



## **Uncle Shawn and Bill and the Almost Entirely Unplanned Adventure**

By A. L. Kennedy, illustrated by Gemma Correll

### **Activities based on the book**

- Have each child share their favorite character in the book and say why they picked them.
- Ask the children to pretend they're Badger Bill or one of the llamas and have them write a journal entry that describes how they feel at the end of the book.
- Make a list of some of the words found in the book. (Examples: resourceful, spiteful, undignified, boastful, peculiar, sneer, horde, dashing, tripe, wily, mulling, balaclava, grappling, puce) Have the children look up the words and write down the definitions as a group. Discuss the words and definitions together and ask the children to write a list of sentences, each sentence using a different word from the list.
- The llamas write poems about why socks are useful in order to enter the contest for the trip to what they think is a "llama paradise." Have each child write a poem about why socks – or shoes, if they'd prefer – are useful.
- The llamas read an ad for the McGloone farm in *The Lima Llama Informer* that turns out to be a lie. Have each child create and illustrate an ad that warns llamas from coming to the McGloone farm with reasons why they might want to stay away. This could also be done in small groups using crayons or markers and large pieces of craft paper.

**Comparisons with the work of Roald Dahl** – This book has been compared to the work of Roald Dahl. As a group, have the students find examples from the book that are like the following characteristics of Dahl's work and discuss one at a time.

- Main characters who are witty, solitary, independent, persevering, intelligent, resourceful but often powerless (You may need to explain or discuss the definitions of these attributes first.)
- Heroes and heroines finding comfort and support from other, often older allies
- Dastardly, horrific and grotesque villains who get their comeuppance often in dreadful, gruesome ways
- Brutal behavior softened with humor and comic illustrations
- Elaborate schemes
- Colorful, playful, descriptive language
- Use of similes
- An all-knowing narrator, opinionated and conversational, who comments directly to the reader on the action
- Fantasy elements