rocks, and the ever-present sense of history. This setting isn't merely a backdrop; it's a crucial character, influencing the mood and the characters' experiences.

The Harsh Reality of Alcatraz Life:

The author doesn't shy away from depicting the harsh conditions of life on Alcatraz. We see the prisoners, stripped of their identities, reduced to numbers, struggling to maintain their humanity amidst the relentless oppression of their surroundings. This realistic portrayal underscores the weight of the narrative, ensuring readers understand the gravity of the situation. The detailed descriptions of the prison environment contribute significantly to the overall atmosphere and emotional impact of the story.

Introducing the Characters: More Than Just Names

"Al Capone Does My Shirts" features a cast of memorable characters, each contributing to the narrative's richness and complexity.

Piper's Journey: Finding Strength in Adversity

The protagonist, Piper, is a young girl forced to relocate to Alcatraz with her family after her father takes a job at the prison laundry. Piper's journey is one of adaptation and resilience. Initially

overwhelmed by the strange and unsettling environment, she gradually learns to navigate the complexities of her new life, making unexpected connections and demonstrating remarkable strength in the face of adversity. Her growth throughout the story is a compelling aspect of the novel.

The Complex Figure of Al Capone: Beyond the Myth

Al Capone, though a peripheral character, casts a long shadow over the narrative. The novel doesn't glorify him but presents a more nuanced portrayal, hinting at the vulnerability and complexities hidden beneath the infamous gangster persona. This perspective challenges preconceived notions and adds a layer of intrigue to the story.

The Supporting Cast: Adding Depth to the Narrative

The other characters – Piper's family members, fellow laundry workers, and even the other prisoners – are also meticulously developed, adding depth and realism to the narrative. Each character contributes to the overall story, enriching Piper's experiences and further exploring the themes of the novel.

Themes Explored: Family, Resilience, and Finding Hope

"Al Capone Does My Shirts" tackles several profound themes that resonate with readers of all ages.

The Power of Family Bonds:

The unwavering love and support within Piper's family is a central theme. Despite the challenging circumstances, their bond remains strong, providing solace and strength in the face of hardship. This emphasis on family reinforces the importance of familial relationships, even amidst adversity.

Resilience in the Face of Adversity:

Piper's resilience throughout her journey serves as an inspiration. She confronts her fears, adapts to new environments, and learns to cope with the challenges she faces. Her story demonstrates the remarkable human capacity for resilience and adaptation.

Finding Hope in Unexpected Places:

Despite the grim setting, the novel offers glimmers of hope and positivity. The unexpected friendships Piper forms, the small acts of kindness she witnesses, and the overall resilience of her family provide a counterpoint to the darkness of Alcatraz. This nuanced portrayal of hope highlights the importance of maintaining optimism even in the most challenging circumstances.

The Enduring Legacy of "Al Capone Does My Shirts"

"Al Capone Does My Shirts" has garnered significant acclaim for its compelling narrative, memorable characters, and exploration of important themes. Its enduring appeal lies in its ability to engage readers while exploring complex social and historical issues in an accessible and relatable manner. The novel serves as a reminder of the importance of empathy, resilience, and the enduring power of the human spirit.

Conclusion

"Al Capone Does My Shirts" is more than just a story about a family living on Alcatraz. It's a captivating narrative that explores themes of family, resilience, and hope, leaving a lasting impression on its readers. The book's ability to blend historical context with a compelling coming-of-age story makes it a worthwhile read for both young readers and adults. Its enduring appeal underscores its timeless themes and the lasting impact of Choldenko's storytelling.

FAQs

1. Is "Al Capone Does My Shirts" appropriate for all age groups? While geared towards middle-grade readers, the book's themes of resilience and facing difficult situations can resonate with adults as well. However, some content might be unsettling for very young children.
2. Is the book historically accurate? The book uses the setting of Alcatraz and the presence of Al Capone as a backdrop. While some historical details are incorporated, it's primarily a fictional story focusing on a family's experience.
3. What makes the book unique? The unique blend of a historical setting, compelling characters, and exploration of relatable themes sets it apart. It avoids simplistic portrayals of historical figures and engages with complex issues in an accessible manner.

4. What are the main lessons learned from the book? The book teaches about the importance of family, resilience in the face of adversity, and finding hope even in difficult circumstances. It also highlights the importance of empathy and understanding different perspectives.

5. Are there any sequels or related books? While there are no direct sequels, Gennifer Choldenko has other novels exploring themes of family, community, and overcoming adversity, which may appeal to readers who enjoyed "Al Capone Does My Shirts."

al capone does my shirts: Al Capone Does My Shirts Gennifer Choldenko, 2006-04-20 The Newbery Honor Book and New York Times Bestseller that is historical fiction with a hint of mystery about living at Alcatraz not as a prisoner, but as a kid meeting some of the most famous criminals in our history. Al Capone Does My Shirts has become an instant classic for all kids to read! Today I moved to Alcatraz, a twelve-acre rock covered with cement, topped with bird turd and surrounded by water. I'm not the only kid who lives here. There are twenty-three other kids who live on the island because their dads work as guards or cooks or doctors or electricians for the prison, like my dad does. And then there are a ton of murderers, rapists, hit men, con men, stickup men, embezzlers, connivers, burglars, kidnappers and maybe even an innocent man or two, though I doubt it. The convicts we have are the kind other prisons don't want. I never knew prisons could be picky, but I guess they can. You get to Alcatraz by being the worst of the worst. Unless you're me. I came here because my mother said I had to. A Newbery Honor Book A New York Times Bestseller A People magazine Best kid's Book An ALA Book for Young Adults An ALA Notable Book A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year A Kirkus Reviews Editor's Choice A San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of the Year A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year A Parents' Choice Silver Honor Book A New York Public Library 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing Selection A New York Public Library Best Book for the Teen Age *Choldenko's pacing is exquisite. . . . [A] great read.—Kirkus Reviews, starred review *Exceptionally atmospheric, fast-paced and memorable!—Publishers Weekly, starred review *The story, told with humor and skill, will fascinate readers.—School Library Journal, starred review Al is the perfect novel for a young guy or moll who digs books by Gordon Korman, or Louis Sachar.—Time Out New York for Kids Funny situations and plot twists abound!—People magazine Heartstopping in some places, heartrending in others, and most of all, it is heartwarming.—San Francisco Chronicle

al capone does my shirts: Al Capone Does My Homework Gennifer Choldenko, 2013-08-20 Alcatraz Island in the 1930s isn't the most normal place to grow up, but it's home for Moose Flanagan, his autistic sister, Natalie, and all the families of the guards. When Moose's dad gets promoted to Associate Warden, despite being an unlikely candidate, it's a big deal. But the cons have a point system for targeting prison employees, and his dad is now in serious danger. After a fire starts in the Flanagan's apartment, Natalie is blamed, and Moose bands with the other kids to track down the possible arsonist. Then Moose gets a cryptic note from the notorious Al Capone himself. Is Capone trying to protect Moose's dad too? If Moose can't figure out what Capone's note means, it may be too late. The last heart-pounding installment in the New York Times bestselling, Newbery Honor-winning Alcatraz trilogy is not to be missed! Superlative historical fiction. -- School Library Journal (starred review for Al Capone Shines My Shoes)

al capone does my shirts: Al Capone Shines My Shoes Gennifer Choldenko, 2013-07-19 Moose's sister has got a place in the perfect school on the mainland, one that will help her deal with her autism. But there is one hitch. She got the place with the help of Al Capone and now it's payback time. Soon Moose is caught up in a terrible cycle of secrets and favours that threatens to destabilise his entire family in this nail-biting, edge-of-your-seat novel.

al capone does my shirts: Al Capone Throws Me a Curve Gennifer Choldenko, 2019-05-21 Return to Al Capone's Alcatraz with Newbery Honor-winning author Gennifer Choldenko in this charming addition to the beloved series about the son of a prison guard. Moose Flanagan's father is

the assistant warden of Alcatraz--the roughest hard-time prison in America--so he and his family live on the island. It's the summer before high school, and he is desperate to get on the baseball team. The problem? The captain will only let Moose and his best friend on if they get him something from Alcatraz--something impossible. Meanwhile, Moose must keep an eye on his fragile older sister, Natalie, as well as the warden's two-faced, danger-loving daughter, Piper, who has a crush on him. He must learn to stand up to people: His parents. The warden. Piper. Even the most dangerous criminal in the country--Al Capone. And then Moose gets the pitch of a lifetime and delivers a hit no one on Alcatraz will ever forget. Don't miss the rest of the Tales from Alcatraz series! Al Capone Does My Shirts Al Capone Shines My Shoes Al Capone Does My Homework

al capone does my shirts: *No Passengers Beyond This Point* Gennifer Choldenko, 2013-07-19 After losing their house to foreclosure, three siblings - India, Finn and Mouse - have less than twenty-four hours to pack their belongings and fly, without their mother, to stay with an uncle in Colorado. But when they land, a mysterious driver meets them at the airport in a pink car adorned with feathers. He has never heard of their Uncle Red. Like Dorothy in Oz, they find themselves in an unknown place, with no idea of how to get home. Time is running out . . .

al capone does my shirts: *One-third Nerd* Gennifer Choldenko, 2019 Ten-year-old Liam and his two younger sisters, precocious third-grader Dakota and second-grader Izzy, who has Down syndrome, face the possibility of losing their beloved dog, Cupcake, who keeps urinating on their apartment's carpet in this funny, fast-paced, and heartfelt story from the Newbery Honor-winning author of the Al Capone series. Illustrations.

al capone does my shirts: *Notes from a Liar and Her Dog* Gennifer Choldenko, 2003-06-23 Living in a family with two perfect sisters and parents who just don't get her, Ant MacPherson finds it easier to lie. After all, the only one who appreciates her is her dog, Pistachio. But when a concerned teacher sees the truth behind Ant's lies, it seems as though she might be in for a change . . .

al capone does my shirts: *Chasing Secrets* Gennifer Choldenko, 2016-07-19 Newbery Honor-winning author Gennifer Choldenko deftly combines humor, tragedy, fascinating historical detail, and a medical mystery in this exuberant new novel. San Francisco, 1900. The Gilded Age. A fantastic time to be alive for lots of people . . . but not thirteen-year-old Lizzie Kennedy, stuck at Miss Barstow's snobby school for girls. Lizzie's secret passion is science, an unsuitable subject for finishing-school girls. Lizzie lives to go on house calls with her physician father. On those visits to his patients, she discovers a hidden dark side of the city—a side that's full of secrets, rats, and rumors of the plague. The newspapers, her powerful uncle, and her beloved papa all deny that the plague has reached San Francisco. So why is the heart of the city under quarantine? Why are angry mobs trying to burn Chinatown to the ground? Why is Noah, the Chinese cook's son, suddenly making Lizzie question everything she has known to be true? Ignoring the rules of race and class, Lizzie and Noah must put the pieces together in a heart-stopping race to save the people they love. Winner of a Los Angeles Public Library FOCAL (Friends of Children and Literature) Award Nominated for: Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award (Middle School division) Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) Readers Award California Library Association's Beatty Award, Eureka List

al capone does my shirts: *If A Tree Falls At Lunch Break* Gennifer Choldenko, 2013-07-26 Kirsten's world is crumbling. Her parents are barely speaking to each other and her 'best-friend' has fallen under the spell of queen bee, Brianna. For Walker the goal is simply to survive in the private school his mother has moved him to because she doesn't want him to mess up with most of the kids in his old school. Then Kirsten discovers something that has a big impact on both her and Walker's lives.

al capone does my shirts: *Stoner & Spaz* Ron Koertge, 2011-04-26 A funny, in-your-face novel starring an unlikely teenage pair - a sheltered cinemaphile with cerebral palsy and the tattooed, straight-talking stoner who steals his heart. For sixteen-year-old Ben Bancroft - a kid with cerebral palsy, no parents, and an overprotective grandmother - the closest thing to happiness is hunkering

alone in the back of the Rialto Theatre watching *Bride of Frankenstein* for the umpteenth time. Of course he waits for the lights to dim before making an entrance, so that his own lurching down the aisle doesn't look like an ad for *Monster Week*. The last person he wants to run into is drugged-up Colleen Minou, resplendent in ripped tights, neon miniskirt, and an impressive array of tattoos. But when Colleen climbs into the seat beside him and rests a woozy head on his shoulder, Ben has that unmistakable feeling that his life is about to change. With unsparing humor and a keen flair for dialogue, Ron Koertge captures the rare repartee between two lonely teenagers on opposite sides of the social divide. It's the tale of a self-deprecating protagonist who learns that kindred spirits can be found for the looking - and that the incentive to follow your passion can be set into motion by something as simple as a human touch.

al capone does my shirts: Paper Wishes Lois Sepahban, 2016-01-05 Ten-year-old Manami did not realize how peaceful her family's life on Bainbridge Island was until the day it all changed. It's 1942, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Manami and her family are Japanese American, which means that the government says they must leave their home by the sea and join other Japanese Americans at a prison camp in the desert. Manami is sad to go, but even worse is that they are going to have to give her and her grandfather's dog, Yujiin, to a neighbor to take care of. Manami decides to sneak Yujiin under her coat and gets as far as the mainland before she is caught and forced to abandon Yujiin. She and her grandfather are devastated, but Manami clings to the hope that somehow Yujiin will find his way to the camp and make her family whole again. It isn't until she finds a way to let go of her guilt that Manami can reclaim the piece of herself that she left behind and accept all that has happened to her family.

al capone does my shirts: Katt vs. Dogg James Patterson, 2019-04-18 The most famous enemies in the animal kingdom finally meet face-to-face... and the fur is about to fly! Oscar is a rowdy pooch who loves everybody - except katts! His family of down-to-earth doggs enjoys giving those snooty katts a hard time. Molly is a pretty kitty who's destined for fame and fortune as an actress. Her family of well-bred katts thinks all doggs are dirty and disgusting! But while on family camping trips, Molly and Oscar get hopelessly lost in the dangerous woods. The only way for them to survive is for the mortal enemies to work together... Yeah, not gonna happen!

al capone does my shirts: Unfolding Jonathan Friesen, 2017-01-31 Jonah wishes he could get the girl, but he's an outcast and she's the most perfect girl he knows. And their futures seemed destined to fork apart: Jonah's physical condition is debilitating, and epileptic seizures fill his life with frustration. Whereas Stormi is seemingly carefree, and navigates life by sensing things before they happen. And her most recent premonition is urging her to leave town. When Stormi begs Jonah for help, he finds himself swept into a dark mystery his small town has been keeping for years. And the answers Stormi needs about her own past could possibly destroy everything Jonah has ever known—including his growing relationship with Stormi herself. Advance praise: "Friesen's story unfolds with so much intrigue, swells with so much heart, I had to keep reading. And the writing? Beautiful!" —Jay Asher, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling novel *Thirteen Reasons Why* "As someone with Tourette Syndrome, I grew up with a condition that others did not understand. It affected the way I was viewed and the way I viewed myself. I applaud Jonathan Friesen for telling a story about overcoming such a challenge in *Unfolding*. Hopefully, this will inspire others growing up with such conditions as well as help everyone else better understand what is involved." —Tim Howard, former US national team goaltender and current goalkeeper for the Colorado Rapids

al capone does my shirts: Smaller and Smaller Circles F.H. Batacan, 2015-08-18 This harrowing mystery, winner of the Philippine National Book Award, follows two Catholic priests on the hunt through Manila for a brutal serial killer Payatas, a 50-acre dump northeast of Manila's Quezon City, is home to thousands of people who live off of what they can scavenge there. It is one of the poorest neighborhoods in a city whose law enforcement is already stretched thin, devoid of forensic resources and rife with corruption. So when the eviscerated bodies of preteen boys begin to appear in the dump heaps, there is no one to seek justice on their behalf. In the rainy summer of 1997, two Jesuit priests take the matter of protecting their flock into their own hands. Father Gus

Saenz is a respected forensic anthropologist, one of the few in the Philippines, and has been tapped by the Director of the National Bureau of Investigations as a backup for police efforts. Together with his protégé, Father Jerome Lucero, a psychologist, Saenz dedicates himself to tracking down the monster preying on these impoverished boys. *Smaller and Smaller Circles*, widely regarded as the first Filipino crime novel, is a poetic masterpiece of literary noir, a sensitive depiction of a time and place, and a fascinating story about the Catholic Church and its place in its devotees' lives.

al capone does my shirts: Ms. Bixby's Last Day John David Anderson, 2016-06-21 New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice A funny, heartwarming, and heartbreaking contemporary story about three boys, one teacher, and a day none of them will ever forget. "Kids won't just love this book. They need it." —Soman Chainani, New York Times bestselling author of *The School for Good and Evil* "Each page crackles as we embark on the greatest adventure of all." —Gary D. Schmidt, Newbery Honor winner and author of *Okay for Now* Everyone knows there are different kinds of teachers. The boring ones, the mean ones, the ones who try too hard, the ones who stopped trying long ago. The ones you'll never remember, and the ones you want to forget. Ms. Bixby is none of these. She's the sort of teacher who makes you feel like school is somehow worthwhile. Who recognizes something in you that sometimes you don't even see in yourself. Who you never want to disappoint. What Ms. Bixby is, is one of a kind. Topher, Brand, and Steve know this better than anyone. And so when Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she won't be able to finish the school year, they come up with a risky plan—more of a quest, really—to give Ms. Bixby the last day she deserves. Through the three very different stories they tell, we begin to understand what Ms. Bixby means to each of them—and what the three of them mean to each other. John David Anderson is the author of *Sidekicked* and *The Dungeoneers*, proven winners with middle grade readers, and Ms. Bixby's Day is no exception.

al capone does my shirts: *Where Is Alcatraz?* Nico Medina, Who HQ, 2016-05-24 Escape from the ordinary and break into Alcatraz, America's most famous prison! The island of Alcatraz has always been a place that's fascinated visitors, from the Native American tribes who believed it was home to evil spirits to the Spanish explorers who discovered the island. In modern times, it was a federal prison for only 29 years, but now draws over a million visitors each year. Learn the history of America's most famous prison, from its initial construction as a fort in the 1800s, to its most famous residents such as Al Capone and Machine Gun Kelly. *Where Is Alcatraz?* also chronicles some of the most exciting escape attempts—even one that involved chipping through stone with spoons and constructing rafts out of raincoats!

al capone does my shirts: Joey Pigza Loses Control Jack Gantos, 2011-07-05 The sequel to *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, a National Book Award Finalist. When Joey Pigza meets his dad for the first time in years, he meets a grown-up version of his old out-of-control self. Carter Pigza is as wired as Joey used to be -- before his stint in special ed, and before he got his new meds. Joey's mom reluctantly agrees that he can stay with his dad for a summer visit, which sends Joey racing with sky-high hopes that he and Carter can finally get to know each other. But as the weeks whirl by, Carter has bigger plans in mind. He decides that just as he has pulled himself up by his own bootstraps, Joey can do the same and become as normal as any kid, without the help of a doctor's prescription. Carter believes Joey can do it and Joey wants to believe him more than anything in the world. Here is the continuation of the acclaimed Joey Pigza story, affirming not only that Joey Pigza is a true original but that it runs in the family. This title has Common Core connections. *Joey Pigza Loses Control* is a 2000 New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of the Year and a 2001 Newbery Honor Book.

al capone does my shirts: *Touch Blue* Cynthia Lord, 2012-11-01 An exquisite second novel from the Newbery Honor author of *RULES!* *TOUCH BLUE*, sure as certain, will touch your heart. The state of Maine plans to shut down her island's schoolhouse, which would force Tess's family to move to the mainland--and Tess to leave the only home she has ever known. Fortunately, the islanders have a plan too: increase the numbers of students by having several families take in foster children. So now Tess and her family are taking a chance on Aaron, a thirteen-year-old trumpet player who

has been bounced from home to home. And Tess needs a plan of her own--and all the luck she can muster. Will Tess's wish come true or will her luck run out? Newbery Honor author Cynthia Lord offers a warm-hearted, humorous, and thoughtful look at what it means to belong--and how lucky we feel when we do. Touch Blue, sure as certain, will touch your heart.

al capone does my shirts: Al Capone Does My Shirts Study Guide and Student Workbook BMI Staff, 2010-09

al capone does my shirts: How to Make Friends with a Giant Gennifer Choldenko, 2006
The other first-graders make fun of the new boy because he is so tall, but his short classmate Jake helps him fit in.

al capone does my shirts: Lila and Hadley Kody Keplinger, 2020-04-07 Can a lost girl save a found dog? Find out in this unforgettable story about discovering true friendship, finding home, and the possibilities of forgiveness. Hadley is angry about a lot of things: Her mom going to jail. Having to move to another state to live with her older sister, Beth, even though they haven't spoken in five years. Leaving her friends and her school behind. And going blind. But then Hadley meets Lila. Lila is an abandoned dog who spends her days just quietly lying around at the local dog rescue where Beth works. She doesn't listen to directions or play with the other dogs or show any interest in people. So when Lila comes and sits by Hadley (which is hardly anything, but it's more than she's done with others), Beth thinks maybe Hadley can help Lila. She tells Hadley they'll bring Lila home as a foster dog and Hadley can teach her to follow commands, walk on a leash, and be more of a people dog so she's ready to be adopted. Only working with Lila is harder than Hadley thought, and so is the mobility training she starts taking to help with her failing vision. It feels like Lila is too stubborn to train and that learning to use a cane is impossible. But unless Hadley can help Lila, she'll never be adopted into a home. If Hadley could just let go of her anger, she might be able to save Lila ... and herself. New York Times bestselling author Kody Keplinger weaves an unforgettable story about discovering true friendship, finding home, and the possibilities of forgiveness.

al capone does my shirts: Standards Based End-of-Book Test for Al Capone Does My Shirts Novel Units, Inc. Staff, 2009

al capone does my shirts: Ian's Walk Laurie Lears, 1998-01-01 Dolly Gray Children's Literature Award 2002 Children's Crown Gallery Award Master List Pick of the Lists, American Bookseller Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 1999, IBBY Julie can't wait to go to the park, But she's not sure she wants to take her little brother, Ian, who has autism. Julie can't wait to go to the park and feed the ducks with her big sister, Tara. There's only one problem. Her little brother, Ian, who has autism, wants to go, too. Ian doesn't have the same reactions to all the sights and sounds that his sisters have, and Julie thinks he looks silly. But when he wanders off on his own, she must try to see the world through his eyes in order to find him.

al capone does my shirts: Frantastic Voyage Jim Benton, 2006 Franny's faithful lab assistant, Igor, has swallowed a doomsday device that is ready to go off at any moment! For any regular scientist, there is only one way to get the device out -- um...make that two ways. But Franny K. Stein is no ordinary scientist, so she concocts her own way to get the device back and save her friend. With her miniaturization machine, Franny shrinks herself to the size of a pin and goes on a field trip like no other...through the body of a ticking time-dog! Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy ride!

al capone does my shirts: The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle (Scholastic Gold) Avi, 2015-10-27 Avi's treasured Newbery Honor Book now in expanded After Words edition! Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle is excited to return home from her school in England to her family in Rhode Island in the summer of 1832. But when the two families she was supposed to travel with mysteriously cancel their trips, Charlotte finds herself the lone passenger on a long sea voyage with a cruel captain and a mutinous crew. Worse yet, soon after stepping aboard the ship, she becomes enmeshed in a conflict between them! What begins as an eagerly anticipated ocean crossing turns into a harrowing journey, where Charlotte gains a villainous enemy . . . and is put on trial for murder! After Words material includes author Q & A, journal writing tips, and other

activities that bring Charlotte's world to life!

al capone does my shirts: The Art of Keeping Cool Janet Taylor Lisle, 2017-05-16 The War At Home Fear permeates the Rhode Island coastal town where Robert, his mother, and sister are living out the war with his paternal grandparents: Fear of Nazi submarines offshore. Fear of Abel Hoffman, a German artist living reclusively outside of town. And for Robert, a more personal fear, of his hot-tempered, controlling grandfather. As Robert watches the townspeople's hostility toward Hoffman build, he worries about his sensitive cousin Elliot's friendship with the artist. And he wonders more and more about the family secret everyone seems to be keeping from him—a secret involving Robert's father, a bomber pilot in Europe. Will Elliot's ability to detach himself from the turmoil around him be enough to sustain him when prejudice and suspicions erupt into violence? And can Robert find his own way to deal with the shocking truth about his family's past?

al capone does my shirts: Thread that Runs So True Jesse Stuart, 1958 A personal narrative of the author's experiences as a teacher in the mountain region of Kentucky. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

al capone does my shirts: Orphan Eleven Gennifer Choldenko, 2021-09-21 For readers who love the circus, and anyone who has dreamed of finding the perfect home, comes an engaging adventure from a Newbery Honor-winning storyteller. Four orphans have escaped from the Home for Friendless Children. One is Lucy, who used to talk and sing, until life at the Home silenced her. The other orphans find work and friends at the circus, but no one will hire a mute girl. Lucy must find her voice or she will be left behind when the circus goes on the rails. Meanwhile, people are searching for Lucy, and her puzzling past is about to catch up with her. This irresistible, heartfelt novel by the master storyteller of the Tales from Alcatraz series is full of marvels and surprises.

al capone does my shirts: The Insomniacs Marit Weisenberg, 2020-09-01 Marit Weisenberg's The Insomniacs is "a deeply beautiful story of yearning, heartache, trauma, and love" (Jennifer Niven, #1 New York Times bestselling author of All the Bright Places) about two teens who discover the secrets of their neighborhood after everyone else turns out the lights. Ingrid can't sleep. She can't remember, either. A competitive diver, seventeen-year-old Ingrid is haunted by what she saw at the pool at a routine meet, before falling off the high dive and waking up concussed. The only thing she remembers about the moment before her dive is locking eyes with Van—her neighbor, former best friend, and forever crush—kissing his girlfriend on the sidelines. But that can't be all. Then one sleepless night, she sees Van out her window...looking right back at her. They begin not sleeping together by night, still ignoring each other at school by day. Ingrid tells herself this is just temporary, but soon, she and Van are up every night piecing her memory back together. As Van works through his own reasons for not being able to sleep, they're both pulled into a mystery that threatens to turn their quiet neighborhood into a darker place than they realized.

al capone does my shirts: Welcome Home, Jellybean Marlene Fanta Shyer, 1988-03-31 Neil Oxley's older sister, Geraldine, is coming home for the first time. After spending most of her life in institutions for the retarded, she is finally going to live with her family and adapt to the real world. Skillful juxtaposition of two seemingly incompatible elements--light humor and the serious theme of mental retardation . . . This is a notable piece.--School Library Journal.

al capone does my shirts: How I Became a Writer and Oggie Learned to Drive Janet Taylor Lisle, 2013-09-10 DIVDIVWinner of Italy's 2006 Premio Andersen Award: A young writer's fantasy world becomes dangerously entangled with reality/divDIV Eleven-year-old Archie and his six-year-old brother, Oggie, are constantly going back and forth between their mother's home and the apartment that their father shares with his girlfriend. To distract Oggie from the turbulence of endlessly bouncing from "Saturn" to "Jupiter" and back again, Archie invents a fantastic story about the Mysterious Mole People. When Oggie's wallet is stolen by kids from a local gang, Archie tries to retrieve it and becomes increasingly ensnared in the gang's dangerous activities. Even worse, he soon finds that his fictitious mole story is merging with the darkness of real life in a very frightening way./div/divDIV/div

al capone does my shirts: Almost Starring Skinnybones Barbara Park, 2011-08-31 If you

thought Junie B. Jones was funny—catch more laughs from New York Times bestselling author Barbara Park with the hilarious sequel to *Skinnybones*—just right for fans of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *I Funny!* And the award goes to...Alex Frankovitch! Roll out the red carpet! Alex “*Skinnybones*” Frankovitch is about to become a HUGE star—in his very own TV commercial! But Alex’s plans for stardom go HORRIBLY wrong. Forget fame and fortune—his friends think he’s a FLOP! And his fan club only has two members—a cat and a drooling toddler. Can Alex figure out another way to get his name in lights? Or is this star going to crash and burn? “*Skinnybones* equals tickled funny bones.” —Booklist “Young Alex ‘*Skinnybones*’ Frankovitch finally gets his chance to become a Big Celebrity...in this amusing follow-up to *Skinnybones*.” —Publishers Weekly “Once again demonstrating her remarkable ear for dialogue, [Barbara Park] also shows a good sense of timing in this fast-paced outing.” —School Library Journal

al capone does my shirts: *Crash* Jerry Spinelli, 2015-04-07 Take a look behind the bully in this modern classic from Newbery medalist Jerry Spinelli that packs a punch. And don't miss the highly anticipated new novel, *Dead Wednesday*. Cocky seventh-grade super-jock Crash Coogan got his nickname the day he used his first football helmet to knock his cousin Bridget flat on her backside. And he has been running over people ever since, especially Penn Webb, the dweeby, vegetarian Quaker kid who lives down the block. Through the eyes of Crash, readers get a rare glimpse into the life of a bully in this unforgettable and beloved story about stereotypes and the surprises life can bring. Readers will devour this humorous glimpse of what jocks are made of. --School Library Journal, starred review

al capone does my shirts: *Dad and the Dinosaur* Gennifer Choldenko, 2017-03-28 A heartwarming father-son story about bravery and facing fears. Nicholas was afraid of the dark outside his door, the bushes where the giant bugs live, and the underside of manhole covers. His dad was not afraid of anything. Nicholas wants to be as brave as his dad, but he needs help. That’s why he needs a dinosaur. After all, dinosaurs like the dark, bugs are nothing to them, and they eat manhole covers for lunch (and everything under them for dinner). With his toy dinosaur, Nicholas can scale tall walls, swim in deep water, even score a goal against the huge goalie everyone calls Gorilla. But when the dinosaur goes missing, everything is scary again. Luckily, his dad knows that even the bravest people can get scared, and it’s okay to ask for help facing your fears. It’s just guy stuff. A family classic in the making from the dream team of Newbery Honor-winner Gennifer Choldenko and Caldecott Medal-winner Dan Santat. □ [Choldenko's] knowing, understated storytelling and Santat’s warm, expressive spreads give full credence to the fears that weigh on kids, as well as the presences—both real and imagined—that can help alleviate them.—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

al capone does my shirts: *Dave at Night* Gail Carson Levine, 2013-08-27 If nobody wants him, that's fine. He'll just take care of himself. When his father dies, Dave knows nothing will ever be the same. And then it happens. Dave lands in an orphanage—the cold and strict Hebrew Home for Boys in Harlem—far from the life he knew on the Lower East Side. But he's not so worried. He knows he'll be okay. He always is. If it doesn't work out, he'll just leave, find a better place to stay. But it's not that simple. Outside the gates of the orphanage, the nighttime streets of Harlem buzz with jazz musicians and swindlers; exclusive parties and mystifying strangers. Inside, another world unfolds, thick with rare friendships and bitter enemies. Perhaps somewhere, among it all, Dave can find a place that feels like home.

al capone does my shirts: *The Thing in the Forest (Storycuts)* A S Byatt, 2011-11-17 Leaves rustle underfoot in a dark wood: two little girls, extracted from their homes in wartime London, encounter something terrifying in a forest. Later when they meet as grown women, they realise the experience has coloured their lives. A dark tale about the nature of stories themselves. Part of the Storycuts series, this short story was originally published in the collection *Little Black Book of Stories*.

al capone does my shirts: *Moonstruck* Gennifer Choldenko, 1997 The horse seriously doubts that the cow will ever be able to jump over the Moon but offers respect and admiration when the

determined bovine accomplishes that feat.

al capone does my shirts: I Am Loved Nikki Giovanni, 2018-01-09 Newbery Award honoree Ashley Bryan has hand-selected a dozen of National Book Award winner Nikki Giovanni's poems to illustrate with his inimitable flourish. There is nothing more important to a child than to feel loved, and this gorgeous gathering of poems written by Nikki Giovanni celebrates exactly that.

Hand-selected by Newbery honoree Ashley Bryan, he has, with his masterful flourish of color, shape, and movement, added a visual layering that drums the most important message of all to young, old, parent, child, grandparent, and friend alike: You are loved. You are loved. You are loved. As a bonus, one page is mirrored, so children reading the book can see exactly who is loved—themselves!

al capone does my shirts: Al Capone Does My Shirts: Study Guide and Student Workbook (Enhanced ebook) , 2011-03

al capone does my shirts: My Sister Annie Bill Dodds, 1996 Dealing with an older sister who has Down's syndrome is the toughest challenge that eleven-year-old Charlie has to face.

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