

the last holiday concert by andrew clements

The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements: A Heartwarming Tale of School, Music, and Friendship

the last holiday concert by andrew clements is a charming children's novel that captures the essence of school life, the importance of honesty, and the challenges of growing up. Andrew Clements, renowned for his engaging storytelling and relatable characters, delivers a story that resonates with young readers, educators, and parents alike. This book dives into the world of middle school students preparing for their final holiday concert, weaving in themes of responsibility, trust, and resilience.

Understanding the Story Behind The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements

At its core, the story revolves around a group of students at Lincoln Elementary School who eagerly anticipate their annual holiday concert. The protagonist, a diligent student and musician, faces an unexpected challenge when a mishap threatens the success of their performance. Through this event, Clements explores how children navigate the complexities of school rules, peer pressure, and personal integrity.

Plot Overview and Key Themes

In "The Last Holiday Concert," the main character is part of the school band and choir, excited about the upcoming show that marks the end of the year. However, when a mistake occurs—whether it's a broken instrument, a miscommunication, or an error in the program—the students must come together to find a solution. This situation prompts discussions about accountability and teamwork.

The novel delves into several significant themes:

- **Honesty and Integrity:** Children learn the value of owning up to mistakes and the importance of truthfulness.
- **Friendship and Support:** The story highlights how friends rally around each other during tough times.
- **Perseverance:** Despite setbacks, the students' determination to make the concert a success shines through.
- **Respect for Authority and Rules:** The narrative portrays the sometimes challenging relationship between students and teachers or school policies.

Why The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements

Resonates with Readers

One of the reasons this book stands out is Andrew Clements' ability to capture the authentic voice of children. His writing style is accessible and engaging, making it easy for young readers to connect with the characters and their experiences.

Relatable Characters and Realistic School Settings

The students in the story are portrayed with depth and realism. Each character has unique traits and reactions, reflecting the diverse personalities found in any school setting. Teachers are shown as both authority figures and mentors, adding layers to the school environment.

Readers appreciate how Clements doesn't shy away from depicting the everyday challenges of school life, such as balancing academic responsibilities with extracurricular activities like music programs. This realistic portrayal helps children feel understood and validated.

Educational Value and Life Lessons

Beyond entertainment, the book serves as an educational tool. Teachers and parents often use "The Last Holiday Concert" to initiate conversations about ethics, cooperation, and problem-solving. The story encourages young readers to think critically about their own choices and the impact those choices have on others.

For educators, the book offers an engaging way to discuss topics like:

- Conflict resolution
- Leadership and responsibility
- The importance of communication in group projects
- Handling disappointment and learning from mistakes

Integrating Music and School Life: A Unique Backdrop

Music plays a central role in "The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements," making it more than just a story about school—it's a celebration of creativity and expression. The depiction of the school band and choir provides insight into how music programs contribute to student development.

The Role of Music in Developing Social Skills

Participating in a concert requires cooperation, timing, and listening—skills that extend beyond music and into everyday social interactions. The book subtly illustrates how working together on a musical performance can teach children discipline and empathy.

Practical Tips for Organizing School Concerts

For readers inspired by the story, or for educators planning their own holiday concerts, here are some helpful tips drawn from the challenges faced in the book:

- **Start Early:** Begin rehearsals well in advance to avoid last-minute stress.
- **Clear Communication:** Ensure all students and staff understand their roles and expectations.
- **Problem-Solving:** Prepare contingency plans for potential issues like missing equipment or schedule conflicts.
- **Encourage Teamwork:** Foster a supportive environment where students help each other.
- **Celebrate Effort:** Recognize progress and participation, not just the final performance.

The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements in the Context of Children's Literature

Andrew Clements is known for crafting stories that revolve around school experiences, and "The Last Holiday Concert" fits perfectly within this niche. It joins other beloved titles like "Frindle" and "The School Story," which highlight the trials and triumphs of childhood.

Contribution to Middle-Grade Fiction

Books like "The Last Holiday Concert" play a vital role in middle-grade fiction by addressing real issues children face in a non-preachy way. The story's focus on a specific event—the holiday concert—makes it relatable and engaging, while the underlying lessons offer depth and substance.

Encouraging Young Readers to Explore Music and Arts

By centering the narrative around a musical event, Clements indirectly promotes the arts as an essential part of education. This encouragement can motivate children to explore their own creative talents and understand the value of cultural activities in their lives.

Where to Find The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew

Clements

For those interested in reading this delightful novel, "The Last Holiday Concert" is widely available:

- **Local Libraries:** Many libraries stock Andrew Clements' books, making it easy to borrow.
- **Bookstores:** Both chain and independent bookstores often carry this popular title.
- **Online Retailers:** Websites like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and others offer physical and digital copies.
- **Educational Resources:** Some schools include this book in their curriculum or recommended reading lists.

Additionally, audiobook versions exist for kids who prefer listening, which can be especially helpful for auditory learners.

Final Thoughts on the Impact of The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements

The last holiday concert by Andrew Clements offers more than just a story about a school event—it provides a window into the everyday challenges and victories of young students. Its themes of honesty, teamwork, and perseverance are timeless lessons that resonate beyond the classroom.

For anyone involved in education or parenting, this book is a valuable resource to foster discussion and reflection. For young readers, it's an engaging narrative that validates their experiences and encourages personal growth.

Through its heartfelt narrative and memorable characters, "The Last Holiday Concert" continues to be a beloved title that inspires kids to embrace responsibility and the joy of working together toward a shared goal.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Last Holiday Concert' by Andrew Clements about?

'The Last Holiday Concert' is a middle-grade novel by Andrew Clements that tells the story of a fifth-grade class preparing for their holiday concert, focusing on themes of friendship, responsibility, and problem-solving.

Who is the main character in 'The Last Holiday Concert'?

The main character is Hart Evans, a fifth-grade student who unexpectedly becomes the music teacher for his class's holiday concert.

What challenges does Hart face in 'The Last Holiday Concert'?

Hart faces the challenge of leading his classmates in the holiday concert after their music teacher leaves, dealing with the pressure of responsibility and managing his peers.

What are the main themes in 'The Last Holiday Concert'?

The book explores themes such as leadership, teamwork, friendship, self-confidence, and the importance of communication.

Is 'The Last Holiday Concert' appropriate for young readers?

Yes, it is appropriate for middle-grade readers, typically ages 8-12, and is often used in classrooms to discuss social skills and problem-solving.

How does Andrew Clements portray the classroom environment in 'The Last Holiday Concert'?

Andrew Clements portrays the classroom as a dynamic and realistic setting where students learn not only academics but also important life skills through collaboration and challenges.

What makes 'The Last Holiday Concert' a popular choice for school reading programs?

'The Last Holiday Concert' is popular because it addresses relatable school experiences, encourages empathy and cooperation, and is written in an engaging and accessible style for young readers.

Additional Resources

The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements: A Thoughtful Exploration of School Life and Integrity

the last holiday concert by andrew clements is a compelling children's novel that delves into the complexities of school dynamics, personal integrity, and the challenges faced by young students. Known for his insightful storytelling and relatable characters, Andrew Clements crafts a narrative that resonates with both young readers and adults alike. This book stands out in the realm of middle-grade literature owing to its authentic portrayal of school experiences and the ethical dilemmas that arise within them.

In-depth Analysis of The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements

Andrew Clements, a prolific author in children's literature, has consistently focused on stories that highlight the everyday lives of schoolchildren. In *The Last Holiday Concert*, he explores themes of leadership, responsibility, and peer pressure through the lens of a school music program. The story centers around a group of fifth graders preparing for their holiday concert, a seemingly straightforward event that becomes complicated when the students face unexpected challenges.

The narrative's strength lies in its realistic depiction of elementary school culture. Unlike many children's books that gloss over the intricacies of school life, Clements does not shy away from portraying the social hierarchies, teacher-student relationships, and the struggle to balance personal desires with group expectations. The protagonist's journey is both engaging and educational, inviting readers to reflect on their own experiences with honesty and fairness.

Character Development and Relatability

One of the most notable aspects of *The Last Holiday Concert* by Andrew Clements is the depth of its character development. The main character, a student leader tasked with managing the concert, is portrayed with nuance and emotional complexity. Through this character's eyes, readers witness the pressures of leadership and the temptation to take shortcuts when faced with adversity.

Clements skillfully captures the voice of young adolescents, making the dialogue and internal conflicts believable and accessible. This authenticity helps the book stand out in the crowded field of children's literature, enhancing its appeal for educators and parents seeking meaningful reading material for their children.

Thematic Elements and Moral Questions

The story raises important moral questions about honesty, accountability, and the consequences of one's actions. The students in the novel grapple with a critical decision that tests their integrity, highlighting the importance of doing what is right even when it is difficult. This ethical dimension provides a valuable teaching moment, which has made the book a popular choice for classroom discussions.

Moreover, the setting of the holiday concert serves as a metaphor for larger societal issues. The tension between individual ambition and collective responsibility is a recurring theme, making the narrative relevant beyond its immediate school context. This layered storytelling enriches the reading experience and encourages deeper analysis.

Comparisons to Other Works by Andrew Clements

When compared to other popular titles by Andrew Clements, such as *Frindle* and *The School Story*,

The Last Holiday Concert maintains the author's hallmark focus on school life but introduces a more mature exploration of ethical dilemmas. While Frindle centers on creativity and language, and The School Story emphasizes collaboration and creativity, The Last Holiday Concert distinctly focuses on leadership challenges and moral courage.

This evolution in thematic depth showcases Clements' versatility as a writer and his ability to address increasingly complex issues suitable for his audience's growing maturity. Readers familiar with his work will appreciate the consistent quality of storytelling, while newcomers will find the novel an accessible entry point into Clements' oeuvre.

Educational Value and Classroom Use

Educators have widely recognized The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements for its potential as a teaching tool. The book's relatable plot and clear moral lessons make it ideal for lessons on character education and social-emotional learning. Teachers often incorporate the novel into curricula to spark conversations about leadership, responsibility, and peer relationships.

- **Discussion Topics:** Integrity, teamwork, conflict resolution
- **Activities:** Role-playing scenarios based on the book's dilemmas
- **Writing Prompts:** Reflective essays on personal experiences with honesty and leadership

This practical application in educational settings underscores the book's enduring relevance and impact.

Pros and Cons of The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements

While largely praised, The Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements is not without critique. A balanced examination includes the following points:

- **Pros:**
 - Authentic portrayal of school life and student perspectives
 - Engaging storyline with relatable characters
 - Strong moral and educational themes
 - Suitable for a wide age range within middle-grade readers

- **Cons:**

- Some readers may find the pacing slow in parts focused on internal conflict
- The resolution might seem predictable for advanced readers
- Limited diversity in character backgrounds, which could affect relatability for some audiences

Despite these minor drawbacks, the overall reception remains positive due to the book's meaningful content and approachable style.

Impact and Legacy of The Last Holiday Concert

Since its publication, *The Last Holiday Concert* by Andrew Clements has become a staple in children's literature collections, particularly in school libraries. Its impact extends beyond entertainment, serving as a catalyst for conversations about ethics and leadership among young readers. The book's realistic portrayal of student life and its emphasis on doing the right thing have earned it a respected place in educational literature.

Moreover, the novel's focus on music and the arts highlights an often underrepresented area in children's fiction, promoting appreciation for creative expression. This aspect adds another layer of relevance, especially in communities where arts education faces challenges.

Overall, *The Last Holiday Concert* by Andrew Clements exemplifies how children's literature can address complex social and personal issues in a manner that is both accessible and thought-provoking. Through its well-crafted narrative and memorable characters, the book continues to inspire readers to contemplate the values of honesty, leadership, and community responsibility.

[The Last Holiday Concert By Andrew Clements](#)

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: The Last Holiday Concert Andrew Clements, 2012-06-12 A moving holiday story from New York Times bestselling author Andrew Clements. For Hart Evans, being the most popular kid in sixth grade has its advantages. Kids look up to him, and all the teachers let him get away with anything -- all the teachers except the chorus director, Mr. Meinert. When Hart's errant rubber band hits Mr. Meinert on the neck during chorus practice, it's the last straw for the chorus director, who's just learned he's about to lose his job due to budget cuts. So he tells the class they can produce the big holiday concert on their own. Or not. It's all up to them. And who gets elected to run the show? The popular Mr. Hart Evans. Hart soon discovers there's a big difference between popularity and leadership, and to his surprise, discovers something else as well -- it's really important to him that this be the best holiday concert ever, and even more

important, that it not be the last.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: *Notebook Connections* Aimee Buckner, 2023-10-10 In *Notebook Connections: Strategies for the Reader's Notebook*, author Aimee Buckner focuses on the reading workshop and how teachers can transform students from couch potato-readers who read and answer basic questions about a text to readers who critically think beyond their reading. Buckner's fourth grade students use reader's notebooks as a place to document their thinking about a text and explore ideas without every entry being judged or graded as evidence of their reading progress. Buckner describes her model as flexible enough for students to respond in a variety of ways yet structured enough to provide explicit instruction. Inside *Notebook Connections*, you'll find: Ways to launch, develop, and fine-tune a reader's notebook program Teacher-guided lessons for each chapter Assessment tips to review student growth and comprehension levels How to select the strategies that work for them and incorporate into the workshop *Notebook Connections* provides a comprehensive model for making reader's notebooks the centerpiece of your reading workshop. Reader's notebooks become a bridge that helps students make connections between ideas, texts, strategies, and their work as readers and writers.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: *Readers' Advisory for Children and 'Tweens* Penny Peck, 2010-04-09 This complete guide to youth readers' advisory covers genres, reading interests, and issues, as well as provides lists of sample titles and recommended reading. Finding children and 'tweens great books to read is still a key library service, even in the age of computers. *Readers' Advisory for Children and 'Tweens* is an easy-to-use, practical guide that will help any library staff member become more comfortable offering this service—and more adept at producing satisfying results. Beginning with basic advice on the readers' advisory interview, the book details how to find books for different age groups, including young children and their parents, emergent readers, transitional readers, and adept readers. It explores genre fiction for 'tweens, nonfiction, poetry and folklore, and graphic novels, and it offers techniques on promoting books and reading. Potentially sensitive issues such as book challenges, assisting English language learners, serving children from various cultures, working with teachers, and helping reluctant readers are addressed, as well. The advice is augmented with handy booklists and descriptions of dozens of websites that aid in youth readers' advisory.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: *Lost and Found* Andrew Clements, 2012-04-17 As two clever boys exploit a clerical oversight, each one discovers new perspectives on selfhood, friendship, and honesty. Identical twins Ray and Jay Grayson are moving to a new town. Again. But at least they'll have each other's company at their new school. Except, on the first day of sixth grade, Ray stays home sick, and Jay quickly discovers a major mistake: No one knows about his brother. Ray's not on the attendance lists and doesn't have a locker, or even a student folder. Jay decides that this lost information could be very...useful. And fun. Maybe even a little dangerous.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: *The Friendship War* Andrew Clements, 2020-01-07 A fabulous school story about fads and friendship from the bestselling author of *Frindle*. This is war. Okay--that's too dramatic. But no matter what this is called, so far I'm winning. And it feels wonderful. Grace and Ellie have been best friends since second grade. Ellie's always right in the center of everything--and Grace is usually happy to be Ellie's sidekick. But what happens when everything changes? This time it's Grace who suddenly has everyone's attention when she accidentally starts a new fad at school. A fad that has first her class, then her grade, and then the entire school collecting and trading and even fighting over . . . buttons?! A fad that might get her in major trouble and could even be the end of Grace and Ellie's friendship. Because Ellie's not used to being one-upped by anybody. There's only one thing for Grace to do. With the help of Hank, the biggest button collector in the 6th grade, she'll have to figure out a way to end the fad once and for all. But once a fad starts, can it be stopped? A fun, charming story about fads and the friendships that outlast them.--Booklist On-point.--Publishers Weekly

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: *The Losers Club* Andrew Clements, 2018-07-10 The beloved New York Times bestselling author of the modern classic *Frindle* celebrates books and

the joy of reading with a new school story to love! Sixth grader Alec can't put a good book down. So when Principal Vance lays down the law—pay attention in class, or else—Alec takes action. He can't lose all his reading time, so he starts a club. A club he intends to be the only member of. After all, reading isn't a team sport, and no one would want to join something called the Losers Club, right? But as more and more kids find their way to Alec's club—including his ex-friend turned bully and the girl Alec is maybe starting to like—Alec notices something. Real life might be messier than his favorite books, but it's just as interesting. With *The Losers Club*, Andrew Clements brings us a new school story that's a love letter to books and to reading and that reminds us that sometimes the best stories are the ones that happen off the page—our own! Winner of the Rhode Island Children's Book Award (2019) Winner of the International Reading Association and Children's Book Council: Children's Choices List (2018) Winner of the Garden State Children's Book Award (2020) 2021 Grand Canyon Reader Award Nominee A Kansas William White Master List Selection (2018 & 2019) An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award Nominee (2019) A California Young Reader Medal Nominee (2019) A Nebraska Golden Sower Award Nominee (2019) A Virginia Young Readers Program Award Nominee (2019) A Minnesota Maud Heart Lovelace Award Nominee (2019) A Missouri Mark Twain Award Nominee (2019) An Oregon Reader's Choice Award Nominee (2019) Praise for *The Losers Club*! * Clements's latest is engaging and funny. A laugh-out-loud first purchase for all middle grade collections, and a solid read-aloud choice for classrooms.—School Library Journal, Starred Review Clements is out to celebrate reading in all its obsessiveness, and...tosses in shout-outs to a passel of other writers. [*The Losers Club*] gives fried bookworms everywhere the satisfaction of knowing that friends may desert them (if only temporarily) but books never will. —The New York Times Praise for Andrew Clements! "Clements is a genius." —The New York Times "We have never read an Andrew Clements book that we haven't loved." —The Washington Post

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: *The Frindle Files* Andrew Clements, 2024-08-27 In the long-awaited follow-up to the beloved classic *Frindle*, a new generation of kids discovers the power of words and imagination – and yes, even screens – to solve a mystery and change their world! "A fitting final work from a master storyteller."—Kirkus Reviews Josh Willet is a techie, a serious gamer. Which is why Josh and his friends can't stand Mr. N's ELA class; it's a strict no-tech zone. Mr. N makes them write everything out by hand, he won't use a Smartboard, and he's obsessed with some hundred-year-old grammar book. Then Josh discovers a secret; turns out Mr. N's been keeping a lot more than technology from his students! Together with his best friend Vanessa, and using all the computer skills they've got, Josh is determined to solve the mystery of Mr. N's past. And maybe get some screentime back, too? Andrew Clements's final novel is a timely one—about the importance of language, the changes that come along with technology (good and bad), and how sometimes you have to challenge what you think you know. Set a whole generation later, this novel can be read on its own or alongside *Frindle* and is destined to become another timeless classic.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: *The Report Card* Andrew Clements, 2012-04-17 Nora Rose Rowley is a genius, but don't tell anyone. Nora's managed to make it to the fifth grade without anyone figuring out that she's not just an ordinary kid, and she wants to keep it that way. But then Nora gets fed up with the importance everyone attaches to test scores and grades, and she purposely brings home a terrible report card just to prove a point. Suddenly the attention she's successfully avoided all her life is focused on her, and her secret is out. And that's when things start to get really complicated....

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: *Children's Book Corner* Judy Bradbury, 2005-08-30 This third book in the four-book *Children's Book Corner* set provides a complete program for those starting a read-aloud program in their classroom, their school or public library, or their home. This volume focuses on read-alouds for children in grades 3 and 4. It provides book lists, book selection ideas, as well as pre-reading, while-reading, and post-reading questions and activities. Parent Pull-Out Pages with helpful tips are provided for duplication. Helpful appendices and an index furnish additional aides to structure a great read-aloud program. New in this book is a

section, Up Close and Personal, of personal notes from children's authors discussing their books featured in the read-aloud section. Also new to the section is Write Away, providing writing tips and activities. This third book in the four-book Children's Book Corner set provides a complete program for those starting a read-aloud program at home, in their classroom or school, or their public library. This volume focuses on read-alouds for children in grades 3 and 4. It provides book lists, book selection ideas, as well as pre-reading, while-reading, and post-reading questions and activities. Parent Pull-Out Pages with helpful tips are provided for duplication. Helpful appendices and an index furnish additional aides to structure a great read-aloud program. New in this book, is a section, Up Close and Personal, of personal notes from children's authors discussing their books featured in the read-aloud section. Also new to the section is Write Away, providing writing tips and activities. Grades 3 and 4.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: Room One Andrew Clements, 2012-05-08 Ted Hammond learns that in a very small town, there's no such thing as an isolated event. And the solution of one mystery is often the beginning of another. Ted Hammond loves a good mystery, and in the spring of his fifth-grade year, he's working on a big one. How can his school in the little town of Plattsford stay open next year if there are going to be only five students? Out here on the Great Plains in western Nebraska, everyone understands that if you lose the school, you lose the town. But the mystery that has Ted's full attention at the moment is about that face, the face he sees in the upper window of the Andersons' house as he rides past on his paper route. The Andersons moved away two years ago, and their old farmhouse is empty, boarded up tight. At least it's supposed to be. A shrinking school in a dying town. A face in the window of an empty house. At first these facts don't seem to be related. But...

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: School Library Journal , 2005

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: Frindle Novel Study Guide Ibbby Resources, 2021-05-26 This Novel Study Guide is for the story Frindle, written by Andrew Clements. This resource includes comprehension and critical thinking questions for each chapter of the novel. Each Chapter section includes: - Vocabulary words with definitions. - Fill-in-the-blank questions. - True or false. - Multiple choice. - Short answer questions. - Answer keys. Also included are word puzzles: - Word Decoder - Word Search - Word Scramble - Crossword - Hangman The resource finishes off with major projects. To see the other titles in our Novel Studies Series, check out our Novel Study Series section of our store. Pair the study of this novel with our Graphic Organizers.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: We Hold These Truths Andrew Clements, 2014-11-11 The Keepers of the School-known to their friends as Ben, Jill, and Robert-have one last chance to save their school before it's torn down to make room for a seaside amusement park. But their nemeses, janitors Lyman and Wally, are just as determined to keep the kids out of the way and the demolition on schedule--

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: No Talking Andrew Clements, 2012-03-13 In No Talking, Andrew Clements portrays a battle of wills between some spunky kids and a creative teacher with the perfect pitch for elementary school life that made Frindle an instant classic. It's boys vs. girls when the noisiest, most talkative, and most competitive fifth graders in history challenge one another to see who can go longer without talking. Teachers and school administrators are in an uproar, until an innovative teacher sees how the kids' experiment can provide a terrific and unique lesson in communication.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: About Average Andrew Clements, 2014-04-29 Includes a reading group guide by author.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: Troublemaker Andrew Clements, 2013-02-05 When his older brother gets in serious trouble, sixth-grader Clay decides to change his own mischief-making ways, but he cannot seem to shake his reputation as a troublemaker.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: The Map Trap Andrew Clements, 2016-07-26 Sixth-grader Alton Barnes loves maps, and when his portfolio of secret maps is stolen, he begins getting notes with orders that he must obey to get the maps back but, with the help of a popular

classmate, he just might succeed before his teacher, principal, or someone else learns he has been studying and mapping things about them.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: We the Children Andrew Clements, 2011-04-19 Sixth-grader Ben Pratt's life is full of changes that he does not like, but when the school janitor gives him a tarnished coin with some old engravings and then dies, Ben is drawn into an effort to keep his school from being destroyed.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: Fear Itself Andrew Clements, 2012-03-20 The second book in this riveting and mysterious six-book series is as action-packed as the first one, culminating in a faceoff between Ben, Jill, and Lyman. "After five bells sound, time to sit down" makes for a good riddle, but Ben and Jill also knows when it's time to stand up...for Oakes School and for themselves. Time is ticking as the countdown to Ben Pratt's school's total demolition continues. Ben has been given a handful of clues that could help them save the school, but they are all written in maritime riddles. "After five bells sound, time to sit down." What the heck does that mean? It's hard to know where to begin when Ben and Jill don't even know what they are looking for. All Lyman, the snake posing as the school janitor, needs to know, though, is that they are looking, and that could mean the end of the 30-million-dollar development deal that pays his salary. (Which, by the way, is MUCH larger than what a typical janitor makes.) As Lyman lurks in the shadows—and sometimes not in the shadows—Ben and Jill have to add another to-do to their list of things to accomplish in the next twenty-one days: (1) Figure out the clues left by past Keepers of the School groups, (2) figure out how these clues will help them save the school, and (3) stay one step ahead of Lyman. That's the mission...which seems, at times, impossible.

the last holiday concert by andrew clements: Gateway to Reading Nancy J. Polette, 2013-04-08 Get young readers hooked on some of the best titles in juvenile literature, ranging from humor to mystery to fantasy, with unusual and effective methods like games. Getting students to want to read is one of the greatest challenges facing middle school teachers and librarians. Determining which are the right books that can spark a child's mental awakening is also difficult. This book from prolific author Nancy Polette furnishes interesting and fun games to pique students' interest in junior novels that are worth reading—carefully selected titles that will contribute to their educational and emotional growth. Gateway to Reading: 250+ Author Games and Booktalks to Motivate Middle Readers is a powerful tool for luring middle-school students away from the distractions of 21st-century media and introducing them to junior or 'tween novels that they won't be able to put down. By presenting children with a challenge to engage their minds—racing to decode book titles, or using their creativity to come up with titles of their own, for example—students are naturally drawn towards reading these books from well-known children's authors.

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