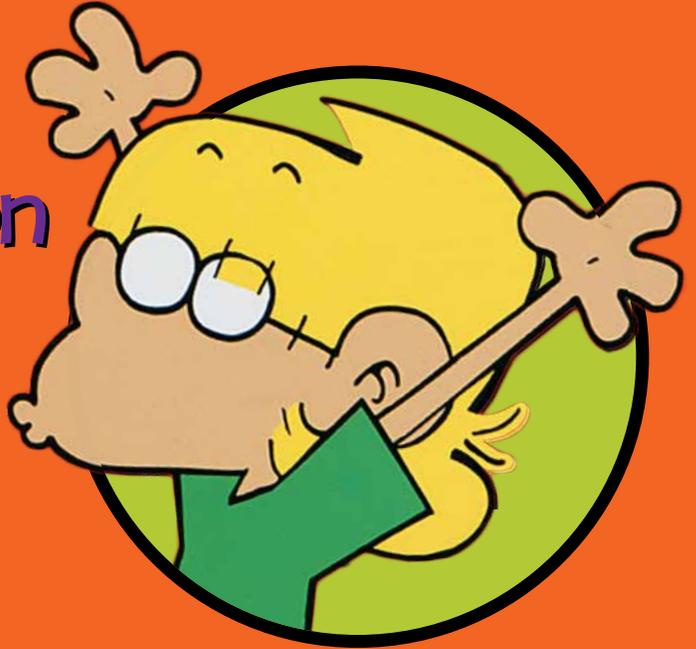


AAAAA!

A Foxtrot Kids Edition

by Bill Amend



TEACHER'S GUIDE

Curriculum Connections and Activity/Discussion Guide



AAAA! A FoxTrot Kids Edition

Bill Amend

AMP! Comics for Kids
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GRADE LEVEL: 3–7

Curriculum Connections

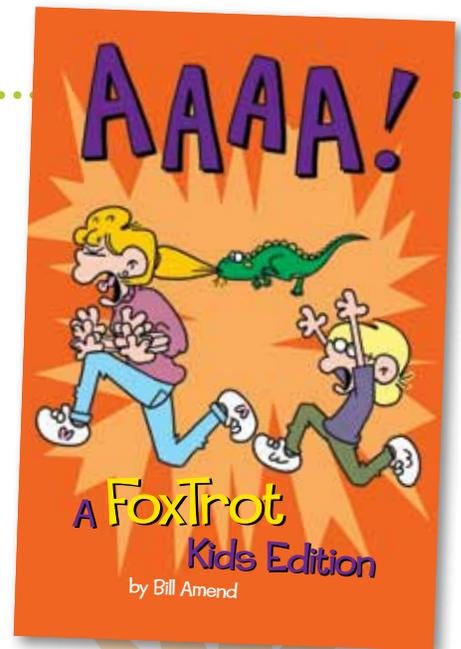
Art * English Language Arts

Thematic Connections

Family Relationships * Sibling Rivalry * Home * School * Friendship

Overview

There's always action in the Fox family. Oldest brother Peter dodges his homework and doesn't stop eating; Paige, the only girl among the siblings, continues her shopaholic, boyfriend-seeking antics; and Jason, the youngest, is geekier than ever, building robots and annoying every member of the family. With three main characters, students have a chance to explore visual characterization.



Art Lesson Plan: Examining Characterization

Objective

Students will read this cartoon book, discuss the book, examine how the artist creates and differentiates characters visually, and create a family comic about their own family.

Discussion Questions

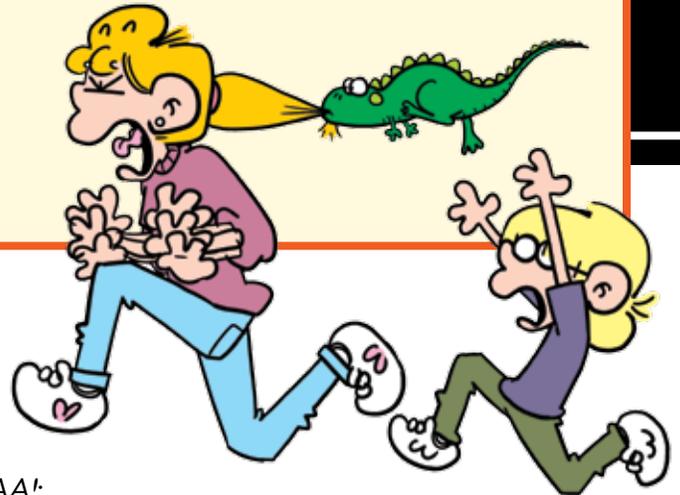
1. The book features three main characters instead of just one. Siblings Peter, Paige, and Jason each have their own personalities and characteristics.
 - * What are some of the ways that the artist gives each character a unique identity? Have students examine the clothing, speech, and private thoughts of each. For example, bookish Jason wears glasses and Peter always wears a baseball cap.
 - * How are their personalities reflected in their actions? For example, Peter is always eating.
2. Another way that the artist creates a character is by showing how others react to him or her.
 - * What do Peter and Paige think about their nerdy little brother, Jason?
 - * How do the Fox parents interact with their children? Do they interact differently with each child?

- ✱ When does the artist rely on exaggeration to emphasize something about a character? For example, on page 163, Jason blows a bubble that is so big he falls down, reinforcing the idea that he is small and scrawny. (See also pages 77, 95, 114, and 136.)

Activity

Ask students to draw their own family story, illustrating each character uniquely.

- ✱ Are the things that happen in students' books believable? Are the things that happen in *AAAA!* believable?
- ✱ Ask students to share how their family is different from the Fox family.
- ✱ What are the "universal themes" in family life? For example: homework, sibling rivalry, getting in trouble with parents.



Other Curriculum Connections

English Language Arts

Writing exercises for students after reading *AAAA!*:

- ✱ Ask students to compare themselves to one of the characters. How are they alike? How are they different?
- ✱ Have students write a description of one of the characters, going beyond the book. What is the character's favorite book? Favorite video game? What music does he or she listen to?
- ✱ Which one of the Fox children would students like to be friends with? Why?
- ✱ Ask students to write a diary entry posing as one of the Fox children.
- ✱ Have students choose a one-page story from the book and rewrite it as a short story, without pictures.

