



Teacher's Guide

101 Ways to Bug Your Friends and Enemies

a novel by Lee Wardlaw

About the Book

Whiz-kid inventor Stephen "Sneeze" Wyatt is back and muddling through middle school in his usual atypical way. Between dodging the golf team bully and puzzling out why girls have him and his friends acting so weird, everyone struggles through the throes of friendship and first love with hilarious results. With a wacky ensemble cast, plenty of zingy banter, and a plot that features a *Cyrano de Bergerac* twist, this third novel in the *101 Ways* series delivers the goods – for friends and enemies, alike!

About the Author

Lee Wardlaw is the author of more than two-dozen books for young readers, including the multi-award-winning novels *101 Ways to Bug Your Parents* and *101 Ways to Bug Your Teacher*. Lee has a B.A. in Education and was a teacher for five years before deciding to write full-time. Recently, she received her AMI Primary Diploma from the Montessori Institute of San Diego, and will earn her M.Ed. from Loyola University Maryland in 2012. Lee has 30+ years experience presenting lively and interactive programs for grades K-8th. She has also taught countless classes and workshops for parents, educators, librarians and aspiring writers. For more info about Lee, her books and 101 ways to bug her, visit: <http://www.leewardlaw.com>.



Author Interview

Q. How easy was it to find your way back to the Gadabout world?

A: Writing is never easy for me. But since I adore the characters in this series, getting the chance to spend time with them again made the job easy-ish. I slipped right back into their mindsets and voices, and felt take-off-your-shoes-and-hang-out comfy, just like when you're reunited with a dear friend you haven't seen in a long time.

This doesn't mean I didn't feel awkward around Sneeze, Hayley and Hiccup. I did – at first. Three months pass between where *101 Ways to Bug Your Teacher* ends and *101 Ways to Bug Your Friends* begins. Three months doesn't sound very long, but in one short summer middle schoolers can go through dramatic physical and psychological changes. They become a tangle of arms and legs and emotions that's confusing and frustrating. Come September, they often don't recognize their friends – or themselves! In order to portray these changes in an authentic, empathetic way, I had to mentally time-travel back to my own adolescence to recall what it felt like. Remembering was a snap. Reliving it? Not so easy. I'd forgotten just how heart wrenching a first crush can be...

Q: Who is your favorite character to write in this series?

A: This is like asking parents with five children: '*Which child is your favorite?*' It's a question I can't answer because each character is like a child – *my* child – and I love each character for the individual he or she is. It's a treat digging through my dog-eared copy of *Merck's Manual* for exotic disorders to satisfy Hiccup's hypochondria. Writing dialogue for Pierre – who speaks wis zee phonee French accent – is just plain fun (and if you can't have fun when you're writing, why bother?). Hayley has a confidence I never had at her age (and still don't!) that allows her to speak her mind without caring a golf ball dimple what other people think. For that, I admire her tremendously. And Sneeze has those all-important Three P's: Passion, Perseverance and Principles – not to mention that mighty, wacky brain. He's also funny. I love funny, so I can't help but enjoy him.

Q: Why did you model your novel after the play *Cyrano de Bergerac*?

A: Edmond Rostand's play features themes that adolescents can easily relate to: first love, unrequited love, the mistaken belief that one is undeserving of love, fear of risk and rejection, outer vs. inner beauty, the conflict between who you are and who you want to be, friendship, loyalty, the joy of living and living with joy. It's also filled with brilliant word-play and the daring-do of a heroic main character. Adolescents need to be exposed to more of the true heroes in literature.

Q: What is the best piece of writing advice you've ever received?

A: This quote from the book *Art and Fear*, by David Bayles and Ted Orland, says it all: '...becoming an artist consists of learning to accept yourself,

which makes your work personal, and in following your own voice, which makes your work distinctive.’

Q: What can your fans look forward to next?

A: *101 Ways to Bug Your Brother and Sister*, of course! I never had a sister, but I have two younger brothers who, as kids, used to drive me crazy by doing stuff like ripping the heads off my Barbie dolls or hiding behind the couch making kissy noises whenever my boyfriend came over.



Pre-reading

What are the common elements of having a crush? How do you think the term got its name? Is it inevitable to be crushed by a crush?

Look at the author’s ‘risk’ quotes that appear before Chapter One. What do they mean? Why do you think Lee Wardlaw chose to include them? What might they have to do with the story and characters?



Discussion Guide

1. List each character in order of importance and defining characteristics. How are they related to the main character, Stephen “Sneeze” Wyatt?
2. Why does Hayley host a party for Sneeze? What does he realize at the event?
3. How does Steve handle the PHHSVGT? What does this tell the reader about his character? What would you have done in his place?
4. Despite the fact that Sneeze tried to rescue Hayley and her father’s business, Hayley is angry with him. Why? Does she have a point?
5. How has Hiccup changed in Sneeze’s absence? How do you deal with a friend who is changing?
6. Hiccup tells Steve, “The alarm was rejected, not you.” What does Hiccup mean? Do you agree with him? Why is rejection so hard? How is it hard to separate ourselves from what we create, invent, write, etc.?
7. Why is Steve so upset with Hiccup? Will he be able to forgive him? Is forgiveness a necessary element to friendship? Why?

8. Why is Steve so upset about the gym requirement? What will it keep him from doing? How can he get around it?
9. Why doesn't Steve admit to Hayley on the first morning of high school that he likes her as more than a friend? How does he become trapped by what Hayley wants?



10. How do the first days of high school go for Steve? Does Cullen return Hayley's feelings for him? Why doesn't Steve tell her the truth?
11. How does Steve put himself in the middle of Hayley and Cullen? How is this an allusion to the famous play *Cyrano de Bergerac*? What qualities of the play are consistent in both stories?
12. What events surround Steve's participation in the dojang? What does he learn both on and off the sparring mat?
13. Who is Joonbi Park? Why is she important to Hiccup and Sneeze?
14. Why does hiding behind Cullen's identity give Steve the freedom to confess his true feelings in letters to Hayley? Does Hayley like what he has written? What does that say about Hayley's character?
15. Tony, the school nurse, tells Sneeze: "That kind o' pain compares only to a good trampin' by a fifteen-hundred-pound rodeo bull." (Chapter 17) If love hurts so much, why do we sign up for it? Does it always hurt?
16. What are the tenets of hapkido? Why have they become difficult for Hiccup? Do you think these six tenets would serve anyone well? Why or why not?
17. Why does Steve turn down the important offer on his writing? Would you be willing to do that for a friend? Why or why not?
18. Does Goldie report the truth in her articles? Would you be friends with her? Would it matter more or less if these issues were not made public at school?
19. Describe Joonbi's party. What happens? Why do her siblings torture her? What gift does Hiccup make?
20. In the end, how does Hayley react when she finds out the truth? Why? Do you blame her? Eventually, how do things work out between these two old friends?
21. Which of the ways to bug your friends and enemies is your favorite? Why? Which one would get you into the most trouble?



Language Arts

In this novel, several scenes are inspired by and/or modeled after those in Edmond Rostand's play *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Compare the main characters from these two stories.

	Appearance	Actions	Dialogue	How other characters treat them:
Steve "Sneeze" Wyatt				
Cyrano de Bergerac				

Or, fill out a graphic organizer based on both the book and the play and use it to launch a discussion about the similarities and differences.



Dialect & Slang

The character Cullen Fu Hanson is from Honolulu, Hawaii and speaks Pidgin English with his friends. Brainstorm a list of regional or local words and phrases that someone would have to know to navigate in your world.

To extend this activity, research a few of these words or phrases and how they became in common use. For example, in Cincinnati, Ohio people often say “Please?” when they don’t hear what someone’s said. This comes from the large community of German immigrants who settled there in the 1880’s.



History

Steve wants to become a renowned inventor. As a class, brainstorm a list of inventions from history that you believe were the most important. Use a variety of categories (transportation, technology, communication, the arts, medicine, etc.) to compose your list. Create a Power Point presentation or poster based on the inventor, the invention, and their contributions to society.



Health/Science

Hiccup is a card-carrying hypochondriac. What does this mean? What does it take to actually stay healthy? Research the latest in nutrition, exercise and vaccinations that are recommended for your age and sex. Create a reference page for yourself that you can keep in your planner.



Art

Design either an invention that could make your life easier in some way or a great hole for the new Gadabout Golf! Include an explanatory paragraph about what your design/invention would offer.



Poetry

In Chapter Three, Sneeze ‘duels’ with Marcus using brains, not brawn, by coming up with fifteen poetic adjectives and descriptions for a big nose. Re-read this scene and its companion in Edmond Rostand’s *Cyrano de Bergerac* (translated by Brian Hooker). Create at least five more similar nose jokes of your own; then create five (or more) jokes using exaggerated adjectives to describe an ear, mouth or foot.

Re-read Sneeze’s poem ‘First Kiss’ and compare it to Rostand’s poem ‘What is a Kiss?’ Now write your own poem about a ‘First’.



Links

“A Two Hour Ovation” – an article by Brad McEntire about the opening night of Edmond Rostand’s *Cyrano de Bergerac*

<http://www.theaterjones.com/pf.php?articleid=20110616191749>

Cyberguide for Teaching *Cyrano de Bergerac*
San Diego County Office of Education

<http://www.sdcoe.net/score/cyrano/cyranotg.html>

“Crushes” by D’Arcy Lyeness , PhD. (Child/Adolescent Psychologist)

<http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/thought/crushes.html>

Hapkido Info: History, Principles, Terminology, etc.

http://www.hapkido-info.net/html/hapkido_home_com.html

“History of Miniature Golf” by Jonathon Haber

<http://www.terrastories.com/bearings/miniature-golf>

Bullies and Bullying

<http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/friends/bullies/>

Friendship Quiz for Kids

http://quiz.lovetoknow.com/Friendship_Quiz_for_Kids

Kid Inventors Day (K.I.D.)

<http://kidinventorsday.com/>



Further Reading

Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmond Rostand, translated by Brian Hooker

Cyrano by Geraldine McCaughrean (young adult novel)

Poem-making by Myra Cohn Livingston

The Book of Five Rings by Miyamoto Musashi, translated by William Scott Wilson

The Art of the Personal Letter: A Guide to Connecting Through the Written Word by Margaret Shepherd



Tracie Vaughn Zimmer, a reading specialist and children's author,
created this and 300 other guides!

(Design and additions by Lee Wardlaw)