



Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid

by Megan McDonald

Recommended Ages:

5–8

Summary: Every morning, Judy measures Stink, and it's always the same: three feet, eight inches tall. Even the class newt is growing faster than he is. Then one day, the ruler reads three feet, seven and three-quarters inches! Can it be? Is Stink shrinking?

Discussion Questions: Spoiler alert! Some of the questions contain key elements of the plot. Do not read if you don't want to know what happens!

1. Stink's sister, Judy, makes fun of Stink's height even though she knows he is sensitive about it.
 - A. Have you ever made fun of someone even though you knew it bothered them? How did you feel afterward?
 - B. Has anyone ever made fun of you? How did you handle the situation?
 - C. If you had a chance to deal with one of these situations over again, what would you do differently?
2. Are you the shortest kid in class? The tallest? How does it make you feel?
3. What do you think Stink's mom and dad meant when they left him a note saying: "You're only as short as you feel"? Did their note help Stink?
4. Do you think Stink took good care of the class newt? Have you ever had to take care of a class pet?
5. What is Stink's real name? Do you have a nickname? How did you get the nickname?
6. What did you learn about James Madison? Why do you think Stink liked him so much?
7. Did you ever have to dress up for a school report? Who were you and what did you use for your costume?
8. Do you like to draw or make cartoons? What kinds of things do you like to draw?

Activities:

- In his solo debut, Stink's special style comes through loud and clear—enhanced by a series of comic strips drawn by Stink himself. Write a summary of the book in comic strip form. Younger kids can do this activity by focusing on one or two chapters or by depicting their favorite part of the book.
- Stink's friend Sophie writes an acrostic poem about Dolley Madison. Write an acrostic poem about your own name.
- Stink writes a paper explaining what Presidents' Day means to him. Discuss what readers know about why we celebrate Presidents' Day and what it means to them.