

# **READING COMPREHENSION NOVEL STUDIES - GORDON KORMAN**

## **OVERVIEW**

A series of five exciting and interesting titles provide a framework for this new approach to reading. Comprehension is the main focus, with multiple choice questions designed to ensure students understand what they are reading. The titles include:

- 1) **This Can't Be Happening at Macdonald Hall!**
- 2) **Go Jump in the Pool**
- 3) **Beware the Fish!**
- 4) **Macdonald Hall Goes Hollywood**
- 5) **Why Did the Underwear Cross the Road?**

The high interest - low vocabulary format of these novels is perfect for reluctant readers and is sure to keep students motivated to read. For the teacher, flexibility is key, with students being assigned novels to read individually, in small groups or as a class.

## **SUGGESTED TEACHING STRATEGIES**

A number of possible strategies describing how these units might be used in the classroom is given. These include:

- 1) **Whole Class Instruction**
- 2) **Individualized Approach**
- 3) **Small Group Instruction**
- 4) **Listening Skills Test**

A possible reward system to help motivate student reading is also given.

## **STORY SUMMARIES**

A synopsis and bibliographic information for each of the novels has been included for teacher reference.

## **ANSWER KEY**

Answer keys for each novel are provided.

### SUGGESTED TEACHER STRATEGIES

Flexibility is what makes this multiple choice, comprehension-based approach to reading so successful. Novels can be assigned to the whole class, individually, in small groups or as a "Listening Test".

#### Whole Class Approach

The beginning of the year is usually the best time to use the whole class approach. This makes it easier for the teacher to evaluate the reading ability of each student and to ensure that the children know how to answer "Multiple Choice" and "True or False" questions. It is best to select a novel with an easier reading level for this first novel. Of course, one major drawback to this approach is the need for a class set of novels.



#### Individualized Approach

After the first novel, students can be given (or choose) books at their reading level. This eliminates the need for complete class sets of any novel. Five is a good number for any particular novel, and even one copy will do.

The advantage to this approach is that students are able to independently read books that they find interesting and are at an appropriate reading level.

##### 1) Enrichment

In every class there are students who finish their work before the others. A novel provides them with a long-term project, and they do not need to ask what to do next.



### THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING AT MACDONALD HALL!

#### Bibliographic Information

Gordon Korman, Scholastic, c1978.



#### Story Synopsis

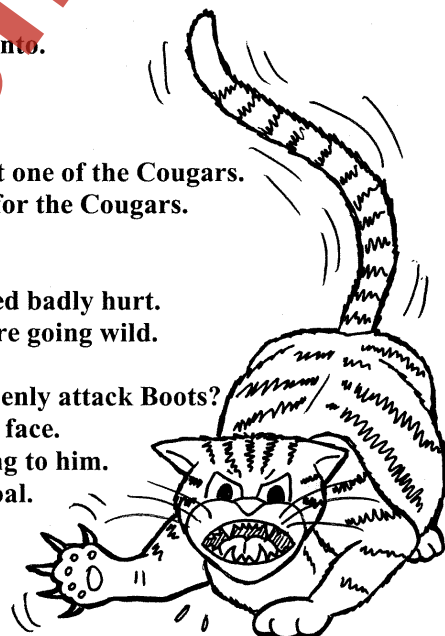
The Headmaster of Macdonald Hall, Mr. Sturgeon (nicknamed "The Fish", by his students), decides that he must separate Bruno and Boots in order to curb their amusing, but too frequent, escapades. Bruno's new roommate is Elmer, a budding scientist, whose experiments convince Bruno that this arrangement cannot work. Boots is placed with George, a future financial wizard, who is such a hypochondriac that he disinfects the room when Boots sneezes. *This Can't Be Happening at Macdonald Hall!* is the story of Bruno and Boots' plots aimed at becoming roommates again. Nothing - from a panty raid, to framing Elmer and George, to improving their report cards - works. Then the boys rescue Francisco (the son of the Malbonian ambassador) from a drifting, runaway balloon and, as a reward, Bruno and Boots are allowed to be roommates again.

#### Suggested Grade Levels

This hilarious book is recommended for students from grades four to eight.

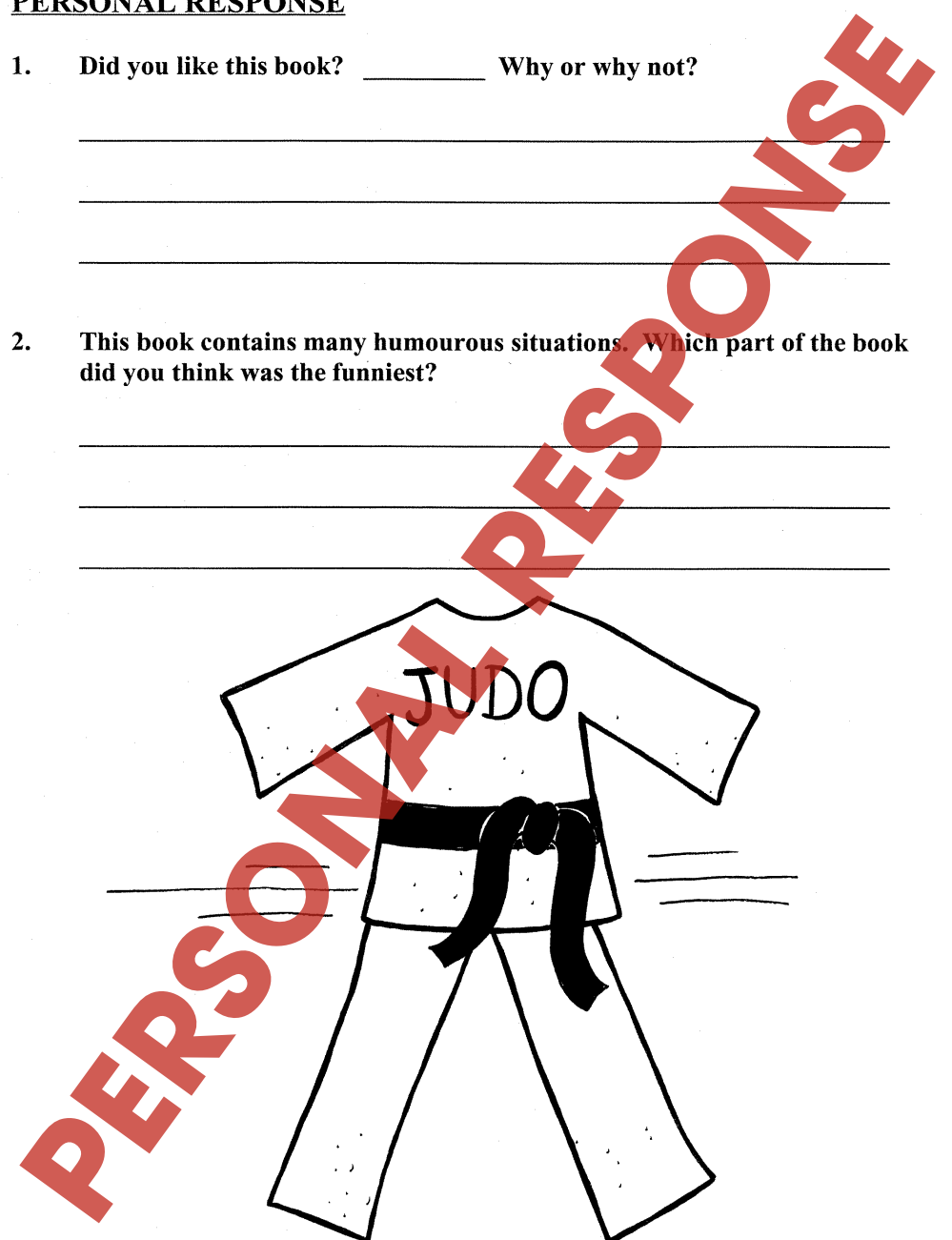
### Chapter 1 "It's Always Us!"

- Why is the school called Macdonald Hall? It was named after  
 (a) Sir Alan Macdonald, the man who gave the money to build the school.  
 (b) Sir John A. Macdonald, the first prime minister of Canada.  
 (c) Sir Winston Macdonald, a hero of World War II.
- Why did the Headmaster's car come to a screeching stop in front of the flagpole?  
 (a) Bruno and Boots were playing football on the driveway.  
 (b) The flag of Malbonia was flying instead of the red maple leaf.  
 (c) The red maple leaf of Canada was flying upside down.
- What is the main difference between Boots and Bruno's characters?  
 (a) Bruno doesn't worry about the consequences whereas Boots does worry.  
 (b) Boots never gets into trouble whereas Bruno is always up to mischief.  
 (c) Bruno is very athletic whereas Boots is more of a scholar.
- The setting of a story tells where the story takes place. What is the setting of this story? It takes place in  
 (a) A boarding school near Toronto.  
 (b) A school in New York.
- Who was Myrtle? She was  
 (a) The girl who threw the egg at one of the Cougars.  
 (b) The cat that was the mascot for the Cougars.
- Why did Miss Serimmagine nearly faint?  
 (a) Boots was bleeding and looked badly hurt.  
 (b) The girls from her school were going wild.
- Why did the captain of the Cougars suddenly attack Boots?  
 (a) He saw the scratch on Boots' face.  
 (b) Boots said something insulting to him.  
 (c) Boots was about to score a goal.



### PERSONAL RESPONSE

- Did you like this book? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- This book contains many humorous situations. Which part of the book did you think was the funniest?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



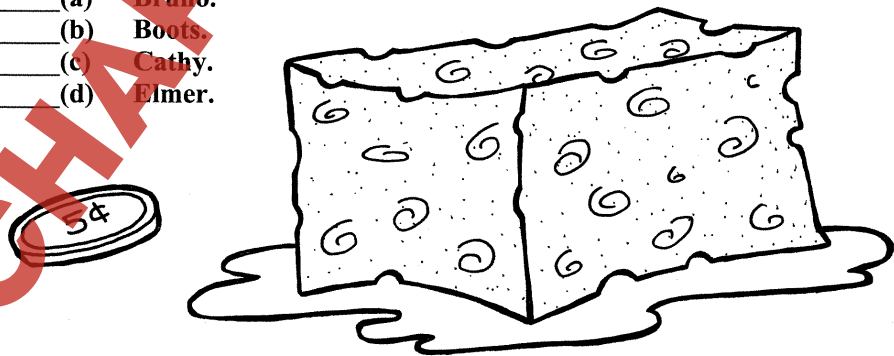


3. Why did Miss Smedley leave a trail of smoke behind her?  
 (a) She was carrying an Olympic torch.  
 (b) A smoke bomb was attached to her shorts.  
 (c) She was holding a cigarette.
4. Who complained about the contest to the Headmaster? It was  
 (a) Mr. Sturgeon.  
 (b) Miss Scrimmage.  
 (c) Elmer.  
 (d) George.  
 (e) Wilbur.  
 (f) Mrs. Sturgeon.



**Chapter 10 "Is This Considered Our Fault?"**

1. Why was there a lot of spying going on?  
 (a) Bruno wanted to know what the boys in the other camp at York Academy were up to.  
 (b) Everyone is trying to come up with a good idea for "Individual Effort Day".  
 (c) The boys wanted to know why the girls weren't visiting them any more.
2. What was the huge gift-wrapped carton that Mr. Sturgeon dropped? It was  
 (a) A jack-in-the-box.  
 (b) A glass vase that broke.  
 (c) A stuffed fish.
3. Who was the person who set up booby-traps to stop spies? It was  
 (a) Bruno.  
 (b) Boots.  
 (c) Cathy.  
 (d) Elmer.



**Chapter 13 "The Media Circus"**



1. Why did Mr. Sturgeon decide to go to the wilderness camp?  
 (a) He had not heard from the teachers, so he knew they must be in trouble.  
 (b) He wanted to bring Jordie back.  
 (c) He was worried about the mischief Bruno might cause.
2. Algonquin Park is huge, but Cathy was sure they could find the boys because  
 (a) Bruno had given her directions to the campsite.  
 (b) She would get the directions from the bus company.

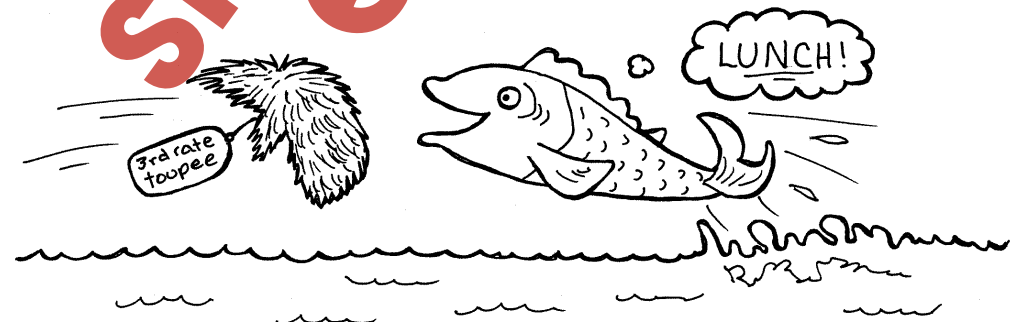


**Chapter 14 "A Cry in the Woods"**

1. What happened when Miss Scrimmage found herself in Algonquin Park instead of Montreal?  
 (a) She fainted.  
 (b) She was happy when the girls told her they had planned a camping trip as a surprise for her.  
 (c) She insisted that this had been her idea all along.

**Chapter 15 "Is It Dangerous?"**

1. Why did all the men and the boys crowd onto the raft?  
 (a) They were afraid when they heard Cathy screaming.  
 (b) The huge bear Pete had seen was going through the garbage at the campsite.  
 (c) It was easier to get to the helicopter from there.



**Chapter 16 "The Super-Duper Jumbo-Boomer"**

1. When everyone got back to Macdonald Hall, what happened when Jordie was signing autographs for Miss Scrimmage's girls?  
 (a) Boots and Bruno were jealous again because Diane and Cathy were practically drooling over Jordie.  
 (b) Most of the girls couldn't get near him because Miss Scrimmage wanted so many autographs herself.  
 (c) Cathy said that once you meet a movie star you find out he is just an ordinary guy.



**Epilogue**

1. The toughest critic in Hollywood loved  
 (a) The movie *Academy Blues*.  
 (b) Bruno's stunt in *Academy Blues*.  
 (c) A student's video on the making of *Academy Blues*.



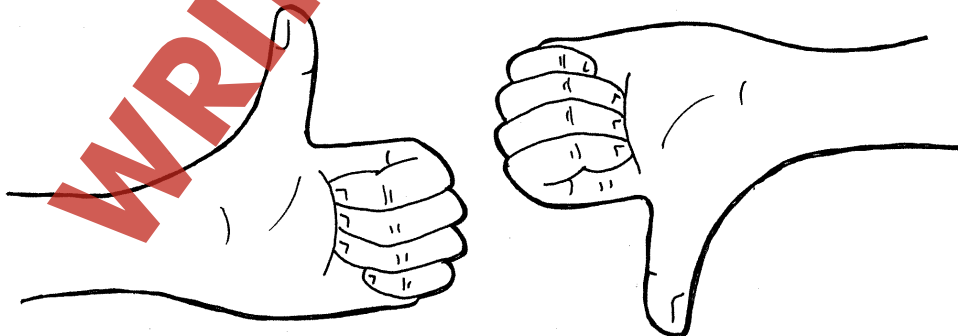
**PERSONAL RESPONSE**

1. Did you like this book? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



2. Who had a rash? It was  
 (a) Harvey.  
 (b) Seth.  
 (c) Alita.  
 (d) Derek.

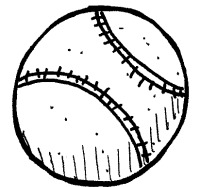


3. Who had a temper tantrum? It was  
 (a) Harvey.  
 (b) Seth.  
 (c) Alita.  
 (d) Derek.

**Chapter 12 "The Home Run Queen"**

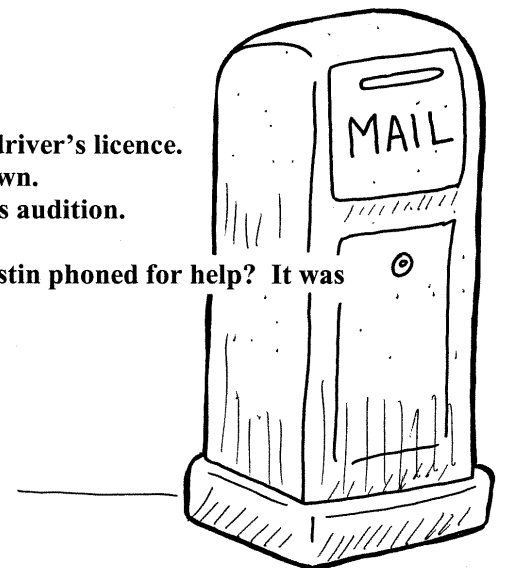
**TRUE OR FALSE:**

1. Mr. Ortiz brought Derek back to school.
2. Becky hit a homerun.
3. Byron was worried that his little brother would get hit by a car.

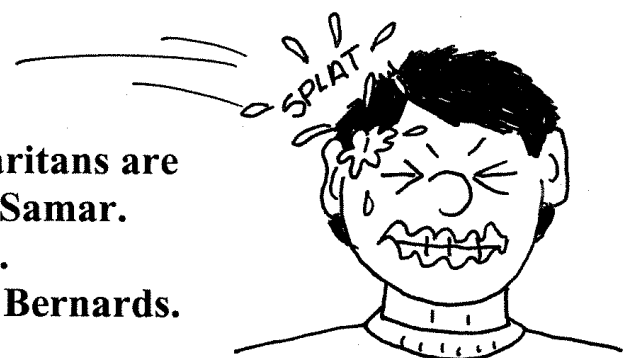


**Chapter 13 "Police Raid"**

1. What happened to Mr. Carter?  
 (a) The police looked at his driver's licence.  
 (b) The dog knocked him down.  
 (c) The director cancelled his audition.
2. How many police cars came when Justin phoned for help? It was  
 (a) 0.  
 (b) 2.  
 (c) 4.  
 (d) 6.  
 (e) 8.



**Chapter 1 “Tidal Wave Water Park”**



1. What are Good Samaritans? Good Samaritans are
  - \_\_\_\_(a) Good people who come from Samar.
  - \_\_\_\_(b) People who try to help others.
  - \_\_\_\_(c) Good, helpful dogs like Saint Bernards.
  
2. The setting of a story tells where the story takes place. What is the setting of this story? It is set in the city of
  - \_\_\_\_(a) Toronto.
  - \_\_\_\_(b) Calgary.
  - \_\_\_\_(c) Dover.
  - \_\_\_\_(d) New York.
  
3. The setting can also tell the time when the story took place. This story takes place during the
  - \_\_\_\_(a) Spring.
  - \_\_\_\_(b) Summer.
  - \_\_\_\_(c) Fall.
  - \_\_\_\_(d) Winter.
  
4. To win the contest, what do the children have to do? Their group has to
  - \_\_\_\_(a) Read more books than the other groups.
  - \_\_\_\_(b) Write a better report than the other groups.
  - \_\_\_\_(c) Do more good deeds than the other groups.
  
5. In this chapter, how did you learn that Byron Bigelow is not a nice boy? Gordon Korman, the author, wrote that Byron Bigelow
  - \_\_\_\_(a) Has a “nasty” voice.
  - \_\_\_\_(b) Pushed Justin so hard that his head hit the desk.
  - \_\_\_\_(c) Said that Justin didn’t stand a chance to win the contest.
  
6. Why hasn’t Justin ever been at the Tidal Wave Water Park?
  - \_\_\_\_(a) His older brother is always getting sick.
  - \_\_\_\_(b) His parents are too busy to take him.
  - \_\_\_\_(c) It costs too much.

**WHY DID THE UNDERWEAR CROSS THE ROAD?**

**Answer Key**

- |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Q 1  | (1) b | (2) c | (3) a | (4) c | (5) a | (6) a |
| Q 2  | (1) d | (2) c |       |       |       |       |
| Q 3  | (1) b | (2) a | (3) b |       |       |       |
| Q 4  | (1) a | (2) c |       |       |       |       |
| Q 5  | (1) c | (2) a | (3) c | (4) a |       |       |
| Q 6  | (1) c | (2) b | (3) a |       |       |       |
| Q 7  | (1) F | (2) F | (3) F | (4) T | (5) F |       |
| Q 8  | (1) c | (2) e | (3) b | (4) c |       |       |
| Q 9  | (1) T | (2) T | (3) T | (4) F |       |       |
| Q 10 | (1) c | (2) b | (3) a |       |       |       |
| Q 11 | (1) b | (2) c | (3) d |       |       |       |
| Q 12 | (1) F | (2) F | (3) F |       |       |       |
| Q 13 | (1) b | (2) d |       |       |       |       |
| Q 14 | (1) a | (2) b |       |       |       |       |
| Q 15 | (1) b | (2) e | (3) a |       |       |       |
| Q 16 | (1) b | (2) F | (3) T |       |       |       |
| Q 17 | (1) c |       |       |       |       |       |

Number of Questions = 53