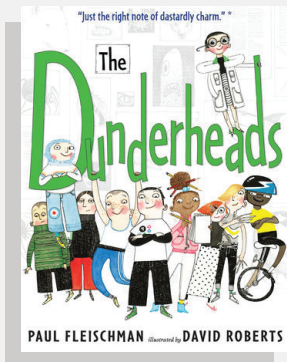


# Book Club for Kids



## ***The Dunderheads*** by Paul Fleischman

**Recommended Ages:**  
7-12



[helenplum.org](http://helenplum.org)

**Summary:** A classroom of students with unique personalities plan to outwit their mean teacher, Miss Breakbone.

**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. Before reading, look at the cover and predict why the book is called *The Dunderheads*. What does "dunderhead" mean?
2. Ask if anyone ever had a teacher they didn't like. Have them name reasons why they like or dislike a teacher. Tell them to listen for reasons why the students might dislike Miss Breakbone.
3. Talk about each of the mistakes Miss Breakbone made to provoke the students into seeking revenge.
4. Discuss how each student had a special talent that helped to make their plan to get Junkyard's cat back a success.
5. What were some of the difficulties the students ran into at Miss Breakbone's house? How did they solve them?
6. Look at the funny illustrations that go along with the story. Which ones were your favorite?
7. Do you think the students were wise to take revenge against Miss Breakbone? Why or why not?
8. Do you think there will be a new punishment when students return to class? If so, what will it be?

### **Activities:**

- Each Dunderhead had a nickname. Review the Dunderhead nicknames and how they got them. Have each reader think about a nickname they have. If they don't have a nickname, ask them to create one and think about why they chose it.
- Give each reader a 3x5 notecard. Have them print their nickname on one side of the card. On the other side of the card, have them write down how they got that name. Have readers share their nicknames, asking others to guess how they got that name.
- Have each reader think about a talent they have. Have them draw a picture of themselves exaggerating their talent and then write a sentence about how their talent could be useful to others.

*Discussion guide adapted from Milwaukee Public Library.*